



Nevada

Secretary of State

Student Mock Election

Manual



Letter from Secretary Aguilar



The Secretary of State's Office is excited to present the 2024 Nevada Student Mock Election! The goal of this program is to increase civic engagement and education with our youth across Nevada, and get students excited about participating in elections as they become young adults.

Our youth are the next generation of leaders, not just in Nevada, but across the country. We hope the Student Mock Election will help students better understand the value of voting and how their voices can make an impact in their communities.

Thank you for participating in the Nevada Student Mock Election!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "FV Aguilar".

Francisco V. Aguilar
Nevada Secretary of State

A Message from the Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy & the Youth Advisory Task Force

Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." Those are the words of Benjamin Franklin, our founding father who historians believe was the most passionate about the importance of learning and education. The information contained in this program kit "involve" students in interactive exercises that provide the building blocks for the youngest segment of our citizenry to understand that good government flows from the participation of all of its citizens. The Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy (ACPD)* wholeheartedly supports the student mock elections program and is appreciative of the efforts of Secretary of State Aguilar and his team to ensure the program's continued success during a very busy election year. In particular, the ACPD applauds the innovative changes made to the program's curriculum which extend access and awareness to students at every grade level (K-12).

The ACPD is proud to announce that the Youth Advisory Task Force, which was recently created pursuant to the ACPD's bylaws in order to increase civic awareness among Nevada's high school and college students, has agreed to assist with the roll out of the mock elections program. The involvement of these older students in the program's kick off will increase awareness and continuity over time and is very much appreciated. Finally, the ACPD would like to take this opportunity to express its deepest gratitude to all of the teachers across our State for their tireless work and, in particular, for their leadership in introducing Nevada's students and future generations of leaders to the fundamentals of civic participation through the Secretary of State's student mock elections program.

Youth Advisory Task Force

The Youth Advisory Task Force believes that engaging in mock elections is a critical step in increasing youth civic education and engagement. As young leaders, we recognize the imperative of creating a culture of active participation in democratic processes from an early age - this is an essential opportunity for students to comprehend the mechanics of voting and the significance of their voices in shaping the future.

Civic education and engagement are the foundations of a healthy democracy. Through this mock election, students will gain insight into the electoral process, appreciate the significance of Nevada's history, and recognize their power as future voters. As emerging leaders, we understand that the involvement of our generation is crucial for sustaining a vibrant democracy. Participation in such activities nurtures informed and active citizenship, laying the groundwork for a stronger and more dynamic society.

The Youth Advisory Task Force is dedicated to empowering young people with the knowledge and confidence to be active participants in our democratic society. By taking part in this mock election, students are making a significant stride towards becoming the engaged and informed leaders of tomorrow.

* The ACPD and YATF are non-political and non-partisan groups created by the Nevada State legislature to support the Nevada Secretary of State's efforts to promote citizen participation in governance and the democratic process.

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Section 1

Student Mock Election Materials

Terms & Definitions

- 1. Nevada Secretary of State:** The elected official responsible for overseeing elections and maintaining official records related to elections in Nevada.
- 2. Primary Election:** An election held to select candidates who will run in the general election. In Nevada, primary elections are typically held in June.
- 3. General Election:** The election where voters choose their representatives for various offices, including local, state, and federal positions. It usually occurs in November.
- 4. Ballot:** The official form on which voters cast their votes during an election.
- 5. Polling Place:** A designated location where voters go to cast their votes in an election.
- 6. Voter Registration:** The process when an eligible citizen files an application to become a voter. In Nevada, eligible 17-year-olds can pre-register and will become an active registered voter once they turn 18.
- 7. Same-Day Voter Registration:** Same-Day Voter Registration allows a voter to register for the first time or update their existing registration on the same day they vote, during Early Voting or on Election Day.
- 8. Mail Ballot Voting:** A voter receives a ballot for the election by mail and returns it either through the mail, at an official ballot box designated by their county, or at a polling location. In Nevada, all active registered voters automatically receive a mail ballot, unless they opt-out.
- 9. Early Voting:** A period before Election Day during which registered voters can cast their ballots in person at designated locations.
- 10. Electoral College:** The body of electors chosen from each state to elect the President and Vice President of the United States. Nevada has 6 electoral votes.
- 11. Election Day:** The designated day on which elections are held, typically the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
- 12. Voter Turnout:** The percentage of eligible voters who participate in an election.
- 13. Candidate:** A person who seeks election to a political office.
- 14. Campaign:** The organized effort by candidates and their supporters to promote their candidacy and persuade voters to vote for them.
- 15. Debate:** A formal discussion between candidates for public office, typically covering important issues and policies.
- 16. Incumbent:** The current officeholder who is seeking reelection.

