

★ Election Facts and ★ ★

FUN for Florida Kids

Hi! I'm Billy Ballot
and I have some cool stuff
to tell you about
Florida Elections!



A Guide for Students by the
Supervisor of Elections
Polk County, Florida

We the People

of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. 1.

Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section. 2.

Clause 1: The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Clause 2: No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Clause 3: Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. (See Note 2)

The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative, and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

Clause 4: When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

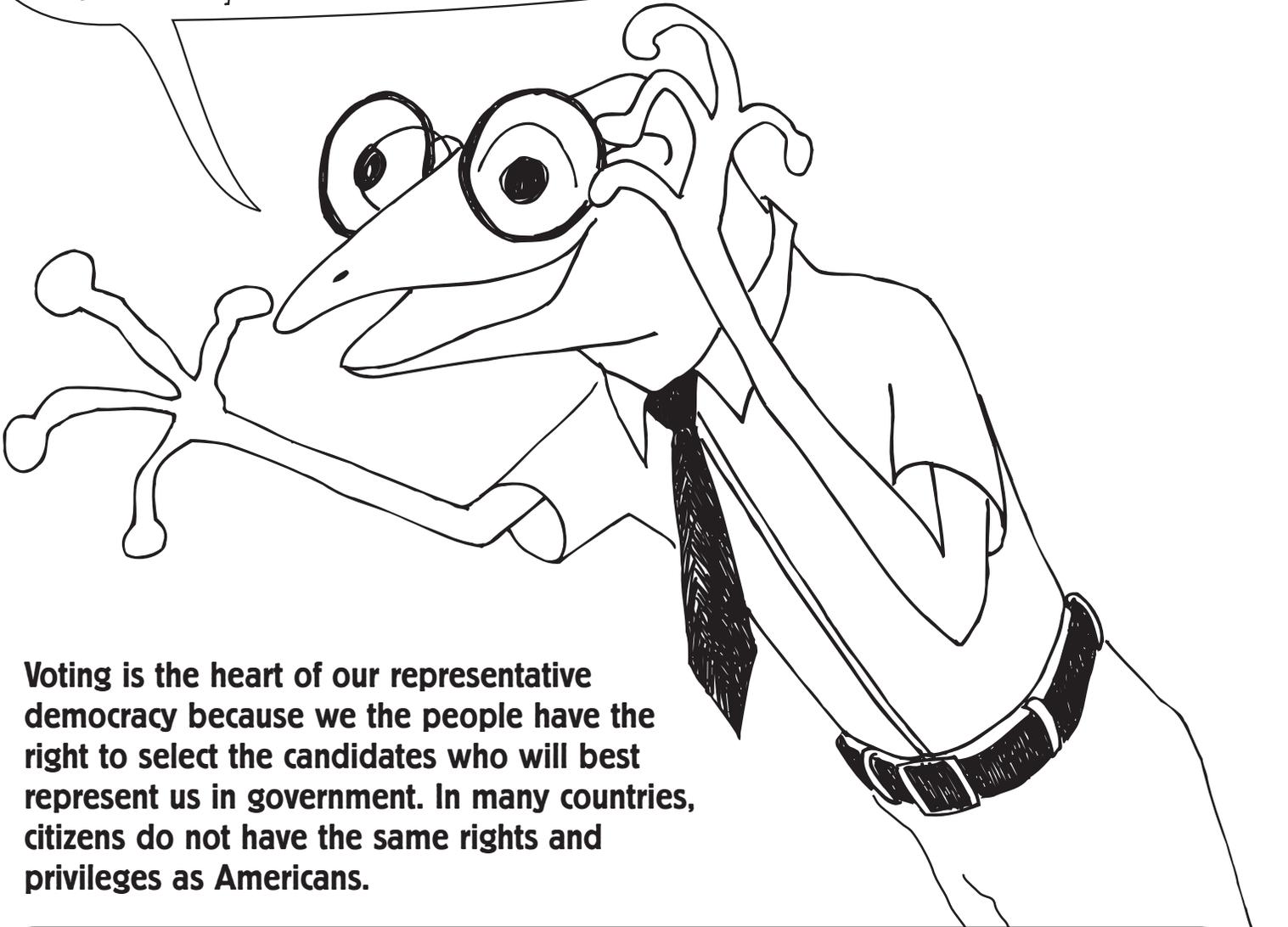
Clause 5: The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers, and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section. 3.

Clause 1: The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have the

What is an Election?

Since the United States Constitution was written in 1787, the right to vote has been part of our freedoms!



Voting is the heart of our representative democracy because we the people have the right to select the candidates who will best represent us in government. In many countries, citizens do not have the same rights and privileges as Americans.

