# Who Decides?

Follow a decision from public ideas to a vote.

**3.P.1.1.A** "Explain how people make decisions in a constitutional republic, using examples from their community and state."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two ways people share ideas, circle the groups of leaders who vote, and draw a box around two rules leaders must follow.

### A Safer Crossing and Better Paths

1. At the corner by Pine Street School, cars rush past while children wait to cross. In a constitutional republic, people elect leaders to make many public decisions. The leaders must follow laws and the constitution, a set of basic rules for government. People can share ideas before leaders decide. A community problem, like this busy corner, may need a town decision.

2. Parents ask the town council for a crossing guard. Children write notes about the long wait to cross. At a public meeting, council members listen and check how much a guard would cost. They also check state road safety rules. The elected council votes to pay for a guard. Town workers then arrange for a guard to help at the corner.

3. Another group wants safer paths in state parks. Park users write to their elected state lawmakers. A lawmaker suggests using state money to fix broken paths in several parks. State lawmakers discuss the plan and vote on a bill. If it passes, the governor can sign it into law or veto it. These leaders must also follow the state constitution when they make decisions.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can families help shape the town's decision about the busy corner, even though council members make the final choice?

2. Why does the town council check the cost and state road safety rules before it votes?

3. How can park users help start a state decision, and who votes on the plan?

4. What can happen after state lawmakers pass the parks bill, and what rule must state leaders follow?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your community wants a new public playground. In three or four sentences, explain how residents could share their ideas, how elected local leaders could decide, and one rule the leaders must follow.

ANSWER KEY

# Who Decides?

GRADE 3 · 3.P.1.1.A

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways people share ideas, circle the groups of leaders who vote, and draw a box around two rules leaders must follow. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How can families help shape the town's decision about the busy corner, even though council members make the final choice? | **Parents ask for a crossing guard, and children write notes. Council members listen before voting.** |
| 2 | Why does the town council check the cost and state road safety rules before it votes? | **The council needs to know what the guard would cost and make a decision that follows state road safety rules.** |
| 3 | How can park users help start a state decision, and who votes on the plan? | **Park users write to their elected state lawmakers. State lawmakers vote on the bill.** |
| 4 | What can happen after state lawmakers pass the parks bill, and what rule must state leaders follow? | **The governor can sign or veto the bill. State leaders must follow the state constitution.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Families could tell the town council where a new playground is needed. The council could listen to families and check how much it would cost. Then the elected council members could vote on whether to pay for it. They must follow the law and the constitution when they decide.

Accept other ways residents could share ideas, such as speaking at a public meeting. The response should name an elected local group that decides and a law or constitutional rule it must follow.