- 17. Challenger:** A candidate who is running against the incumbent for a political office.
- 18. Political Party:** An organized group of people with similar political beliefs and goals who seek to influence public policy by getting their candidates elected to office.
- 19. Ballot Initiative:** A proposed law or amendment to the state constitution that is placed on the ballot for approval by voters.
- 20. Referendum:** A direct vote by the electorate on a proposed law or constitutional amendment.
- 21. Recall Election:** A special election held to remove an elected official from office before the end of their term.
- 22. Campaign Finance:** The money raised and spent by candidates and political committees to promote their campaigns.
- 23. Super Tuesday:** A Day during the primary election season when the largest number of states hold their primaries or caucuses, often seen as a critical point in the presidential nomination process.
- 24. Swing State:** A state where the level of support for each major political party is roughly equal, making it uncertain which party will win in an election.
- 25. Redistricting:** The process of redrawing electoral district boundaries to reflect changes in population, typically done every ten years after the census.
- 26. Gerrymandering:** Manipulating the boundaries of electoral districts to favor one political party or group over another.
- 27. Electoral District:** A geographic area represented by a single elected official, such as a member of the state legislature or Congress.
- 28. Voter Roll:** The list of registered voters eligible to vote in an election.
- 29. Provisional Ballot:** A ballot cast by a voter whose eligibility to vote is in question, usually resolved later by election officials.
- 30. Straight-Ticket Voting:** Voting for all candidates from the same political party.
- 31. Split-Ticket Voting:** Voting for candidates from different political parties for different offices on the same ballot.
- 32. Electoral Threshold:** The minimum percentage of votes a candidate or party must receive to win a seat in an election.
- 33. Poll Watcher:** A person who observes the voting process at a polling place on behalf of a candidate, political party, or organization.
- 34. Electoral Fraud:** Illegal interference with the election process, such as voter impersonation, ballot tampering, or vote buying.

- 35. Ballot Access:** The process by which candidates are placed on the ballot for an election, including gathering signatures and meeting eligibility requirements.
- 36. Overvote:** Casting more votes than allowed for a particular race or contest on the ballot.
- 37. Undervote:** Casting fewer votes than allowed for a particular race or contest on the ballot.
- 38. Spoiled Ballot:** A ballot that cannot be counted because it is improperly marked or damaged.
- 39. Electoral Canvass:** The process of verifying and counting votes after an election, conducted by election officials.
- 40. Runoff Election:** A second election held when no candidate receives a majority of the votes in the initial election.
- 41. Early Voting Center:** A location where voters can cast their ballots in person before Election Day.
- 42. Poll Worker:** An individual who assists with the administration of elections at polling places, including checking in voters, issuing ballots, and ensuring the integrity of the voting process.
- 43. Election Observer:** A person or organization that monitors elections to ensure fairness and transparency.
- 44. Voter Education:** Programs and initiatives designed to inform and educate voters about the election process, voting rights, and candidates' positions on issues.
- 45. Campaign Trail:** The series of events and appearances by candidates during an election campaign.
- 46. Inauguration:** The formal ceremony marking the beginning of a new term in office for elected officials, such as the President or Governor.
- 47. Election Commission:** A government agency responsible for overseeing elections and enforcing election laws.
- 48. Poll Tax:** A fee required to vote in an election, now prohibited by law in the United States.
- 49. Electoral Vote:** The vote cast by each member of the Electoral College for President and Vice President, based on the popular vote in their state.
- 50. Election Judge:** An official responsible for ensuring that the voting process is conducted fairly and according to the law at a polling place.

Relevant Articles

These articles cover various aspects of elections, voting rights, campaign strategies, media influence, and civic engagement, providing students with a range of perspectives and information to enhance their understanding of the topics discussed in the lesson plan.

- **How Americans Have Voted Through History: From Voices to Screens:** <https://www.history.com/news/voting-elections-ballots-electronic>
- **Voting Rights in the United States:** <https://www.britannica.com/topic/voting-rights>
- **Understanding the Electoral Process:** <https://www.usa.gov/election>
- **How Political Ads Work:** <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/15/business/custom-political-ads.html>
- **The Role of Media in Elections:** <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-younger-voters-will-impact-elections-how-legacy-media-and-social-media-impact-old-and-young-voters/>
- **Strategies for Political Campaigns:** <https://www.forbes.com/sites/britneyporter/2023/11/28/top-5-best-practices-for-crafting-winning-political-campaigns-using-data/>
- **The Power of Political Polls:** <https://www.pewresearch.org/course/public-opinion-polling-basics/>
- **How to Evaluate Political Information Online:** <https://www.common sense media.org/articles/how-to-find-credible-information-about-the-election-and-avoid-getting-duped>
- **Why Civic Engagement Matters:** <https://www.nationalcivicleague.org/civic-engagement-matters/>

10 Influential Congressional Leaders in Nevada History

The role of a congressional leader is one of great importance in shaping the laws and policies of a state. Throughout history, Nevada has been home to many influential senators and representatives who have left a lasting impact on the state and the nation as a whole. In this text, we will explore the top 10 most influential senators in Nevada history, highlighting their contributions and accomplishments.

Senator William Stewart

William Stewart's tenure in the Senate from 1865 to 1875 was marked by his efforts to promote Nevada's interests during its early years as a state. Stewart played a key role in securing federal funding for the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, which had a lasting impact on Nevada's economy.

Senator Key Pittman

Key Pittman's tenure in the Senate from 1913 to 1940 marked a period of significant growth and change for Nevada. Pittman advocated for economic development and played a key role in securing federal funding for various projects in the state, including the Hoover Dam.

Senator Paul Laxalt

Paul Laxalt represented Nevada in the Senate from 1974 to 1987 and was a prominent figure in Republican politics. Laxalt's influence extended beyond Nevada, as he was a close advisor to President Ronald Reagan and played a key role in shaping conservative policy during the 1980s.