Word Scramble

RMFEDOE _____

EIBLFES _____

RCCDMEOAY _____

ETOV _____

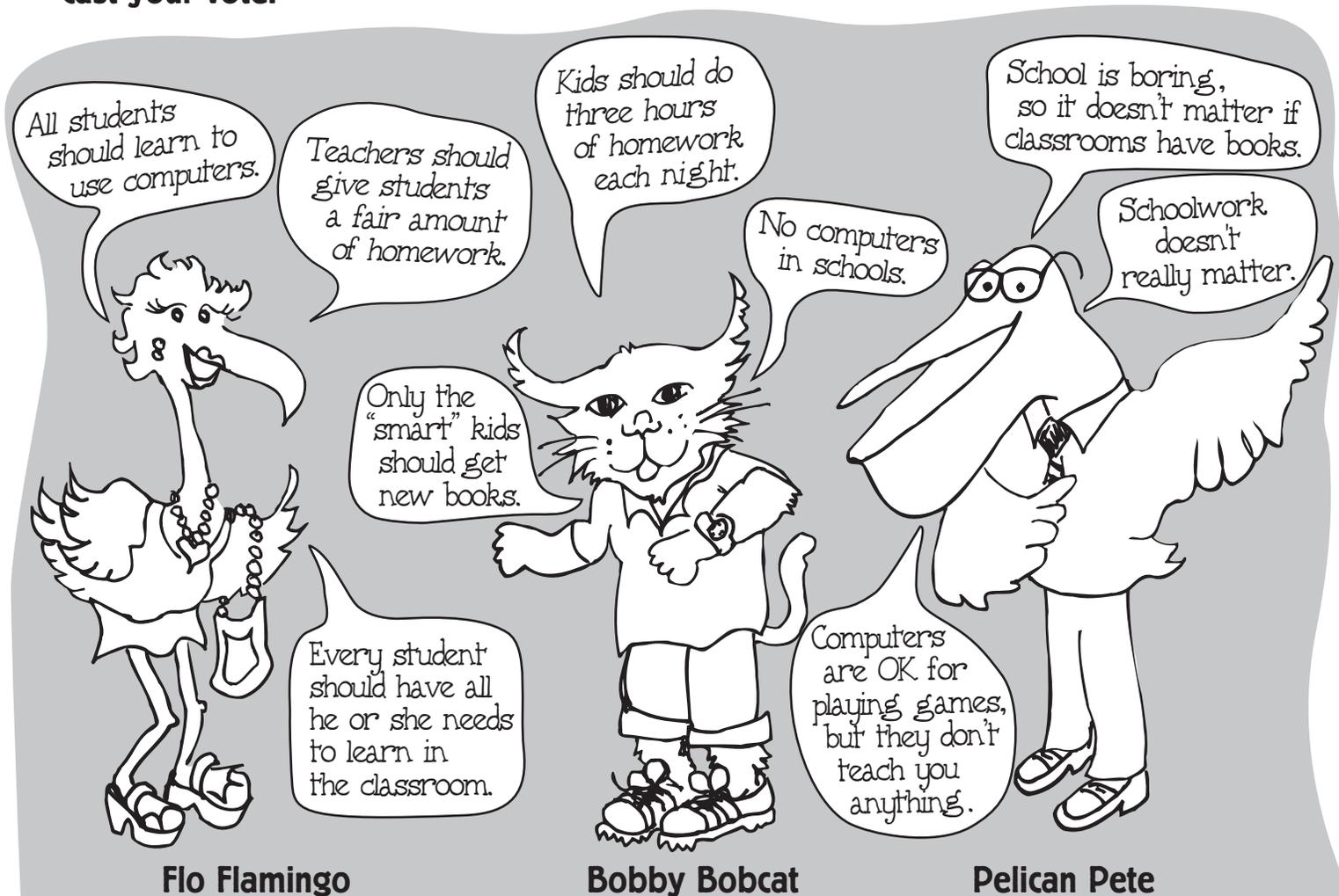
answers on page 16

Our System of Government

Choosing our Representatives

To select our representatives in government, registered voters go to the polls during an election to cast their ballots. But voters need to be informed before casting their ballots. Part of being an informed voter is to think about issues, examine each candidate's positions and then select the one whose views best match yours.

If these three candidates wanted to be elected to the Student Council, which one would you vote for? Examine their platform (their positions on issues) and then cast your vote.



I am voting for _____
to represent me in the Student Council.

Florida Quick Facts

Color these symbols of our state:

Capital City: Tallahassee

Nickname: The Sunshine State

State Beverage: Florida Orange Juice

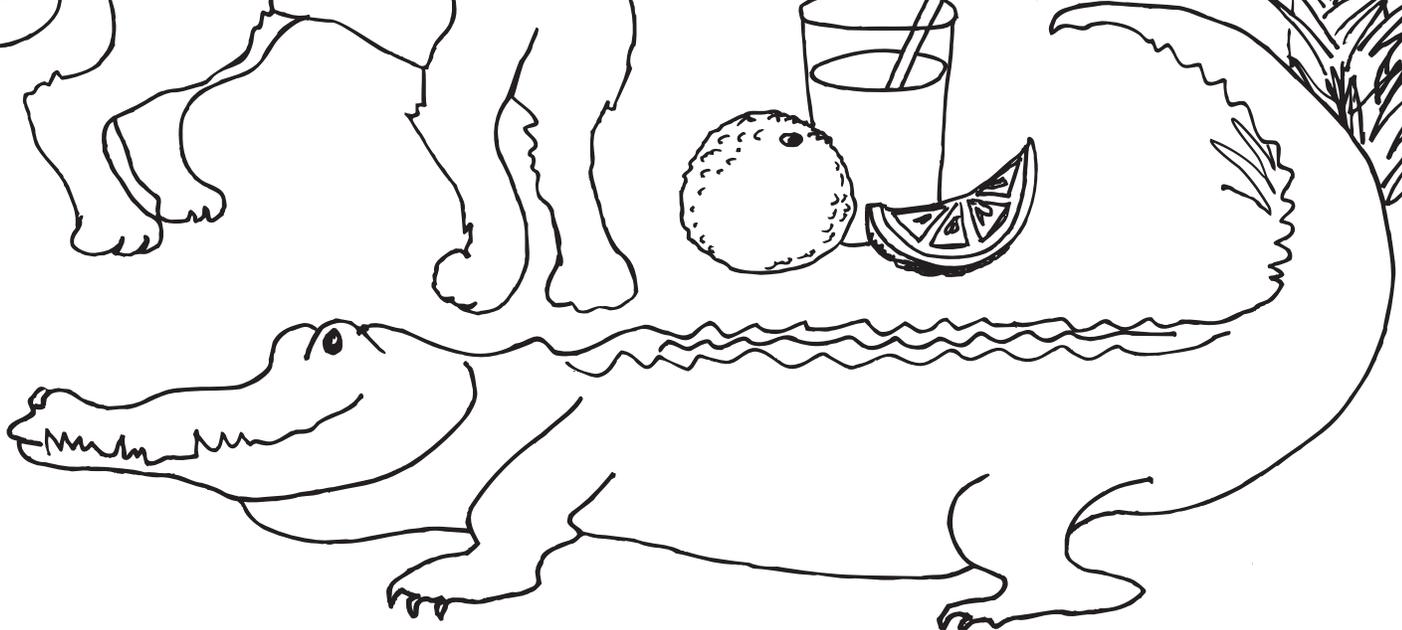
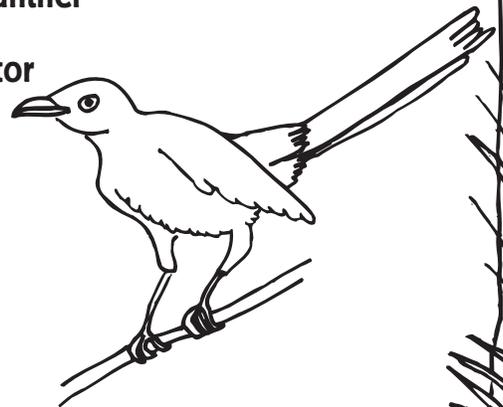
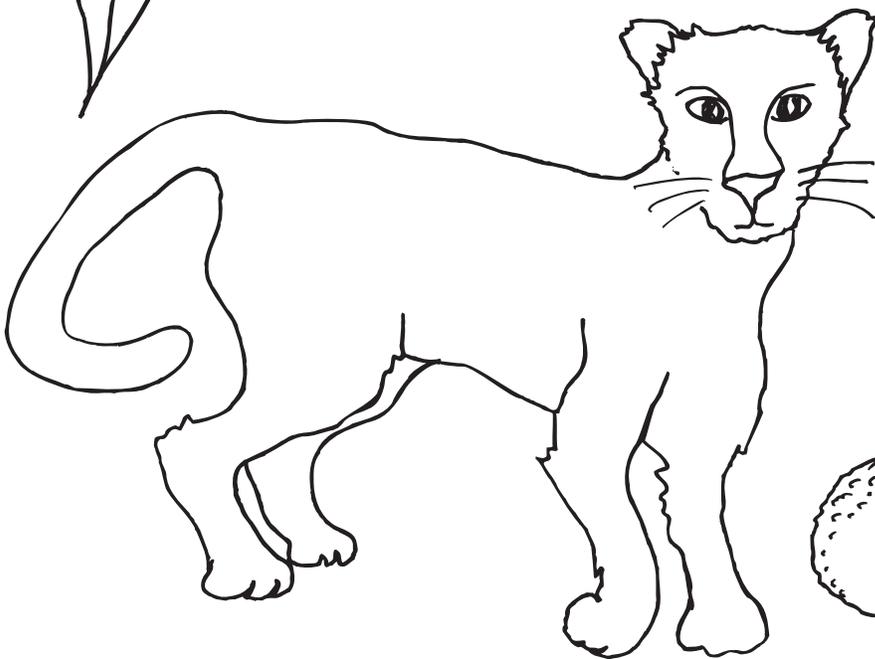
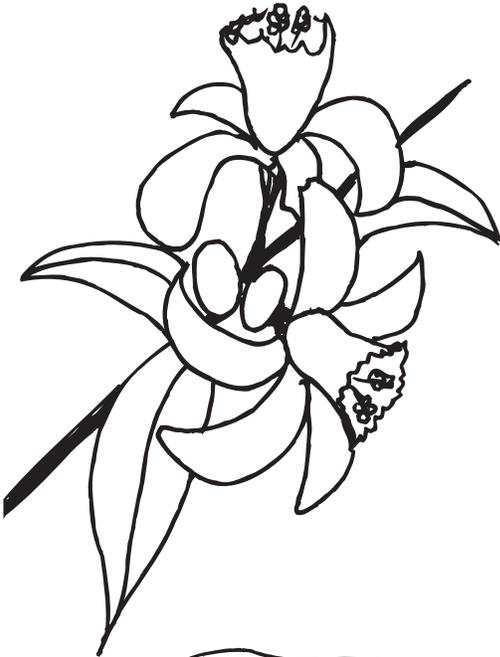
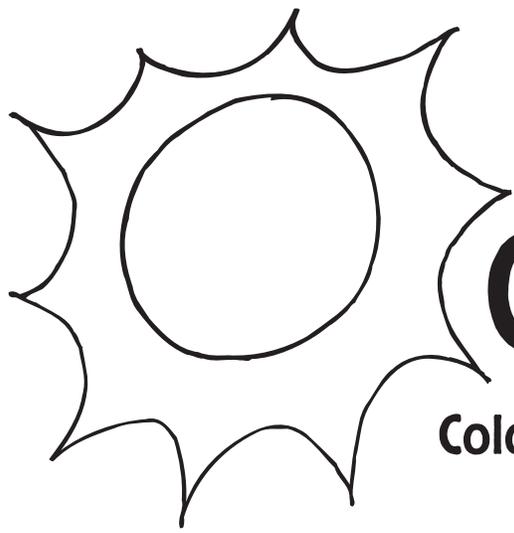
State Tree: Sabal Palm

State Flower: Orange Blossom

State Bird: Mockingbird

State Animal: Florida Panther

State Reptile: Alligator



Who's in Charge?

