Who Speaks for Oak?

Read how residents reach an elected official and hold her accountable.

4.SS.4.5 "Identify elected officials, how they can be contacted, and how they are responsible to their constituents."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the elected roles in the passage and circle two ways residents can reach an official. Number one action Ms. Chen takes before the vote as 1 and one action she takes after the vote as 2.

A Safer School Crossing

1. In the city of Riverton, voters elect a mayor to serve the whole city. They also elect city council members to serve different neighborhoods, called districts. Ms. Chen is the council member for the Oak District. The people who live there are her constituents. When Oak District families notice that the crossing near their school is hard to use, they want their elected council member to hear about it.

2. A parent looks up Ms. Chen on Riverton's official city website. The site lists her office phone number and email address. The parent calls and describes cars that do not stop near the school. Other neighbors send emails or speak at a public council meeting. They ask Ms. Chen to bring their concern to the council before it votes on street changes.

3. Before the vote, Ms. Chen listens to residents, asks city workers for information, and tells the council what Oak District families have said. After the vote, she explains her choice at a meeting and posts an update for residents. She cannot promise that everyone will get what they want. Her job is to consider her constituents' needs, explain her decisions, and face voters again when she runs for reelection.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which elected official represents the Oak District, and who are her constituents?

2. Which elected official in Riverton serves people across the whole city?

3. Name two ways Oak District residents can reach Ms. Chen about the crossing.

4. What is one thing Ms. Chen does before the vote and one thing she does after it to answer to residents?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your city council will vote on funding for weekend library hours. In three or four sentences, name an elected official to contact, explain how you would contact that official, and tell what you would ask the official to do before and after the vote.

ANSWER KEY

Who Speaks for Oak?

GRADE 4 · 4.SS.4.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the elected roles in the passage and circle two ways residents can reach an official. Number one action Ms. Chen takes before the vote as 1 and one action she takes after the vote as 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which elected official represents the Oak District, and who are her constituents?	**Ms. Chen is the Oak District's city council member. Her constituents are the people who live in the Oak District.**
2	Which elected official in Riverton serves people across the whole city?	**The mayor serves the whole city.**
3	Name two ways Oak District residents can reach Ms. Chen about the crossing.	**They can call her office and send her an email. Speaking at a public council meeting is also supported by the passage.**
4	What is one thing Ms. Chen does before the vote and one thing she does after it to answer to residents?	**Before the vote, she listens to residents. After the vote, she explains her choice or posts an update.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would contact my city council member because that person represents my district. I would email the member about funding weekend library hours. Before the vote, I would ask the member to listen to families who need library time on Saturdays. After the vote, I would ask the member to explain the decision to residents.

For the question about actions, accept listening to residents, asking city workers for information, or telling the council what families said as a before-vote action. Accept explaining her choice or posting an update as an after-vote action.