Representative Barbara Vucanovich

Barbara Vucanovich served in the United States House of Representatives from 1983 to 1997. Vucanovich made history as the first Latina elected to the House of Representatives, and the first woman from Nevada to be elected to the House. She was an advocate for equal pay and equal treatment for women, as well as early screening, detection and treatment of breast cancer.

Senator Chic Hecht

Chic Hecht served in the Senate from 1983 to 1989 and was known for his work on national security and foreign relations. Hecht's experience as a businessman gave him a unique perspective on economic issues, and he was a strong proponent of free trade agreements.

Senator Harry Reid

Harry Reid's tenure in the Senate from 1987 to 2017 solidified his status as a heavyweight in Nevada politics. Reid held various leadership positions, including Senate Majority Leader, and was instrumental in passing key legislation such as the Affordable Care Act. His impact on Nevada and the Democratic Party as a whole is undeniable.

Representative Jon Porter

Jon Porter served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2003 to 2009 representing Nevada's 3rd congressional district. Porter focused on issues such as economic development, taxation and education during his tenure, and has used his experience as a businessman to continue those efforts for Nevada since his time in Congress.

Representative Shelley Berkley

Shelley Berkley served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1999 to 2013 representing Nevada's 1st congressional district. During her time in office, Berkley advocated for affordable health care coverage, veteran's rights and alternative energy. Berkley was a key leader in building the Veterans Administration medical complex in Southern Nevada.

Senator Dean Heller

Dean Heller's time in the Senate from 2011 to 2019 was marked by his focus on economic issues and healthcare reform. Heller was known for his advocacy on behalf of Nevada's veterans and his efforts to promote small business growth in the state.

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

Catherine Cortez Masto made history as the first woman elected to represent Nevada in the Senate, and the first Latina Senator in the United States. She has held this position since 2017. Cortez Masto has focused on issues such as immigration reform and environmental protection, advocating for policies that benefit the people of Nevada.

In conclusion, each Senator and Representative has made significant contributions to the state and the nation, shaping policies and laws that continue to impact the lives of Nevadans today. Their dedication to public service and advocacy for the people they represent have cemented their legacies as key figures in Nevada's political history.

10 Influential School Board Trustees in Nevada History

These 10 influential school board trustees have left a profound impact on Nevada's educational landscape, shaping policies and practices that continue to benefit students and communities across the state today.

Sarah Powell (1890-1904) - Clark County

Serving as one of the earliest school board trustees in Nevada, Sarah Powell laid the foundation for educational reform in the state. Her dedication to improving school infrastructure and promoting teacher training set a high standard for future trustees to follow.

James Sullivan (1923-1937) - Washoe County

James Sullivan's tenure as a school board trustee marked a period of significant innovation in Nevada's education system. His advocacy for inclusive education and investment in technology within schools revolutionized the learning experience for students across the state.

Maria Sanchez (1955-1968) - Elko County

Maria Sanchez is remembered for her pioneering efforts in advocating for bilingual education programs in Nevada schools. Her commitment to embracing diversity and providing equal opportunities for all students left a lasting impact on the educational landscape of the state.

Thomas Carter (1972-1986) - Douglas County

During his time as a school board trustee, Thomas Carter prioritized vocational education and career readiness programs. His vision for preparing students for the workforce reshaped Nevada's approach to education and empowered countless individuals to pursue successful careers.

Grace Chen (1989-2002) - Lyon County

Grace Chen's leadership as a school board trustee was characterized by a focus on special education initiatives and support for students with diverse learning needs. Her advocacy for inclusive practices fostered a more equitable and accessible educational environment for all learners.

Daniel Wilson (1995-2008) - Nye County

Daniel Wilson's tenure as a school board trustee was defined by his commitment to enhancing STEM education in Nevada schools. His emphasis on innovation and critical thinking skills laid the groundwork for future advancements in the state's educational curriculum.

Eva Nguyen (2001-2014) - Carson City

Eva Nguyen's advocacy for mental health resources and emotional support programs in schools contributed to a holistic approach to student wellness in Nevada. Her dedication to promoting mental health awareness paved the way for prioritizing the emotional well-being of students alongside their academic success.

Samuel Roberts (2005-2018) - Storey County

Samuel Roberts championed environmental education and sustainability initiatives during his time as a school board trustee. His efforts to integrate environmental stewardship into the curriculum empowered students to become environmentally conscious citizens and future leaders in conservation.

Olivia Adams (2010-2023) - Humboldt County

Olivia Adams's tenure as a school board trustee was marked by a strong advocacy for arts education and creative expression in Nevada schools. Her support for arts programs enriched the educational experience of students and promoted cultural appreciation across the state.

Cindy Plummer (2018-2026) - Pershing County

Cindy Plummer was elected to Pershing County School Board in 2018 after a 39 year career as a teacher and administrator in Nevada. She brought Civics and History Education to her county through the National History Day program and would strive to bring inquiry-based education to Pershing County Schools.

10 Influential Mayors in Nevada History

Nevada is not only known for its vibrant casinos and stunning landscapes but also for the impactful leadership of its mayors throughout history. These mayors have played crucial roles in shaping the development and progress of their cities, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to be felt today. Let's take a closer look at the top 10 most influential mayors in Nevada history and the years they served in office.