The Supervisor of Elections

Each Florida county has a Supervisor of Elections, who is responsible for making sure elections are conducted fairly and that they abide by all federal, state and local laws.

Each Supervisor of Elections registers voters, maintains voting records, issues voter information cards, trains poll workers who staff polling places on Election Day and educates voters about the election process.

Ask your teacher or the reference librarian in your school or community library to help you find the name of your county's Supervisor of Elections:

My county's Supervisor of Elections is

When you turn 18 you can register to VOTE!
Create your own
Voter Information Card
below and decorate it!



Who Can Vote and How Can You Register?

Voters must be U.S. citizens who are 18 years of age or older and residents of the state of Florida who are not registered to vote anywhere else.

Voters can register at their Supervisor of Elections office, driver license offices, libraries and other sites around their county.

Voters can register at any time, but to vote in an upcoming election, they must be registered at least 29 days before Election Day.

FUN FACT:

In Florida you can pre-register to vote at the age of 16!

Voter Information Card

_____ County, Florida

Voter Name and Address:

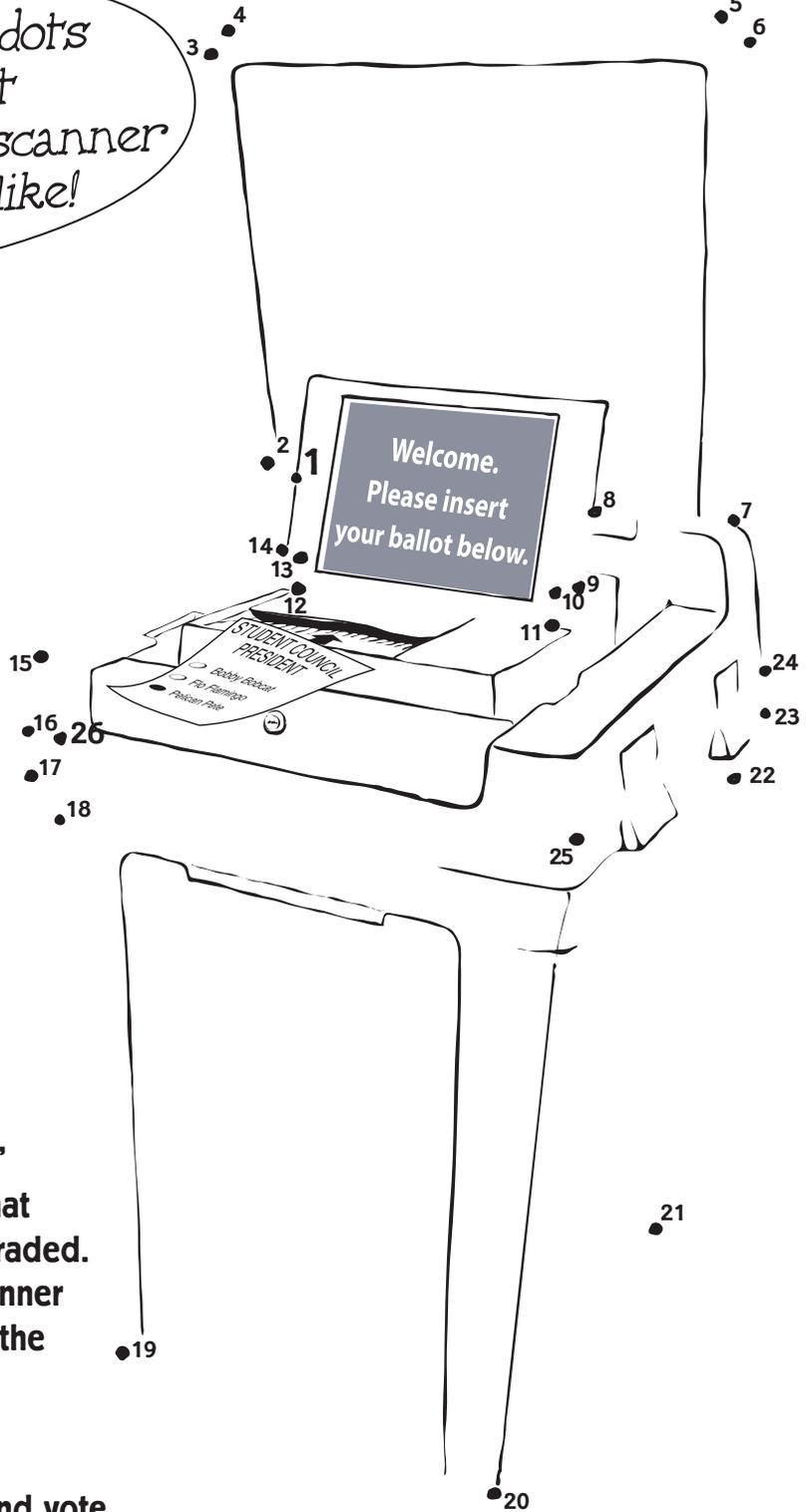
Date Registered:

Date of Birth:

Political Party:

How do we **Vote** in Florida?

Connect the dots to see what the ballot scanner looks like!



Florida counties use optical ballot scanners.

Optical ballot scanners “read” ballots much the same way that tests you take in school are graded. Voters fill in ovals and the scanner counts their votes by reading the marks on the paper ballot.

All voters may request a mail ballot from the Supervisor of Elections office and vote in the comfort of their homes at their convenience. Mail ballot envelopes must be signed and returned to the Supervisor of Elections office in person or by mail.

Florida also provides for early voting in the Supervisor of Elections offices and other selected locations before certain elections.

What Does a Ballot Look Like?

Let's suppose Florida kids could vote in an election for their favorite snack.
The ballot might look something like this:

Fill in the oval next to your favorite snack.

