



Behind the Ballot

Badge Requirements

- 1. Learn about elections
- 2. Explore ways to vote and why is it so important
- 3. Explore the work of elected officials
- 4. Run Your own campaign. (Next week!)



STEP 1: Learn about elections

Before you can start your own campaign, you must learn about the election process. In the next two slides you are given two options.

Choose one option and complete it, then move on to Step 2.

Option 1: Create an Election Timeline

Direction: Create an election flow chart

- ▶ What happens from the time a politician declares candidacy to Election Day? Focus on the most recent national election, and chart one campaign from the date of declaration to Election Day. If the candidate won, chart when they took office and what happened in between. Watch how power is transferred from the incumbent to the newly elected officials.
- ▶ Your flow chart can be virtual, or you can make it at home using craft supplies!

Option 2: Learn about different types of elections

Direction: Compare local, state, and national elections

- Research the basic processes for local, state, and national elections. For one, you might be electing a mayor. Another, your governor or state senator. And for another, the president. How often do you vote for each elected position? What are the differences between the three elections? What is the difference between a primary and a general election? Make a chart for your research.
- Look at the chart we have provided on the next slide and fill in the missing information!

Type of Election	Local	State	National
Purpose of election?			
What type of candidate are we electing ?		Governor, Senator	
Who will the vote impact?	City, Schools		
Indirect Election or Direct Election			Indirect Election

STEP 2: Explore ways to vote and the work of elected officials

Now that you learned about the process of elections. You can learn the importance of voting, explore the different ways to vote or make your own ballot. The next two slides you are given two options. Choose one option and complete it, then move on to Step 3.

Option 1: Explore voter technology

- ▶ Find out how voting technology methods vary from state to state, from the manual punch-card system to an electronic ballot marker. What new technologies were used in the last election? How do people who live with disabilities vote? You might seek information about online voting on the Government Computer News site (GCN.com).





Option 2: Create your own ballot

- ▶ Design your own improved ballot. Make it at home if you have the supplies! How would your ballot be an improvement? Would it be more accessible? Easier to understand? Why?

STEP 3: Explore the work of elected officials

Now that you learned about the process of elections, and have either learned about voter technology or created your own ballot, now you will take a virtual tour of the Struggle for Justice museum. Look at the next slide for directions.



Explore a virtual exhibit on the Struggle for Justice

- ▶ Click the link below and virtually look around the Struggle for Justice exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery.

https://artsandculture.google.com/streetview/the-struggle-for-justice/AgGpVVgFUp2iOA?sv_lng=-77.02362149550848&sv_lat=38.89774796347099&sv_h=203.63&sv_p=0&sv_pid=EDEyjly_MVvq0e8ck_ygXA&sv_z=1

- ▶ Find a figure you look up to and research more about them and what they've done to fight for justice in the United States. Were they an elected official? How might history have been different if they were never elected?
- ▶ Make a post on social media to share some information about their life and how they inspire you and tag Girl Scouts of Western New York, or make a bookmark of the figure you picked share it with someone!