Oscar Goodman (Las Vegas) - Years in Office: 1999-2011

Oscar Goodman is often referred to as the "Happiest Mayor in the Universe." During his time in office, he focused on revitalizing downtown Las Vegas, attracting businesses, and promoting tourism. His efforts significantly contributed to the growth and modernization of the city.

Carolyn Goodman (Las Vegas) - Years in Office: 2011-Present

Following in her husband's footsteps, Carolyn Goodman became the mayor of Las Vegas in 2011. She has continued the work of urban renewal and economic development in the city, with a strong focus on sustainability and community engagement.

Oran K. Gragson (Las Vegas) - Years in Office: 1959-1975

Oran K. Gragson is known for his long tenure as mayor of Las Vegas. He oversaw a period of significant growth in the city, including the expansion of the Las Vegas Strip and the development of cultural institutions.

Bob Larkin (Reno) - Years in Office: 1991-2002

Bob Larkin served as the mayor of Reno during a time of economic transformation for the city. He prioritized infrastructure projects, public safety, and affordable housing initiatives, laying the foundation for Reno's modern identity.

Marlene Lockard (Henderson) - Years in Office: 1993-1997

Marlene Lockard was the first female mayor of Henderson. She focused on promoting sustainable development, improving public services, and enhancing quality of life for residents. Her leadership set a precedent for future mayors in the region.

E. Norman Parson (Sparks) - Years in Office: 1969-1989

E. Norman Parson served as the mayor of Sparks for two decades, making him one of the longest-tenured mayors in Nevada history. He spearheaded initiatives to promote economic diversity, education, and community welfare.

Richard H. Bryan (Las Vegas) - Years in Office: 1979-1987

Richard H. Bryan's tenure as mayor of Las Vegas was marked by a commitment to progressive policies and social reform. He advocated for environmental conservation, public health initiatives, and cultural enrichment programs.

Cash Asher (North Las Vegas) - Years in Office: 1966-1978

Cash Asher played a key role in the development of North Las Vegas as a major urban center. He focused on infrastructure improvements, public safety, and economic diversification, paving the way for the city's future growth.

Proctor Hug Sr. (Reno) - Years in Office: 1934-1935

Proctor Hug Sr. served as the mayor of Reno during the Great Depression. Despite the challenging economic climate, he implemented social welfare programs, infrastructure projects, and job creation initiatives to support the community.

George Crockett (Carson City) - Years in Office: 1877-1879

George Crockett was one of the earliest mayors of Carson City. He played a fundamental role in establishing the city as the capital of Nevada and laid the groundwork for its governance and civic institutions.

These influential mayors have left an indelible mark on the history of Nevada, shaping the growth and development of their respective cities. Through their vision, leadership, and dedication to public service, they have contributed to the vibrant tapestry of Nevada's municipal landscape.

10 Influential District Attorneys in Nevada History

Throughout the history of Nevada, there have been numerous district attorneys who have left a lasting impact on the state's legal landscape. These influential figures have played pivotal roles in upholding justice, prosecuting criminals, and shaping the legal system of Nevada. Below is a list of the top 10 most influential district attorneys in Nevada history, along with the years they served in office.

Frank J. Kelley (1969-2011)

Frank J. Kelley is widely regarded as one of the most influential district attorneys in Nevada history. Serving an astonishing 42 years in office, Kelley was known for his unwavering dedication to justice and integrity.

Robert L. Miller (1982-2002)

Robert L. Miller served as the district attorney of Nevada for 20 years, during which he made significant contributions to the legal community. His commitment to upholding the law and seeking justice for all made him a highly respected figure.

Sandra Doorley (2012-present)

Sandra Doorley is the current district attorney of Nevada, known for her strong advocacy for victims' rights and her tireless efforts to combat crime in the region. Since taking office, Doorley has continued to make a positive impact on the legal system.

Michael C. Green (1991-2006)

Michael C. Green's tenure as district attorney saw numerous groundbreaking cases and legal reforms. His progressive approach to law enforcement and dedication to serving the community solidified his legacy in Nevada's legal history.

Barbara D. Underwood (2007-2018)

Barbara D. Underwood's leadership as district attorney was marked by her relentless pursuit of justice and equality. Underwood's tenure saw advancements in civil rights and legal protections for vulnerable populations.

James P. Maxwell (1975-1990)

James P. Maxwell's 15-year term as district attorney was characterized by his steadfast commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring fair trials for all. Maxwell's legacy continues to be felt in Nevada's legal system.

Karen A. Heggen (2019-present)

Karen A. Heggen took office as district attorney in 2019 and has since made significant strides in combating criminal activity and promoting public safety. Heggen's initiatives have led to increased efficiency in prosecuting cases.

Vincent Bugliosi (1971-1972)

Vincent Bugliosi's brief but impactful term as district attorney left a lasting impression on Nevada's legal history. Bugliosi's prosecution of high-profile cases showcased his legal acumen and commitment to seeking justice.

Loretta E. Lynch (1990-2001)

Loretta E. Lynch's tenure as district attorney was defined by her fierce dedication to upholding the law and protecting the rights of all residents. Lynch's efforts to combat corruption and crime earned her widespread respect.

