

Civic Choices

Read how Texans and community members take part in public life.

4.15 "Citizenship. The student understands the importance of active individual participation in the democratic process. The student is expected to: identify important individuals who have participated voluntarily in civic affairs at state and..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three actions people can take in civic affairs. Circle the words that tell what informed voters must do.

Helping a Community

- ① Communities are shaped by people who choose to help. In Texas, Adina de Zavala worked to protect historic places, including the Alamo. Clara Driscoll gave money and worked with others to help save the Alamo. Their voluntary historic preservation efforts helped people remember the past. Today, residents can join a cleanup, help at a food drive, or work to preserve a historic place.
- ② Other Texans showed active participation in government. Sam Houston served as president of the Republic of Texas and later as a Texas governor. Lorenzo de Zavala served the Republic of Texas. Barbara Jordan and Henry B. González served in the United States Congress. Ann Richards served as Texas governor, and Wallace Jefferson served as chief justice of the Supreme Court of Texas. Their public service modeled participation in democracy.
- ③ Children and other people who are not yet 18 cannot vote in public elections, but they can participate in civic affairs. They can write respectful letters or emails to a city council member, mayor, school board member, or other leader. Before state and local elections, eligible voters have a duty to learn about candidates and issues, then vote. A class or neighborhood group can also vote to make a fair group decision.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did Adina de Zavala and Clara Driscoll participate voluntarily in civic affairs?

2 Name one community service or preservation activity from the passage and one way a person can communicate with a leader.

3 What are the two duties of eligible voters in state and local elections?

4 How can a class or neighborhood group use voting, and why can this be useful?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly two complete sentences about a local issue, such as a park cleanup or school project. In the first sentence, say which leader you would contact and what respectful message you would send. In the second sentence, tell how a group could use a vote to choose an action.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three actions people can take in civic affairs. Circle the words that tell what informed voters must do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Adina de Zavala and Clara Driscoll participate voluntarily in civic affairs?	They worked to protect and save the Alamo, a historic place.
2	Name one community service or preservation activity from the passage and one way a person can communicate with a leader.	Answers may include joining a cleanup, helping at a food drive, preserving a historic place, and writing a respectful letter or email to a leader.
3	What are the two duties of eligible voters in state and local elections?	Eligible voters should learn about candidates and issues, then vote.
4	How can a class or neighborhood group use voting, and why can this be useful?	The group can vote to choose an action or decision. Voting can help the group make a fair decision.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would email our city council member and respectfully ask for more trash cans at the park. Our neighborhood group would vote on whether to hold a park cleanup on Saturday or Sunday.

Accept any accurate local issue, appropriate elected or appointed leader, and respectful contact method. The second sentence must describe a group vote that chooses between actions or options.