



## KIDS VOTING REGISTRATION

(20-30 minutes)

### OBJECTIVE

Students understand the importance of registering to vote.

### MATERIALS

*Voter Registration Cards* handout; *Registration Badges* handout; lined paper

### GET READY

- ✓ Copy enough *Voter Registration Cards* for your students.
- ✓ Prepare three *Registration Badges* – cut them out from the handout. If possible, print them out on colored paper.
- ✓ Put two or three tables or desks together at the front of the room.
- ✓ For more information, see “Elections” in the Appendix.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Say to your students, *Have you ever signed up for swimming lessons or school? If so, you probably had to go in before the first day of class and sign up. Another word for signing up is “registering.” Before you can vote you must register to put your name on the list of voters.*
- ✓ Assign three students to be the registrars for the class. Give each registrar a *Registration Badge*.
- ✓ Give each registrar a stack of *Registration Cards* and a registration sheet. (The registration sheet could be a piece of lined paper folded down the middle.) Have the registrars sit at the desks/chairs you put together.

- ✓ Instruct the students to come to the tables/desks three at a time to fill out their *Registration Cards* and sign the registration sheets. (Have the students sign their names on the left side of the registration sheet.)
- ✓ Each student goes to one registrar who helps them through the registration process, so it is important that the registrars know how the process works.
- ✓ Have the registrars switch roles with students who have already registered so that they have a chance to register.
- ✓ Tell your students that you will send the *Registration Cards* home with them the day before the Kids Voting election so they can take them to the polls.
- ✓ Save the registration sheet for the *Voting Simulation* activity.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *Why do we register?*
- ★ *What could happen if people voted without registering?*

### MORE!

As an alternative to classroom registration, help coordinate a school registration day for both students and parents. Invite a deputy registrar for parents and let students register for the Kids Voting election at the same time.