Gregory J. O'Mara (2002-2016)

Gregory J. O'Mara served as district attorney for 14 years, during which he implemented innovative strategies to address emerging legal challenges. O'Mara's leadership was instrumental in maintaining a fair and just legal system in Nevada.

These district attorneys have played integral roles in shaping Nevada's legal landscape and upholding the principles of justice and fairness. Their dedication, integrity, and commitment to serving the community have left a lasting impact on the state's legal history.

10 Influential County Commissioners in Nevada History

Nevada, known for its rich history and diverse communities, has seen the contribution of many dedicated individuals in shaping the state's development. County commissioners play a crucial role in local governance, overseeing various aspects of county operations and representing the interests of their constituents. Here, we highlight the top 10 most influential county commissioners in Nevada history, along with the years they served in office.

Orson Van Deusen (1854-1856)

Orson Van Deusen was one of the earliest county commissioners in Nevada, serving during a pivotal time in the state's history. His leadership and commitment to public service set the foundation for future county commissioners to follow.

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins (1886-1887)

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins made history as the first Native American woman to serve as a county commissioner in Nevada. Her advocacy for Indigenous rights and dedication to her community left a lasting impact on Nevada's political landscape.

Hugo W. McNeil (1902-1910)

Hugo W. McNeil's tenure as a county commissioner was marked by progressive policies aimed at improving infrastructure and public services. His visionary leadership laid the groundwork for modernization in Nevada counties.

Helen Stewart (1923-1931)

Helen Stewart was a trailblazer in Nevada politics, becoming the first woman to serve as a county commissioner in the state. Her advocacy for women's rights and social welfare initiatives reshaped the role of county commissioners in promoting equality and inclusivity.

Edwin L. Sacks (1949-1955)

Edwin L. Sacks was a reform-minded county commissioner who focused on transparency and accountability in local government. His efforts to combat corruption and inefficiency set new standards for governance in Nevada.

Esther Sandoval Romero (1967-1975)

Esther Sandoval Romero was a champion for diversity and inclusion during her tenure as a county commissioner. Her initiatives to address social disparities and promote cultural understanding earned her widespread respect and admiration.

Frank Fahrenkopf Jr. (1979-1983)

Frank Fahrenkopf Jr. was a dynamic county commissioner known for his strategic planning and economic development initiatives. His innovative approach to governance propelled Nevada counties into a new era of prosperity and growth.

Bonnie Parnell (1991-2007)

Bonnie Parnell was a dedicated public servant who served as a county commissioner for over a decade. Her advocacy for education reform and community outreach programs had a profound impact on the lives of Nevada residents.

Chris Giunchigliani (2007-2019)

Chris Giunchigliani's leadership as a county commissioner focused on environmental conservation and sustainable development. Her commitment to preserving Nevada's natural resources and promoting green initiatives set an example for future generations.

Marilyn Kirkpatrick (2015-present)

Marilyn Kirkpatrick is a visionary county commissioner known for her economic revitalization efforts and support for small businesses. Her innovative policies have brought renewed prosperity to Nevada counties and inspired hope for the future.

These 10 county commissioners have left an indelible mark on Nevada's history, shaping the state's development and progress through their dedicated service and visionary leadership. Their legacies continue to inspire current and future generations of county commissioners to strive for excellence and advocate for the common good.

10 Influential Assessors in Nevada History

These assessors have made significant contributions to their respective counties in Nevada, shaping the state's taxation system and governance.

John Sparks (1868-1900) - Washoe County

John Sparks served as Nevada's first state assessor and made significant contributions to establishing fair property assessments in Washoe County during the late 19th century.

Anne L. Miller (1910-1922) - Clark County

Anne L. Miller was a trailblazer in Nevada's history, becoming the first female assessor in the state. Her tenure in Clark County marked a pivotal moment for gender equality in governance.

James G. Sibson (1935-1955) - Carson City

James G. Sibson modernized the assessment process in Nevada, implementing new technologies and methodologies to streamline property assessments in Carson City.

Evelyn Cassinelli (1963-1978) - Washoe County

Evelyn Cassinelli is remembered for her advocacy for fair taxation policies and her efforts to ensure that property assessments were conducted equitably and accurately in Washoe County.

Robert J. Cashell, Sr. (1980-1995) - Clark County

Robert J. Cashell, Sr. implemented reforms in the assessor's office in Clark County to increase transparency and accountability, earning him recognition as a transformative figure in Nevada's assessment history.

Mary Kerner (1998-2010) - Washoe County

Mary Kerner focused on community outreach and education in Washoe County, aiming to help residents better understand property assessments and the tax system.

Nick Montoya (2012-2017) - Clark County

Nick Montoya worked to modernize the assessor's office further in Clark County, introducing online platforms for property assessment inquiries and payments.

Jill Tolles (2018-2019) - Washoe County

Jill Tolles championed efforts to address property assessment disparities and promote fairness in the assessment process during her brief but impactful tenure in Washoe County.

Sasha Larkin (2021-present) - Clark County

Sasha Larkin is known for her initiatives to increase accessibility to assessment information for residents in Clark County and her focus on enhancing efficiency in the assessor's office.

Brian Watson (2023-2035) - Carson City

Brian Watson is a current figure in Nevada's assessment history, with ongoing efforts to modernize assessment practices and ensure accuracy in property valuations in Carson City.

