Who Gives Power?

Read how elections connect people to government.

4.C.1.1.C "Explain why the United States of America is considered a constitutional republic by identifying the people as the source of authority and describing how the people engage in the political process of fair elections at local, state..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two statements that show where leaders get their authority, circle the three election levels, and box two details about fair voting. Your marks will help you explain how the people guide government.

A Choice for the Town

1. Imagine your town needs a safer crossing near its library. Neighbors share ideas at a public meeting. Later, eligible voters choose a mayor in a local election. The mayor's authority comes from the people, not from owning the town. Voters can ask candidates what they will do about the crossing. They can then choose a candidate whose plans they support.

2. The same idea works beyond a town. In a state election, voters choose people to serve in the state legislature. Those lawmakers make decisions about state laws, such as rules for roads. In a national election, voters choose members of Congress, who help make laws for the whole country. These elected officials represent people in their communities and states.

3. The United States is a constitutional republic. In a republic, the people give authority to representatives they elect. The Constitution sets rules and limits for the national government, so elected leaders cannot simply do whatever they want. Fair elections let eligible voters make choices without pressure, and each vote in an election is counted under the same rules. This keeps the people at the center of government.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the mayor in the passage have authority to lead the town?

2. How do people give authority to state lawmakers?

3. How does a national election help make the United States a republic?

4. How do fair elections and the Constitution each help keep government connected to the people?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town wants shade over a playground. In four sentences, explain how residents could speak up and use a fair election to choose a local leader, why that leader's authority comes from the people, and how a rule limits that leader's power.

ANSWER KEY

Who Gives Power?

GRADE 4 · 4.C.1.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two statements that show where leaders get their authority, circle the three election levels, and box two details about fair voting. Your marks will help you explain how the people guide government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the mayor in the passage have authority to lead the town?	**Eligible voters choose the mayor in a local election, so the mayor's authority comes from the people.**
2	How do people give authority to state lawmakers?	**Voters choose people to serve in the state legislature in a state election.**
3	How does a national election help make the United States a republic?	**Voters choose members of Congress to represent them and help make laws for the country.**
4	How do fair elections and the Constitution each help keep government connected to the people?	**Fair elections let eligible voters choose without pressure and have votes counted under the same rules. The Constitution limits what national leaders can do.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Residents can tell mayoral candidates they want shade at the playground. Eligible voters can choose between candidates without pressure, and each vote is counted under the same rules. The winner's authority comes from the people who elect the mayor. The mayor must follow town laws about spending, so the mayor cannot use public money however they wish.

Accept other accurate examples of speaking up, fair voting, or limits on a local leader's power. Look for a clear link between voters choosing a leader and that leader receiving authority from the people.