

Campaign Participation

Analyze how citizens can shape elections before voting day.

12.G4c "In addition to voting, there are many ways in which citizens can participate in the electoral process. These include joining a political organization, donating money, and doing volunteer work on a political campaign."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline voting, joining an organization, donating, and volunteering. Mark how each contributes to an election.

Participation Before Election Day

- ① An election involves more than casting a ballot. Before a city council election, residents can help shape which candidates and issues receive attention. Some join a political party or another political organization. Members may discuss platforms, recruit candidates, or plan voter outreach. Joining gives people an organized way to learn, work with others, and advocate priorities. It does not require agreement with every member.
- ② Citizens can also contribute resources to a campaign. A donation gives a campaign money for permitted expenses, such as printing information, renting office space, or communicating with voters. Election laws can set contribution limits and reporting rules, so donors and campaigns should follow the rules that apply to their election. Money is not the only resource. A volunteer may canvass by speaking with residents, make phone calls, enter campaign data, distribute literature, or help organize an event. These tasks can make contact with voters possible.
- ③ Voting helps select officeholders. Organizing, donating, and volunteering can influence campaigns before ballots are cast. Attending a party meeting and volunteering for its candidate remain separate choices; neither automatically commits a person to the other. People may decline to join or donate. Responsible participation includes checking claims, respecting other voters, and following applicable rules. Activities differ in time, cost, and access, so participation need not depend on giving money.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are two activities members may do at meetings of a political organization?

2 How does donating to a campaign differ from volunteering for a campaign?

3 Choose two nonvoting actions and explain how each contributes to a campaign.

4 Why does attending a party meeting not commit someone to volunteer for its candidate?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

For a fictional local election, write four sentences describing two nonvoting actions, how each contributes, and one responsible practice. You do not need to name a real candidate or a personal preference.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline voting, joining an organization, donating, and volunteering. Mark how each contributes to an election. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two activities members may do at meetings of a political organization?	They may discuss platforms, recruit candidates, or plan voter outreach. Any two are correct.
2	How does donating to a campaign differ from volunteering for a campaign?	A donation provides money for permitted campaign expenses. Volunteering provides time and labor, such as canvassing, making calls, entering data, distributing literature, or organizing an event.
3	Choose two nonvoting actions and explain how each contributes to a campaign.	Answers may identify joining an organization, which allows organized learning, collaboration, and advocacy; donating, which supplies campaign funds; or volunteering, which provides campaign labor and voter contact.
4	Why does attending a party meeting not commit someone to volunteer for its candidate?	The passage states that each action is a separate choice. A person may attend a party meeting and may independently choose whether to volunteer for a candidate.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During a county executive campaign, I would join a local political organization to discuss its platform and plan voter outreach. I would also volunteer to call residents and share accurate information about an upcoming forum. These choices contribute differently because one connects me with an organized group, while the other supplies campaign labor. I would check claims before repeating them and respect residents who disagree.

Accept equivalent descriptions of organization membership, donations, and campaign volunteer work when they match the passage. For the open response, look for two distinct nonvoting actions, a clear explanation of each action's contribution, and one responsible practice.