

Votes at Every Level

Compare how local, state, and national elections work.

SS.7.CG.2.6 "Examine the election and voting process at the local, state, and national levels."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about local elections, one detail about state elections, and one detail about national elections. Then label two national-election details with the numbers 1 and 2 to show what makes that level distinct.

Three Levels of Elections

- ① Election rules have shared features, but offices and procedures differ by level. In local elections, voters may choose a mayor, city council members, school board members, or county officials. These leaders make decisions close to home, such as community services, local budgets, and school policies. A local election might be held on a different date from a national election. Your city or county election office gives information about candidates, polling places, deadlines, and voting methods.
- ② State elections select a governor, legislators, and other state officials, depending on the state. In many states, voters first take part in a primary, where a political party chooses a candidate for a later general election. In a general election, voters choose among candidates. Some states also put ballot measures, such as proposed laws or constitutional amendments, before voters. State election offices set deadlines and provide official voting information. Rules for primaries and ballot measures vary from state to state.
- ③ National elections choose people who serve the entire country, including the president, vice president, and members of Congress. Voters cast ballots for president and vice president, and each state's electoral votes help determine the winner. Citizens who are 18 or older and who meet their state's other eligibility and registration requirements may vote. Before Election Day, voters can check registration, learn their polling place, and study candidates. Depending on state law, voting may occur at a polling place, by mail, or during early voting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are two kinds of officials that voters may choose in a local election?

2 How does a primary differ from a general election?

3 How do voters participate in choosing the president and vice president, and what helps determine the winner?

4 Besides being 18 or older, what must a person meet before voting, and what is one action the person can take before Election Day?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 4- to 5-sentence voting guide for a first-time voter. Include one local, one state, and one national election detail, plus one action the voter should take before voting.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about local elections, one detail about state elections, and one detail about national elections. Then label two national-election details with the numbers 1 and 2 to show what makes that level distinct. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two kinds of officials that voters may choose in a local election?	Any two: mayor, city council members, school board members, or county officials.
2	How does a primary differ from a general election?	In many states, a primary is where a political party chooses a candidate. In a general election, voters choose among candidates.
3	How do voters participate in choosing the president and vice president, and what helps determine the winner?	Voters cast ballots for president and vice president. Each state's electoral votes help determine the winner.
4	Besides being 18 or older, what must a person meet before voting, and what is one action the person can take before Election Day?	The person must be a citizen and meet the state's other eligibility and registration requirements. Before Election Day, the person can check registration, find a polling place, or study candidates.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the local level, you might vote for city council members who make decisions about community services. In many states, a primary can help a political party choose its candidate for the general election. National elections include races for president, vice president, and Congress. Before voting, check your registration and find your polling place.

Accept accurate local, state, and national details from the passage, organized as a clear guide. For the final action, accept checking registration, finding a polling place, studying candidates, or another accurate preparation stated in the passage.