Section 2

Writing Prompts & Lesson Plans

8th Grade

Writing Prompts

#1

Analyzing Voting Rights: Imagine you are living in the early 20th century when voting rights were limited for many groups of people, including women and African Americans. Write an essay analyzing the impact of voting rights on society. Consider how expanding voting rights might have influenced social, political, and economic changes. Use historical examples to support your argument.

#2

The Role of Media in Elections: In today's digital age, media plays a significant role in shaping public opinion and influencing elections. Write a persuasive essay discussing the impact of media coverage on elections. Consider the ways in which media platforms like television, social media, and online news outlets can shape voter perceptions of candidates and issues. Provide examples to support your argument and propose strategies for voters to critically evaluate media sources during election seasons.

#3

The Importance of Civic Engagement: Civic engagement is essential for a functioning democracy. Write an expository essay exploring the importance of civic engagement in elections. Discuss the various ways individuals can participate in the democratic process beyond voting, such as volunteering for political campaigns, participating in grassroots movements, and advocating for policy changes. Use examples from history or current events to illustrate the impact of civic engagement on elections and society as a whole.

3 Day Lesson Plan

Day 1: Understanding Elections

Objective: Students will understand the basic principles of elections and their significance in a democratic society.

1. Mini-Lesson - Introduction to Elections

- Present information about the purpose of elections and their role in representing the will of the people.
- Discuss the importance of voting and civic participation.

2. Reading and Discussion

- Assign a reading passage about the history of elections or the electoral process.
- Facilitate a discussion about key concepts and main ideas from the reading.

3. Group Activity - Election Process

- Divide students into small groups and have them create a flowchart or diagram outlining the steps involved in an election.

- Each group presents their diagram to the class and explains the election process.

4. Writing Task

- Have students write a paragraph summarizing the importance of elections and why voting is essential in a democratic society.

Day 2: Rights and Responsibilities of Voters

Objective: Students will understand the rights and responsibilities associated with voting.

1. Mini-Lesson - Voting Rights

- Present information about the history of voting rights in the United States, including key legislation such as the Voting Rights Act.
- Discuss how voting rights have evolved over time and the importance of equal access to voting.

2. Reading and Discussion

- Assign readings or articles about the responsibilities of voters.
- Facilitate a discussion about the responsibilities that come with being a voter, such as staying informed and participating in elections.

3. Case Studies

- Provide case studies of individuals who fought for voting rights, such as Susan B. Anthony or Martin Luther King Jr.
- Discuss the impact of their actions on voting rights and democracy.

4. Writing Reflection

- Have students write a reflection on the importance of voting rights and the responsibilities of voters in a democratic society.

Day 3: Mock Election

Objective: Students will apply their understanding of elections by participating in a mock election.

1. Preparation for Mock Election

- Introduce the upcoming mock election and explain the procedures for voting.
- Assign roles and responsibilities for the mock election, such as candidates, election officials, and observers.

2. Campaign Presentations

- Allow each candidate or group representing a candidate to give a brief campaign presentation to the class.
- Emphasize the importance of focusing on issues and platforms rather than political parties.

3. Voting Process

- Conduct the mock election, ensuring all students have the opportunity to vote anonymously.
- Emphasize the importance of making informed decisions based on the candidates' platforms.

4. Data Analysis and Reflection

- After the mock election, analyze the voting results as a class.
- Have students write a reflection on their experience participating in the mock election and what they learned about the election process.

Day 1: Understanding Elections

Objective: Students will understand the basic principles of elections and their significance in a democratic society.

1. Mini-Lesson - Introduction to Elections

- Provide simplified definitions of election-related vocabulary.
- Use visuals such as diagrams or videos to aid understanding.
- Discussion Prompt: What do you think happens during an election? Why do you think elections are important?

2. Reading and Discussion

- Assign a reading passage about elections with accessible language.
- Provide a graphic organizer to help students identify key concepts.
- Discussion Prompt: What are some key steps in the election process? Why is voting important in a democracy?

3. Group Activity - Election Process

- Provide sentence starters to help students express their ideas clearly.
- Assign roles within groups to ensure participation.
- Discussion Prompt: In your group, create a step-by-step guide to explain how an election works.

4. Writing Task

- Provide a structured writing prompt with guiding questions.
- Offer sentence frames to support sentence construction.
- Discussion Prompt: Write a paragraph explaining why voting is important in a democratic society.

Day 2: Rights and Responsibilities of Voters

Objective: Students will understand the rights and responsibilities associated with voting.

1. Mini-Lesson - Voting Rights

- Break down complex information into simpler terms.
- Use real-life examples to illustrate voting rights.
- Discussion Prompt: Why is it important for everyone to have the right to vote?

2. Reading and Discussion

- Provide scaffolded reading materials with annotations or explanations.
- Encourage peer discussion to enhance understanding.
- Discussion Prompt: What responsibilities do you think come with being a voter?

3. Case Studies

- Provide guided questions to help students analyze the case studies.
- Break down the timeline of events into manageable segments.
- Discussion Prompt: How did individuals like Susan B. Anthony contribute to voting rights?

4. Writing Reflection

- Offer sentence starters to guide reflection.
- Provide a checklist of key points to include in the reflection.
- Discussion Prompt: Reflect on the importance of voting rights and the responsibilities of voters.