Congratulations!
You've just become a voter!

OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT ANY COUNTY, FLORIDA	
NONPARTISAN	
FAVORITE SNACK (Vote for One):	
<input type="radio"/>	Pizza
<input type="radio"/>	Banana
<input type="radio"/>	Pretzels
<input type="radio"/>	Chocolate
<input type="radio"/>	Gummies

Create your own sample ballot below and get your friends and family to vote:

OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT ANY COUNTY, FLORIDA	
NONPARTISAN	
_____ (Vote for One):	
<input type="radio"/>	

What were the results of your own election?

Congratulations! You've become a Supervisor of Elections!



1787

The U.S. Constitution gives white male property owners age 21 and older the right to vote.



1789 George Washington becomes the first president.

Gone fishing!

1797 - 1845 Presidents: Adams - Jefferson - Madison - Monroe - Adams - Jackson - Van Buren - Harrison - Tyler



Surfing the web!

Dropping quarters at the arcade.

1974 - 93 Presidents: Ford - Carter - Reagan - G. H. W. Bush



Stopped for a selfie!

Text Messaging!



2008 Barack Obama becomes the 44th President; tweets "Four more years" when re-elected in 2012.

1994

The Tennessee Early Voting Act made that state the first to establish early voting, providing a period of 15 days in which to vote early before Election Day without declaring a reason for this early casting of votes.

2001 G. W. Bush becomes the 43rd President; re-elected in 2004.

1996

Optical scan systems were first used in the 1996 presidential election. Clinton wins second term as President.



You made it through U.S. elections history!

1776 Declaration of Independence

Planting corn!

1733 13 colonies have been established.

1620 Pilgrims settle at Plymouth Colony.



Baking pies!

This ship sailed on to Mexico.

OOPS! This ship sailed back to Europe!

Our United States of America sure has made progress when it comes to voting. Find your way through the years and see if you can sail to the end!



1843

Voting requirements change so that all white men age 21 and older can vote.

Protesting for labor laws!

1845 Florida becomes the 27th state. James K. Polk becomes the 11th president.



Exploring the Wild West!



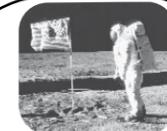
Working on the railroad!

1861 - 65 Civil War

1849 - 61 Presidents: Taylor - Fillmore - Pierce - Buchanan

1861 - 77 Presidents: Lincoln - A. Johnson - Grant

Walking on the moon!



1941 - 45 World War II
1933 - 69 Presidents: F. Roosevelt - Truman - Eisenhower - Kennedy - L. B. Johnson

1965 The Voting Rights Act authorized the federal government to take over voter registration and prohibited discrimination in voting procedures because of race or color. L. B. Johnson starts second term as President.

1964

Fulton and DeKalb counties in Georgia are the first to use the punch-card ballot.



Watching a baseball game on a television!

Inventions:



Phonograph

Typewriter

1870

The 15th Amendment guarantees the right to vote to all men age 21 or older regardless of race or ethnic background.

Talking on a telephone!



1892

New York first uses the lever-type voting machine.

1877 - 89 Presidents: Hayes - Garfield - Arthur - Cleveland

1889

New York becomes the first state to adopt the paper ballot for statewide elections. Harrison becomes the 23rd president.

1921 - 33 Presidents: Harding - Coolidge - Hoover

1920

The 19th Amendment gives women age 21 and older the right to vote.

1893 - 1921 Presidents: Cleveland - McKinley - T. Roosevelt - Taft - Wilson



Riding in an automobile!

1914 - 18 World War I

Going to the motion picture show!

When Can You Vote?

Federal, State, County and Local Elections

Do you know your:

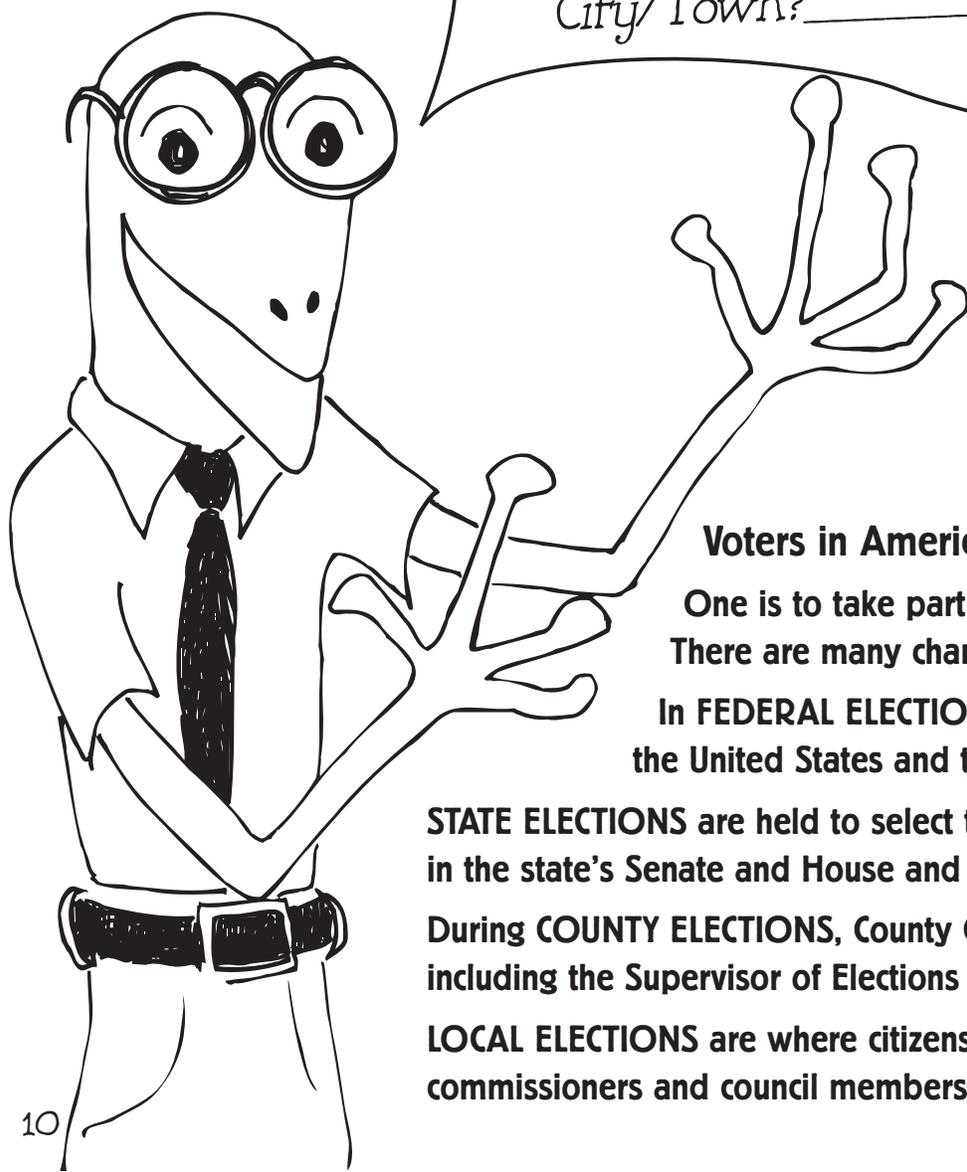
President? _____

Country? _____

State? _____

County? _____

City/Town? _____



Voters in America have many responsibilities.

One is to take part in elections regularly.

There are many chances to vote.

In FEDERAL ELECTIONS, voters select the president of the United States and their representatives in Congress.

STATE ELECTIONS are held to select the governor, representatives in the state's Senate and House and other State officials.

During COUNTY ELECTIONS, County Commissioners and other officials, including the Supervisor of Elections and the School Board, are chosen.

LOCAL ELECTIONS are where citizens vote to choose mayors, commissioners and council members for their city or town.

Here are some types of elections:

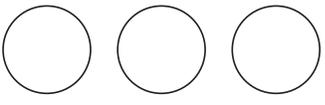
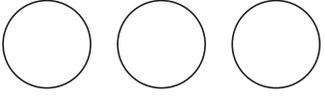
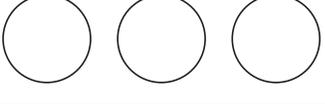
Primaries: Voters only choose candidates within their own political party. The two major political parties are the Democratic and Republican parties. There are also other minor political parties. Florida has a closed-primary system, which means that during a Republican primary, only voters who are registered as Republicans can vote in Republican contests. The same rules apply for a primary election for Democrats. All voters may vote in nonpartisan contests, such as school board and judicial contests.

General Election: All registered voters may vote for any candidate and on any ballot questions regardless of their political party.

Special Election: In addition to General and Primary elections, Special Elections may be required any time of the year. A common reason might be to vote on a referendum or issue that requires the voice of the people before it can become a law.

Presidential Preference Primary: Every four years, voters have a chance to have their say on their political party's nominee for president. During this type of primary, the candidate with the majority of votes is likely to become the party's nominee in the upcoming presidential election.

Color each star & circle a different color

In this sample Primary Election, only registered stars can vote for stars, and registered circles can vote for circles. Choose the winning color for each and color them below.

		
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Any registered star, circle or square can vote in this sample General Election. Circle the shape that you think should win.

If you were running for president, what would be one of your campaign issues?

What is the Electoral College?

Do Voters Really Elect the President?