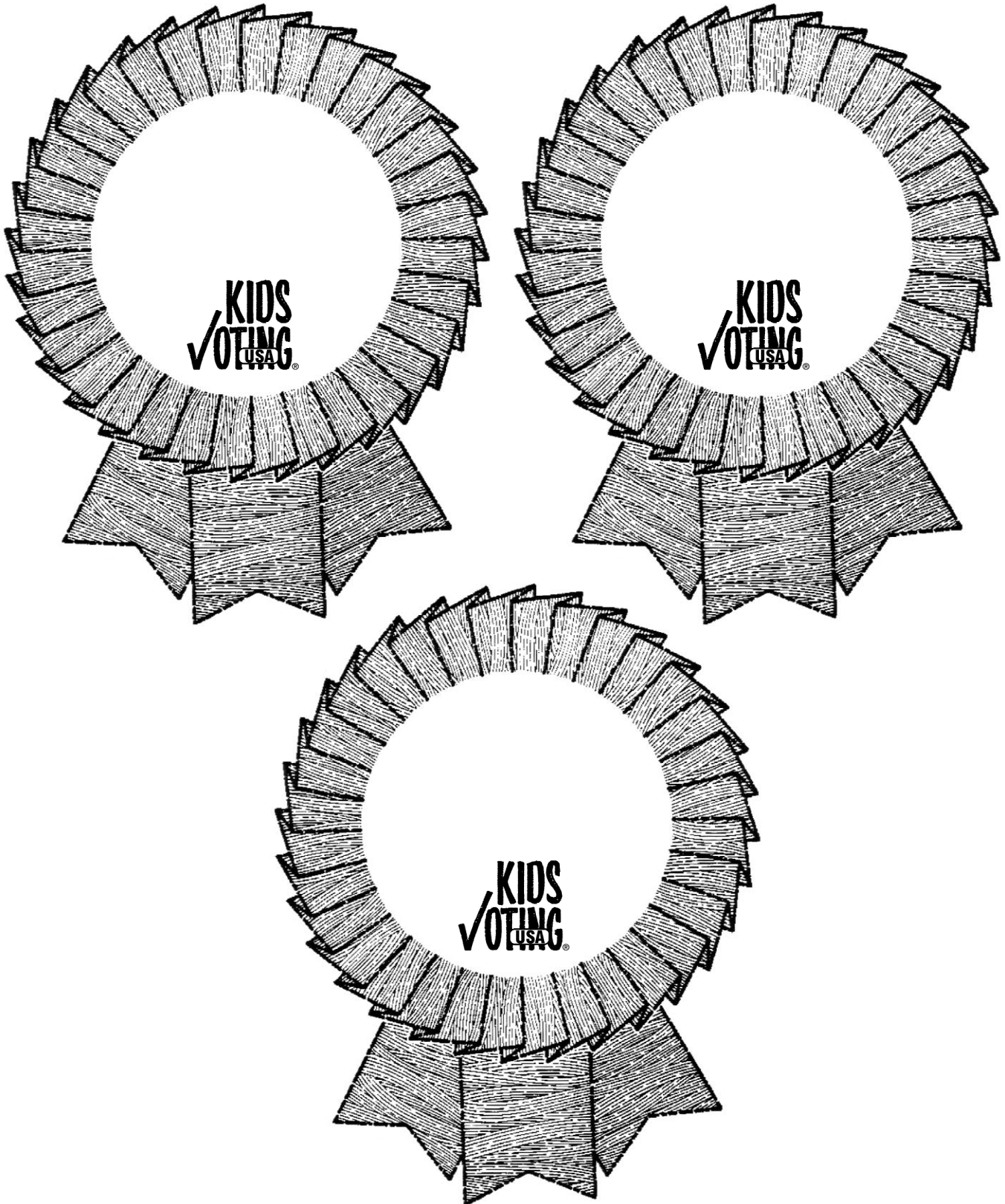


### VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS

 <p>Voter Registration</p> <p>Student _____</p> <p>Teacher _____</p> <p>School _____</p>	 <p>Voter Registration</p> <p>Student _____</p> <p>Teacher _____</p> <p>School _____</p>
 <p>Voter Registration</p> <p>Student _____</p> <p>Teacher _____</p> <p>School _____</p>	 <p>Voter Registration</p> <p>Student _____</p> <p>Teacher _____</p> <p>School _____</p>



## REGISTRATION BADGES



**VOTING SIMULATION**

(30 minutes)

**OBJECTIVE**

Students vote in a simulated polling place to become familiar with the voting process.

**MATERIALS**

*Polling Place Diagram* handout; *Ballots* handout; material for a ballot box and voting booth

**GET READY**

- ✓ Choose an issue that will impact the students rather quickly. For instance, vote on what to play at recess or how to determine seating or something fun like, *What tastes best: a chocolate chip or peanut butter cookie?*
- ✓ Prepare ballots from the *Ballots* handout or determine a way to vote on blank pieces of paper.
- ✓ Prepare a simple ballot box and voting booth.
- ✓ Arrange a corner of the classroom to resemble a polling place as shown in the diagram.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- ✓ Explain the duties of the precinct workers (see handout) and assign students to role play the part of the workers. Seat them as shown in the diagram.
- ✓ Give one of the judges the registration sheet derived from the *Kids Voting Registration* activity.
- ✓ Give the clerks lined paper to record the voters as they come in.
- ✓ Hand the ballots to the other judge.
- ✓ Seat the marshal by the ballot box.
- ✓ Ask a student to demonstrate by casting the first vote.

