Who Makes the Rules?

Read about local and state laws that help people stay safe.

3.P.2.1.C "Explain the purposes of laws and government in the community and state, examining the role of elected officials in making laws."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each elected official in the passage, and underline words that explain how the park law and the car seat law would help people.

A Safer Path

1. At Maple Park, children on bikes and people on foot share a narrow path. Some walkers worry about bumps near the playground. Neighbors tell the city council what they see. Council members are elected by people in the city. They can vote on a local law to keep bikes off that path. This law would help people use the park safely.

2. A law can also cover a whole state. State lawmakers, called legislators, are elected by voters in the state. They make and vote on state laws. For example, a state law may require young children to ride in car seats. This law helps protect children on trips through many towns. The governor, elected by voters statewide, may sign a bill after legislators pass it.

3. Making laws is only one part of government's work. City workers can put up a sign after a park law takes effect. They also care for the park path. State workers help families learn the rules for car seats. These jobs help people follow laws and use public places. When people share a problem, elected officials can listen and decide whether a new law is needed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might the city council make a law about bikes on the park path?

2. How could the neighbors' concerns lead to a new park law?

3. Who votes on state laws, and how does the car seat law help children?

4. Why would the city council vote on the park law instead of state legislators?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine that parked scooters block the sidewalk outside your city library. Write three sentences that suggest a local law, explain how it would help people, and tell which elected officials could vote on it.

ANSWER KEY

Who Makes the Rules?

GRADE 3 · 3.P.2.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each elected official in the passage, and underline words that explain how the park law and the car seat law would help people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might the city council make a law about bikes on the park path?	**Walkers worry about bumps on the narrow path. Keeping bikes off it would help people use the park safely.**
2	How could the neighbors' concerns lead to a new park law?	**Neighbors tell the elected city council about the problem, and council members can vote on a local law.**
3	Who votes on state laws, and how does the car seat law help children?	**State legislators vote on state laws. The car seat law helps protect children on trips through many towns.**
4	Why would the city council vote on the park law instead of state legislators?	**The park law is a local law for a city park. State legislators vote on laws that cover the state.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The city could make a law that says people must park scooters away from the library sidewalk. This law would leave space for everyone to walk safely. Elected city council members could listen to people's ideas and vote on the law.

Accept other reasonable local laws that keep the library sidewalk clear. The response should explain a benefit and name elected city council members as the officials who could vote on the law.