A Say in Government

Read how elections help people choose their leaders.

3.C.1.4.B "Explain the importance of voting in elections and running for public office to the preservation of a constitutional republic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways voting helps people guide their leaders. Circle two ways running for office gives people a say.

Maya Learns About an Election

1. On election day, adults in Maya's neighborhood vote for a state lawmaker. A lawmaker helps make rules for the state, such as rules about safe roads. Voters choose a person to speak for them. In the United States, people elect leaders, but leaders must follow the Constitution. The Constitution is a set of highest rules that protects people's rights and limits what leaders can do.

2. Maya's aunt decides to run for the office of state lawmaker. She tells voters what she would do about unsafe roads. Another candidate shares a different plan. Because people can run for office, voters have a choice of leaders and ideas. A voter can ask questions before choosing. Running for office also gives people a way to help make decisions instead of leaving every decision to the same leaders.

3. After the election, the winner should listen to the people and must obey the Constitution. If voters dislike the winner's work, they can choose someone else in a later election. Voting gives people a say, and running for office brings new people and ideas to the ballot. Together, these actions help keep a constitutional republic, a country where elected leaders serve under rules that protect people's rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does voting for a state lawmaker give people a say in their state?

2. Why does it matter that Maya's aunt and another candidate can both run for office?

3. How can voting in a later election help if people dislike the winner's work?

4. How do voting and running for office work together to help keep a constitutional republic?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town is choosing a new mayor. Write three sentences to explain how voting and running for mayor help people have a say, and why the winner must follow the Constitution.

ANSWER KEY

A Say in Government

GRADE 3 · 3.C.1.4.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways voting helps people guide their leaders. Circle two ways running for office gives people a say. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does voting for a state lawmaker give people a say in their state?	**Voters choose a person to speak for them when state rules are made.**
2	Why does it matter that Maya's aunt and another candidate can both run for office?	**Voters can choose between leaders with different plans and ideas.**
3	How can voting in a later election help if people dislike the winner's work?	**Voters can choose someone else to be their leader.**
4	How do voting and running for office work together to help keep a constitutional republic?	**Running for office gives people a choice of leaders and ideas. Voting lets people choose and later replace leaders, who must follow the Constitution.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Voting lets neighbors choose a mayor who will listen to their needs. When people run for mayor, voters can compare different plans for our town. The winner must follow the Constitution because it protects people's rights and limits what leaders can do.

Accept answers that explain voter choice or the chance to replace a leader, choice among candidates, and the Constitution's limits on elected leaders. Students do not need to use the term constitutional republic in their own writing.