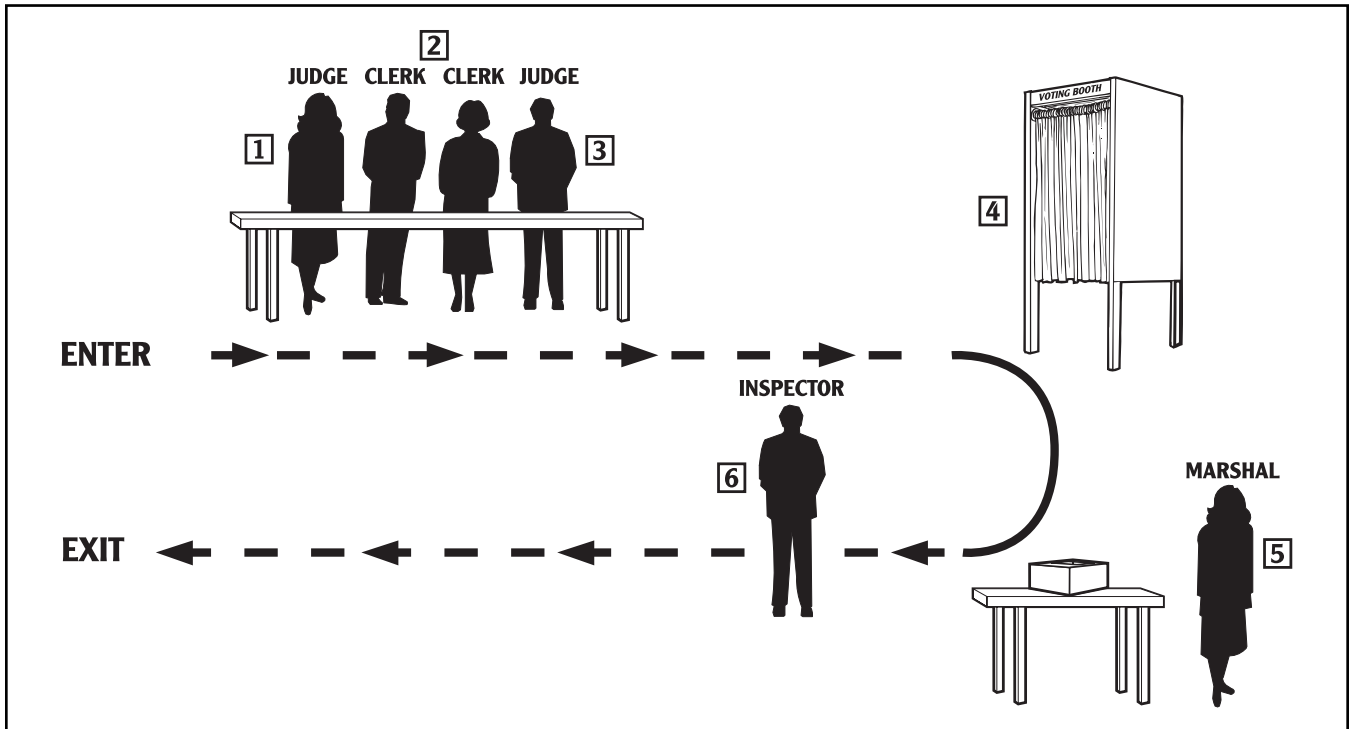
- ✓ Let each student go through the voting process.
- ✓ Instruct the marshal to tally and announce the vote.
- ✓ Implement the vote.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- ★ *Who can go into a polling place?*
- ★ *Have you ever gone with your parents? If yes, what was it like?*
- ★ *How do adults know where to go to vote?*
- ★ *If they don't know, how can they find out?*
- ★ *Can everybody vote?*
- ★ *Have you voted at the Kids Voting booth before? What was it like?*
- ★ *Where will you go to cast your Kids Voting vote this election?*
- ★ *Are there any rules in a polling place?*
- ★ *What do you think are good manners for a polling place?*



# POLLING PLACE DIAGRAM



At the polls there are usually: one inspector; two judges — one Republican, one Democrat; two clerks — one Republican, one Democrat; and one marshal.

As you enter you will generally meet:

- 1** A judge with the register, a list containing the names of registered voters in the precinct, who will ask your name, find it in the register, and ask you to sign beside it
- 2** Two clerks, one for each party, who will add your name to a list to witness that you have voted
- 3** Another judge, who will hand you your ballot, and help you understand how to cast your ballot
- 4** A voting booth
- 5** The marshal, who will take your ballot and place it in the ballot box
- 6** The inspector, who oversees the polling place and assigns all the workers their duties

Poll workers have other duties. For instance the marshal makes sure that the law is kept. She watches that no one campaigns within 150 feet of the polls and she checks to see that everyone in line when the poll closes gets a chance to vote.

You, the voter, will:

- 1. Sign in by writing your name in the register
- 2. Take a ballot from a judge
- 3. Go to the booth and vote
- 4. Return your ballot to the marshal



# BALLOTS

<p><b>BALLOT</b> VOTE FOR ONE</p> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/>	<p><b>BALLOT</b> VOTE FOR ONE</p> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/>	<p><b>BALLOT</b> VOTE FOR ONE</p> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/>
<p><b>BALLOT</b> VOTE FOR ONE</p> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/>	<p><b>BALLOT</b> VOTE FOR ONE</p> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/>	<p><b>BALLOT</b> VOTE FOR ONE</p> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> <hr/>



## MARKING A BALLOT

(15-20 minutes)

### OBJECTIVE

Students study and mark sample ballots.

### MATERIALS

Sample *Kids Voting Ballot*

### GET READY

- ✓ Copy a sample *Kids Voting Ballot* for each student. (If you have not received them, check with your Kids Voting contact person.)

### INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Study the ballot with your students. Identify the pictures and issues you feel they can understand.
- ✓ Ask your students to pretend they are at the polls and have them mark their ballots.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *How did you decide who to vote for?*
- ★ *How do grown-ups decide who to vote for?*
- ★ *Where do they get their information?*
- ★ *What can you do if you don't know who to vote for?* (Ask for help from a parent or guardian; listen to the commercials on TV or the radio; etc.)
- ★ *Where will you go to mark a Kids Voting ballot?*

### MORE!

Encourage your students to take their ballots home and discuss the candidates and issues with their families.

### VOTE QUOTE

“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free in a state of civilization, it expects what was never meant to be.” – Thomas Jefferson