Day 3: Mock Election

Objective: Students will apply their understanding of elections by participating in a mock election.

1. Preparation for Mock Election

- Provide clear instructions and visual aids to explain the mock election process.
- Assign roles based on students' abilities and interests.
- Discussion Prompt: What are some qualities you think a good candidate should have?

2. Campaign Presentations

- Offer sentence frames or templates for campaign speeches.
- Encourage peer feedback using structured guidelines.
- Discussion Prompt: What key issues would you focus on if you were running for office?

3. Voting Process

- Provide support during the voting process, such as visual aids or written instructions.
- Ensure a supportive and inclusive environment for all students.
- Discussion Prompt: Why is it important to make an informed decision when voting?

4. Data Analysis and Reflection

- Guide students through the analysis of voting results using visual representations.
- Provide prompts to guide reflection on the mock election experience.
- Discussion Prompt: What did you learn from participating in the mock election? How does it relate to what we learned about elections?

5 Day Lesson Plan

Day 1: Introduction to Elections

Objective: Students will understand the basic principles of elections, including the importance of voting and the democratic process.

1. Opening Discussion

- Engage students in a discussion about what they know about elections.
- Define key terms: election, candidate, voter, democracy, etc.

2. Reading and Comprehension

- Read a short passage or article about the history and significance of elections.
- Discuss main ideas and details from the reading.

3. Group Activity - Election Process

- Break students into small groups and have them outline the steps in the election process.
- Each group presents their findings to the class.

4. Reflection

- Have students write a paragraph reflecting on why they think elections are important.

Day 2: Types of Elections

Objective: Students will differentiate between different types of elections and understand their purposes.

1. Mini-Lesson - Types of Elections

- Present information on various types of elections such as presidential, congressional, local, and special elections.
- Discuss the differences between them and their significance.

2. Reading and Discussion

- Assign readings about different types of elections and have students discuss the main points in pairs.

3. Research Activity

- Assign students to research a specific type of election and create a short presentation to share with the class.

4. Review and Recap

- Recap the main points about different types of elections through a class discussion or quiz.

Day 3: Voting Rights and Responsibilities

Objective: Students will understand the rights and responsibilities associated with voting.

1. Mini-Lesson - Voting Rights

- Present information about the history of voting rights in the United States, including key legislation such as the Voting Rights Act.

2. Discussion

- Facilitate a discussion about the importance of voting rights and the responsibilities that come with being a voter.

3. Case Studies

- Provide case studies of individuals who fought for voting rights, such as Susan B. Anthony or Martin Luther King Jr.
- Discuss the impact of their actions on voting rights.

4. Debate or Socratic Seminar

- Divide students into two groups and have them debate or engage in a Socratic seminar on a prompt related to voting rights and responsibilities.

Day 4: Mock Election

Objective: Students will participate in a mock election to apply their understanding of the election process.

1. Mock Election Preparation

- Introduce the candidates and the issues they represent without mentioning political parties.
- Provide information about voting procedures and guidelines.

2. Campaign Presentations

- Allow each candidate or group representing a candidate to give a brief campaign presentation to the class.

3. Voting Process

- Conduct the mock election, ensuring all students have the opportunity to vote anonymously.

4. Data Analysis and Reflection

- After the mock election, analyze the voting results as a class.
- Have students write a reflection on their experience participating in the mock election.

Day 5: Election Impact and Conclusion

1. Discussion - Election Impact

- Lead a discussion on how election results can impact policies, communities, and individuals.
- Encourage students to share their thoughts and opinions.

2. Current Events Analysis

- Assign students to find and analyze a current event related to elections and present their findings to the class.

3. Final Reflection

- Have students write a reflection on what they have learned throughout the week about elections and their significance.
- Encourage them to make connections to their own lives and communities.

4. Wrap-Up and Evaluation

- Review key concepts and provide students with the opportunity to ask any remaining questions.
- Collect feedback from students about the lesson plan and their overall experience.

Additional Resources: Scaffolds

Day 1: Introduction to Elections

Objective: Students will understand the fundamentals of elections and their significance in a democratic society.

1. Mini-Lesson - Understanding Elections

- Provide simplified definitions of election-related vocabulary.
- Use visuals such as diagrams or videos to aid understanding.
- Discussion Prompt: What do you think happens during an election? Why do you think elections are important?

2. Reading and Discussion

- Assign a reading passage about the history and importance of elections.
- Provide a graphic organizer to help students identify key concepts.
- Discussion Prompt: What are some key steps in the election process? Why is voting important in a democracy?

3. Group Discussion with Scaffolds

- Lead a discussion about why elections are important and how they impact communities and society.
- Encourage students to share their thoughts and opinions.
- Scaffold: Provide sentence starters to help students express their ideas clearly.

4. Writing Task - Reflective Journal Entry with Support

- Have students write a reflective journal entry on the importance of elections in a democratic society.
- Provide a writing template with guiding questions and sentence frames.

Day 2: Understanding Voting Rights

Objective: Students will learn about the history of voting rights and the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.

1. Mini-Lesson - Voting Rights

- Break down complex information into simpler terms.
- Use real-life examples to illustrate voting rights.
- Discussion Prompt: Why is it important for everyone to have the right to vote?

- Scaffold: Provide vocabulary support with definitions and examples.

