

Vote With Facts

Learn how informed voters take part in state and local elections.

4.15.C "explain the duty of the individual in state and local elections such as being informed and voting;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three sources that can help a voter learn candidates' stated positions, and circle the three election details official information can help a voter check, to show how voters become informed and prepare to vote.

A Voter's Responsibility

- ① State and local elections help choose people who make decisions close to home. Voters may elect a governor, mayor, school board member, or city council member. These leaders can affect schools, roads, parks, safety, and local rules. Each eligible voter has a duty to take part responsibly. That means learning enough to make a thoughtful choice and voting when an election is held.
- ② Being informed does not mean agreeing with every candidate. It means finding dependable information before deciding. A voter can read candidate websites to learn each candidate's stated positions, compare sourced news reports, and watch or read about public debates. A voter can also use official state or local election information to check registration rules, the election date, and the voting location. Talking with others can add ideas, but it should not be the only source.
- ③ Voting is the step that lets an informed voter help choose leaders. Before election day, an eligible voter should learn how and when to vote. On election day, the voter follows the rules at the polling place or uses another voting method allowed by the state. A responsible voter makes choices privately, respects others' choices, and does not let rumors replace reliable information.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are the two main parts of an eligible voter's duty in an election?

2 What three sources or kinds of coverage can help a voter learn about candidates?

3 What three election details can a voter check using official state or local election information?

4 Why should a voter use reliable information instead of rumors?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that a local election is coming up. Write a three-sentence plan: name a candidate-related source you would use and what you would look for, name one election detail you would check in official election information, and explain how voting after learning helps your community.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three sources that can help a voter learn candidates' stated positions, and circle the three election details official information can help a voter check, to show how voters become informed and prepare to vote. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are the two main parts of an eligible voter's duty in an election?	Learn enough to make a thoughtful choice, and vote when an election is held.
2	What three sources or kinds of coverage can help a voter learn about candidates?	Candidate websites, sourced news reports, and public debates.
3	What three election details can a voter check using official state or local election information?	Registration rules, the election date, and the voting location.
4	Why should a voter use reliable information instead of rumors?	Reliable information helps the voter make a thoughtful, informed choice.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would read a candidate website to find the candidate's stated plan for improving parks. I would check official local election information for the voting location. Voting after I learn the facts lets me help choose a leader who will make local decisions.

Accept equivalent wording for learning enough to make a thoughtful choice and voting. For candidate information, accept only candidate websites, sourced news reports, and public debates from the passage, not official election information.