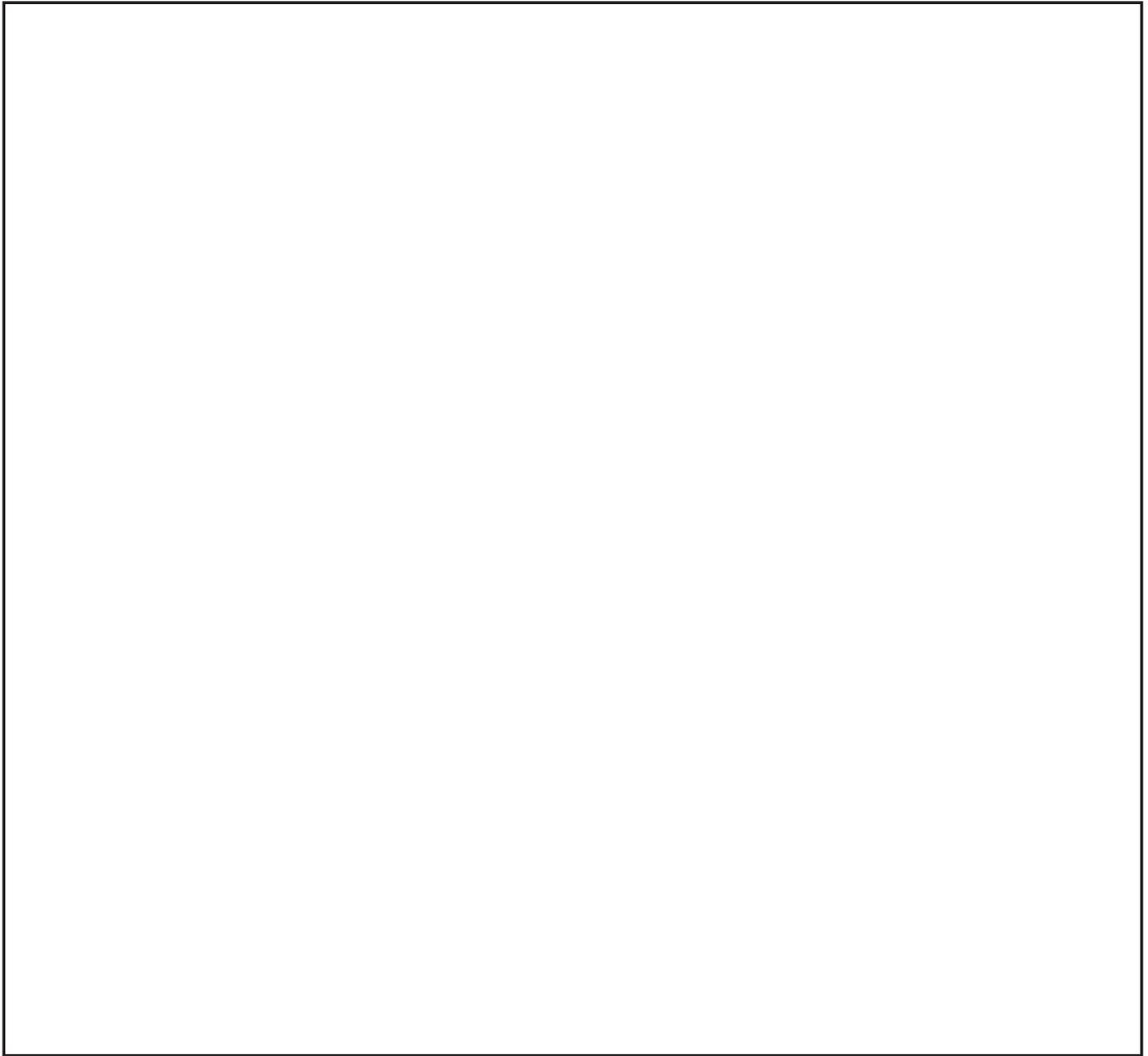
This shows how many electoral votes each state has.

Even though America is a representative democracy, voters do not directly elect the president (and vice president.) Instead, members from all 50 states and the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.) make up the Electoral College and vote for the candidates after the votes are cast by voters.

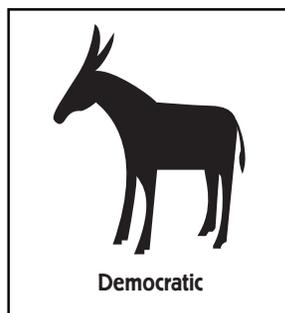
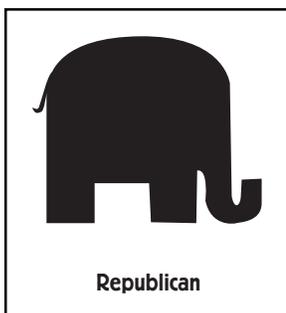
The votes cast by voters in the election are called the popular vote. However, as established in the Constitution, votes cast by the Electoral College members decide who will be the next President.

The number of Electoral College members for a state equals the members in its Congressional delegation (U.S. senators and representatives from the state). The Electoral College consists of a total of 538 electors. A majority of 270 electoral votes is required to elect the winning candidate. In most states, the presidential candidate with the most popular votes in a state wins ALL of that state's electoral votes. After the presidential election in November, the Electoral College members meet in December at their state capitols to cast their votes. These votes are counted by Congress in January to confirm the winner.

Imagine that you are running for president. Design a campaign poster that would tell voters what you stand for and why they should vote for you:



Here are the symbols of the Republican and Democratic parties.



Create a new party that describes how you feel about issues. Design a symbol for your new party.



FUN FACT:

Cartoonist Thomas Nash is credited with popularizing the party symbols for the Democratic and Republican parties in the 1870's

On The Campaign Trail

Candidates are Everywhere

To let voters know what they stand for, candidates campaign before an election. They make speeches, create brochures and internet sites, place ads on TV, radio, the internet and in newspapers to tell voters what they plan to do if elected. Informed voters make their decision based on the candidate's record and platform, not who has the coolest or most expensive ads.

If you were running for president of your class, what would you promise your classmates you would do for them if you were elected?

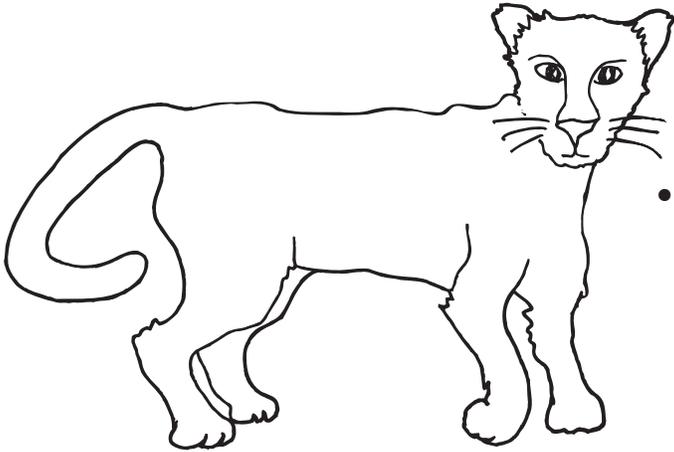
Campaign promise 1: _____

Campaign promise 2: _____

Campaign promise 3: _____

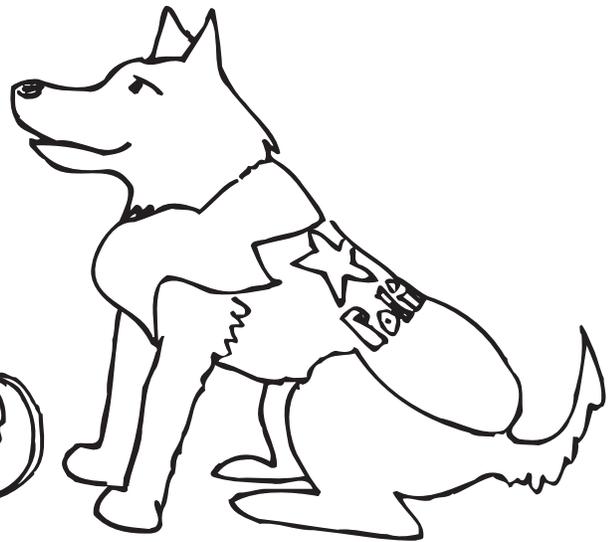
Consider how many of these promises you would actually be able to fulfill if you were elected. Were they realistic?