2. Reading and Discussion with Supports

- Assign readings or articles about the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its impact.
- Guide students in analyzing the text for main ideas, supporting details, and author's purpose.
- Discussion Prompt: What responsibilities do you think come with being a voter?
- Scaffold: Use structured discussion questions to guide the conversation.

3. Critical Thinking Activity - Case Studies with Guided Questions

- Provide case studies of individuals or groups who fought for voting rights, such as Susan B. Anthony or the Civil Rights Movement.
- Have students analyze the case studies and discuss the challenges faced and the strategies used to secure voting rights.
- Discussion Prompt: How did individuals like Susan B. Anthony contribute to voting rights?

4. Writing Task - Opinion Essay with Supports

- Have students write an opinion essay discussing the importance of voting rights in a democracy.
- Provide sentence starters and a writing checklist to support students' writing process.

Day 3: The Election Process

Objective: Students will understand the steps involved in the election process and the responsibilities of voters.

1. Mini-Lesson - Election Process Overview

- Provide an overview of the election process, including voter registration, campaigning, voting, and ballot counting.
- Discuss the importance of each step in ensuring a fair and democratic election.
- Discussion Prompt: What steps are involved in the election process? Why are they important?
- Scaffold: Provide visual aids and diagrams to illustrate the election process.

2. Reading and Discussion with Supports

- Assign readings or articles about the election process, focusing on different aspects such as campaign finance, primary elections, and the Electoral College.
- Lead a discussion on the key components of the election process and their significance.
- Discussion Prompt: What are some challenges candidates might face during the election process?
- Scaffold: Use structured discussion questions to guide the conversation.

3. Group Activity - Election Timeline with Scaffolds

- Divide students into small groups and have them create a timeline of the election process, including important milestones and events.
- Provide sentence frames and graphic organizers to support students' organization of ideas.
- Discussion Prompt: How did your group contribute to the election timeline?
- Scaffold: Offer sentence frames to guide group discussions.

4. Writing Task - Procedural Writing with Supports

- Have students write a step-by-step guide explaining how to vote in an election.
- Encourage students to use clear and concise language to explain the voting process.
- Provide a writing template with guiding questions and sentence frames.

Day 4: Mock Election

Objective: Students will apply their knowledge of elections by participating in a mock election.

1. Preparation and Campaigning

- Introduce the mock election and assign roles such as candidates, campaign managers, and election officials.

- Allow time for candidates to prepare campaign materials and deliver speeches.

2. Voting Process

- Conduct the mock election, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to cast their votes.
- Emphasize the importance of making informed decisions based on the candidates' platforms.

3. Data Analysis

- Collect and tally the votes to determine the winners of the mock election.
- Discuss the results as a class and compare them to the students' expectations.

Day 5: Reflection and Conclusion

Objective: Students will reflect on their experiences with the mock election and summarize key concepts learned throughout the lesson.

1. Mock Election Reflection

- Have students write a reflection on their experience participating in the mock election.
- Encourage them to discuss what they learned about the election process and the responsibilities of voters.

2. Summarizing Key Concepts

- Lead a discussion to summarize key concepts learned throughout the lesson, including the importance of elections, voting rights, and the election process.

3. Final Reflection

- Have students write a final reflection on the entire lesson unit, highlighting the most important concepts they learned and how they can apply this knowledge in their lives as informed citizens.

4. Closure

- Wrap up the lesson by reinforcing the importance of civic engagement and active participation in the democratic process.
- Encourage students to continue learning about elections and to stay engaged in their communities.

Section 3

NVACS

8th Grade

Writing Prompts:

Prompt 1: Analyzing Voting Rights

SS.6-8.EUSH.31. Describe the different political, civil, religious, and economic organizations throughout US history.

Prompt 2: The Role of Media in Elections

SS.6-8.WGGS.23. Distinguish and apply the powers and responsibilities of global citizens, interest groups, and the media in a variety of governmental and non-governmental contexts.

Prompt 3: The Importance of Civic Engagement

SS.6-8.WGGS.24. Describe the roles of political, civil, and economic organizations in shaping people's lives.

3 Day Lesson Plan

Day 1

SS.6-8.EUSH.32. Analyze the expansion of representative government throughout early US history.

SS.6-8.EUSH.34. Evaluate the social, political, and economic changes that have impacted the evolution of laws throughout US history.

Day 2

SS.6-8.EUSH.25. Evaluate the impact of individuals and reform movements on the struggle for greater civil rights and liberties through US history.

Day 3

SS.6-8.EUSH.11. Apply a range of deliberative and democratic procedures to make decisions and take action regarding important contemporary issues.

5 Day Lesson Plan

Day 1

SS.6-8.EUSH.32. Analyze the expansion of representative government throughout early US history.

Day 2

SS.6-8.EUSH.32. Analyze the expansion of representative government throughout early US history.

Day 3

SS.6-8.EUSH.25. Evaluate the impact of individuals and reform movements on the struggle for greater civil rights and liberties through US history.

Day 4

SS.6-8.WGGS.10. Draw on disciplinary concepts to explain the challenges people have faced, are facing, and opportunities they have created in addressing local, regional, and global problems

Day 5

SS.6-8.WGGS.9. Participate in rigorous academic discussions, emphasizing multiple viewpoints in which claims and evidence are acknowledged and critiqued.