A Say in City Hall

Six ways residents can seek change responsibly

9-12.GOV.18 "Describe the means that citizens use to responsibly participate in the political process, including campaigning, petitioning, demonstrating, running for office, lobbying, and voting."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the six ways people participate in politics. Underline one detail for each that shows what it does or how to use it responsibly.

The Library Closes at Five

1 A city library may close before students finish after-school activities. Residents who want longer hours can begin by checking the library's posted schedule and asking staff what resources an extension would require. They can then petition city officials for more funding, collecting signatures and sharing accurate information about costs. A petition shows how many people support a request, but signatures do not automatically change a policy. Residents may also lobby council members by requesting meetings, explaining their proposal, and listening to budget concerns. Both approaches ask decision-makers to consider a specific change.

2 Other residents might demonstrate outside city hall, holding signs and speaking in a public place without blocking entrances. A peaceful demonstration makes an issue visible, while lobbying puts arguments directly before officials. During a council election, volunteers can campaign for a candidate who proposes more library funding. They might distribute flyers that accurately describe the candidate's plan and encourage neighbors to discuss it. A resident who meets local eligibility rules could instead run for council, putting a funding proposal before voters as a candidate. Campaigning supports a candidate; running for office means seeking the position yourself.

3 Eligible voters can compare candidates' positions and vote in the council election. Voting selects representatives who can make budget decisions, but winning a seat does not guarantee that a proposal will pass. Someone too young to vote can still help with a lawful campaign or join a petition, depending on local rules. Citizens can combine these methods: petition for a change, demonstrate to draw attention, lobby officials with evidence, and vote after weighing competing plans. Responsible participation means checking claims, respecting other people's rights, and recognizing that officials must consider needs beyond one group's request.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could residents use both petitioning and lobbying to seek longer library hours? Explain what each method does.

2. How would demonstrating outside city hall differ from campaigning for a council candidate in this case?

3. How does running for council differ from voting in the council election?

4. Why might residents combine a petition, a demonstration, and a vote rather than use only one of them?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A busy street near a neighborhood park has no marked crosswalk. In four or five sentences, propose a plan using three different participation methods from the passage to seek a safer crossing; explain what each method would do and include one responsible practice.

ANSWER KEY

A Say in City Hall

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-12.GOV.18

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the six ways people participate in politics. Underline one detail for each that shows what it does or how to use it responsibly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could residents use both petitioning and lobbying to seek longer library hours? Explain what each method does.	**Residents could collect signatures on a funding request to show support, then meet with council members to explain the proposal and hear budget concerns.**
2	How would demonstrating outside city hall differ from campaigning for a council candidate in this case?	**A demonstration would make the library issue visible in a public place. Campaigning would support a candidate who proposes more library funding.**
3	How does running for council differ from voting in the council election?	**A person running for council seeks the position and puts a proposal before voters. A voter chooses among candidates who may make budget decisions.**
4	Why might residents combine a petition, a demonstration, and a vote rather than use only one of them?	**A petition shows support for a request, a demonstration draws public attention, and a vote helps select representatives who can make budget decisions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would petition the city for a marked crosswalk, gathering signatures from neighbors who use the park. I would lobby council members by presenting the petition and asking how the city evaluates crossing safety. Neighbors could demonstrate near city hall to show public support, keeping entrances clear. These steps would show demand, give officials information, and bring attention to the problem.

Accept other accurate distinctions among the six methods in the passage. For Your Turn, look for three distinct methods, an explanation of each method's purpose, and at least one responsible practice.