Kids Can't Vote, but They Can Make a Difference



- In 1982, Florida kids were allowed to vote for the official State animal. Students chose the Florida panther.

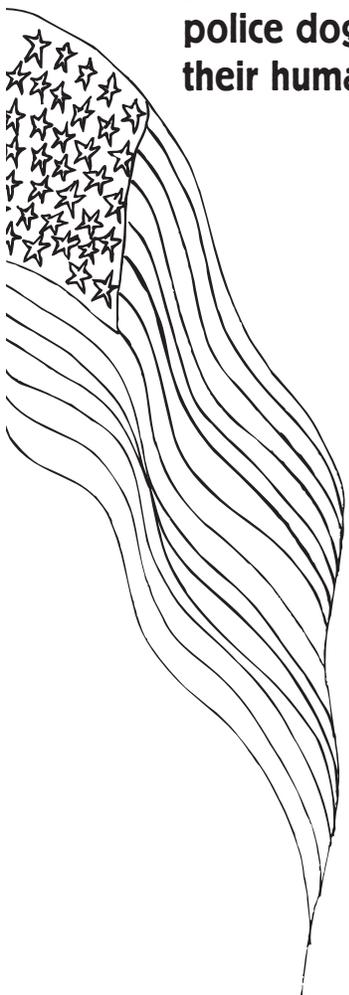
- Stacy Hillman, a 10-year-old Florida student, started Pennies to Protect Police Dogs in 2001 to raise funds to protect animals who work in law enforcement. Through Stacy's efforts, Baker County officials were able to purchase bulletproof vests for police dogs similar to the ones their human partners wear.



- Kids involved in organizations such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts perform community service as part of their membership.
- Students were the first to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in 1892. Can you fill in the blanks in the Pledge of Allegiance? Select the words from the list below:

United States nation justice
republic flag liberty

I pledge allegiance to the _____
of the _____ of America and
to the _____ for which it stands,
one _____ under God,
indivisible, with _____
and _____ for all.



Answers

Word Scramble

RMFEDOE F R E E D O M

EIBLFES B E L I E F S

RCCDMEOAY D E M O C R A C Y

ETOV V O T E

I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America and
to the republic for which it stands,
one nation under God,
indivisible, with liberty
and justice for all.



REV: 9/17



You've Made The Grade!

You're now on your way to becoming a future voter. When you're 18, you'll be able to take part in one of America's greatest freedoms and privileges. Encourage adults you know to register to vote and to take part in the election process. Together, we can make a difference!

Stay in contact with the Polk County Supervisor of Elections at:

PolkElections.com
(863) 534-5888
info@polkelections.com

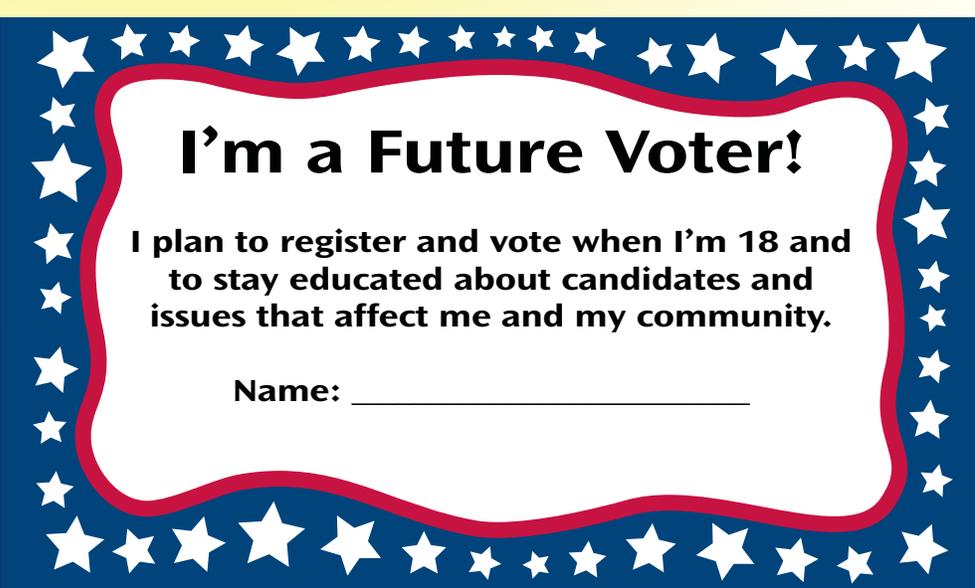


PolkElections



@PolkElections1

Read and sign the Future Voter card below as a reminder:



I'm a Future Voter!

I plan to register and vote when I'm 18 and to stay educated about candidates and issues that affect me and my community.

Name: _____

VOTE

MAKE FREEDOM COUNT

When You Turn 18!

Lori Edwards

Supervisor of Elections
Polk County, Florida

PolkElections.com



PolkElections.com

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