

Voting Rights, Elections & Democracy: Books for Young People



Supported by a grant from The Lotte E.
Scharfman Citizen Education Fund of the
League of Women Voters of Massachusetts

<https://bookswithmore.net>



Whether we are parents, grandparents, educators, mentors, aunts or uncles, talking with young people about voting can be a special experience. Together, we can ask good questions and explore answers.

- What does it mean to vote?
- How do elections work?
- Why do elections matter?

Chris C. is a public school parent, library trustee, and League of Women Voters Board member. Voting is important to her, for sure!



Voting is a cornerstone of democracy. People who are citizens of our country can vote.

- The Fourteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution tells us: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the State wherein they reside.”
- Most U. S. citizens age 18 and over are eligible to register and vote. They register to vote in the state where they reside. In some localities, 16-year-olds can vote in elections too.
- The ability to vote and roadblocks to voting have been important concerns historically and still are today.

In recent elections, many voters have had a choice of voting by mail, placing their ballot in a secure ballot box (often at a town hall) or in person early or on election day at the polls. In any manner, the fundamental importance of voting in local, state and national elections is affirmed. In this way, citizens participate in making democracy work. Your vote is your voice.

Municipalities offer secure boxes—providing drop-off options for casting a ballot—in addition to mail-in and in-person voting.



Brookline MA Town Hall



We hope you'll find good ideas to explore further as you scroll through these highlighted books and resources. Local libraries and bookstores are excellent sources for the books themselves (some are available as ebooks or audiobooks, too).

There is nothing like a good book to inspire conversation about our democracy!

The books that follow are for young people ages 5-10. Age designations are approximate; older kids and adults will enjoy them, too.

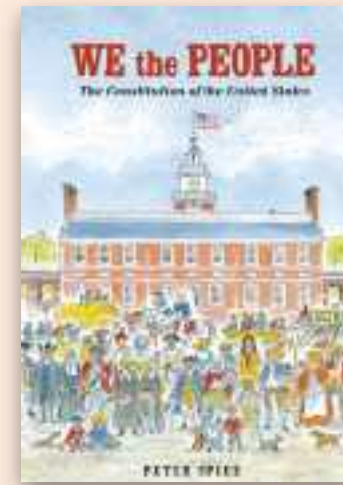
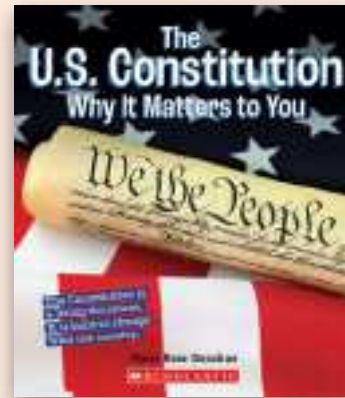
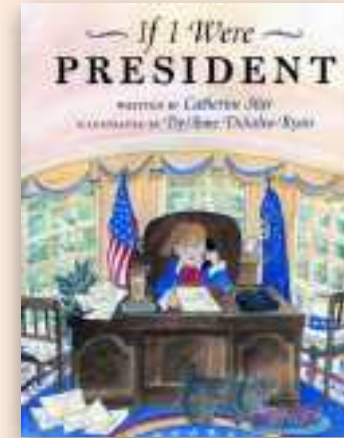
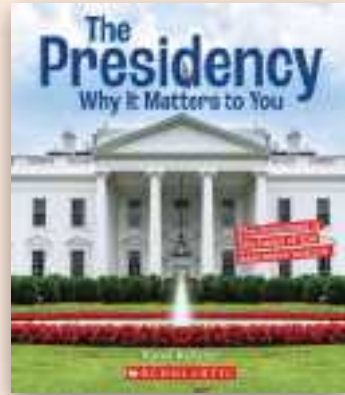
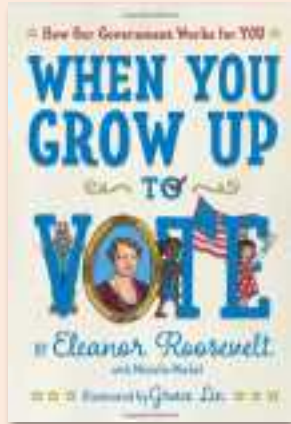
Books are presented in three categories:

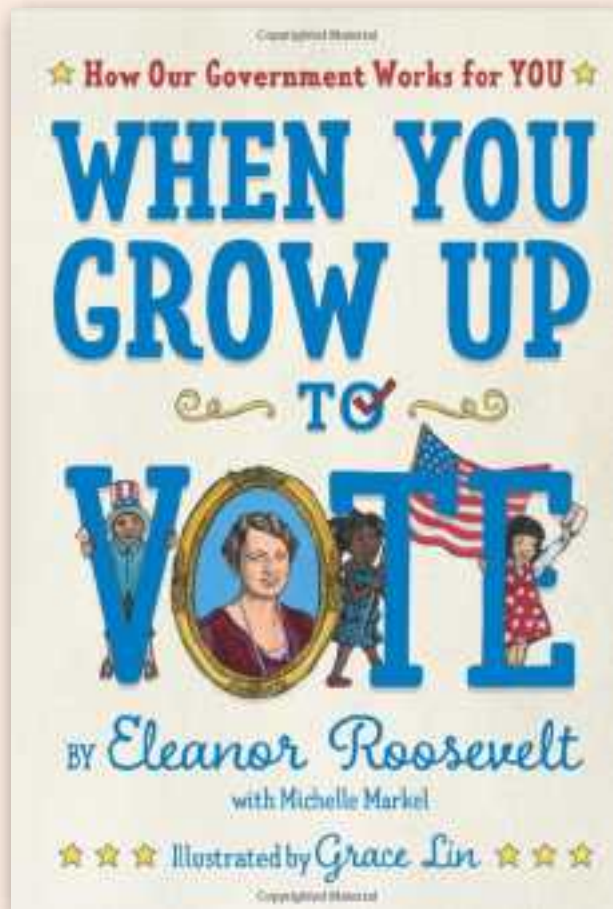
- **democracy & government** — and the offices held by the people we elect;
- **voting and elections today**;
- **the history of voting rights** — and the people who have worked for those rights.

Isobel T. is a recent high school graduate and a serious voting advocate as she moves on to college.



Books about DEMOCRACY & GOVERNMENT

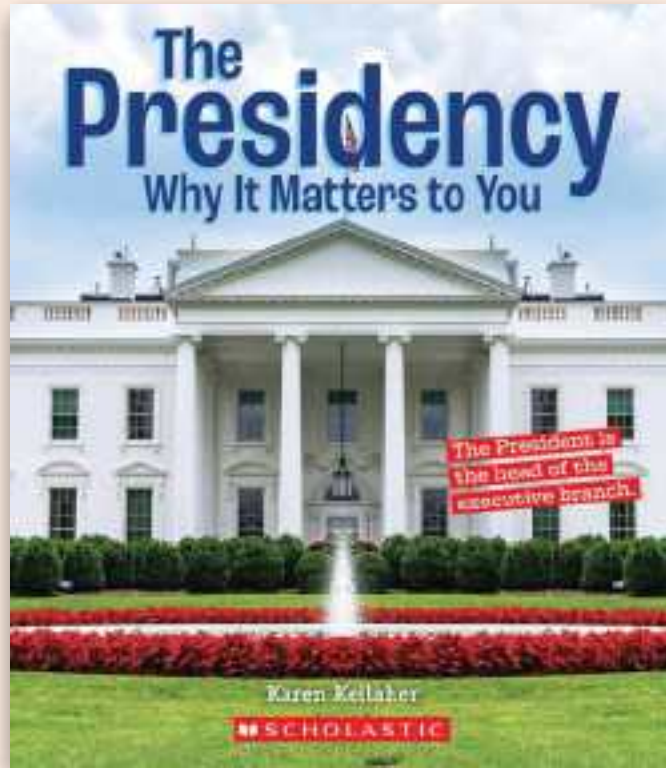




GOVERNMENT

Michelle Markel's 2018 edition of Eleanor Roosevelt's original book, published in 1932, is an excellent handbook on the levels of government. It begins with the basic services within a community upon which the community depends. The spheres of local, state and national levels of government are depicted, assisting readers in conceptualizing the frameworks of our systems. One type of local government is the New England town meeting. At the federal level, responsibilities of the Executive (the President and the Cabinet), the Legislative (Congress) and the Judicial branches are delineated. At its heart, the narrative conveys the belief that, in a representative democracy, our elected officials work for the people who elect them.

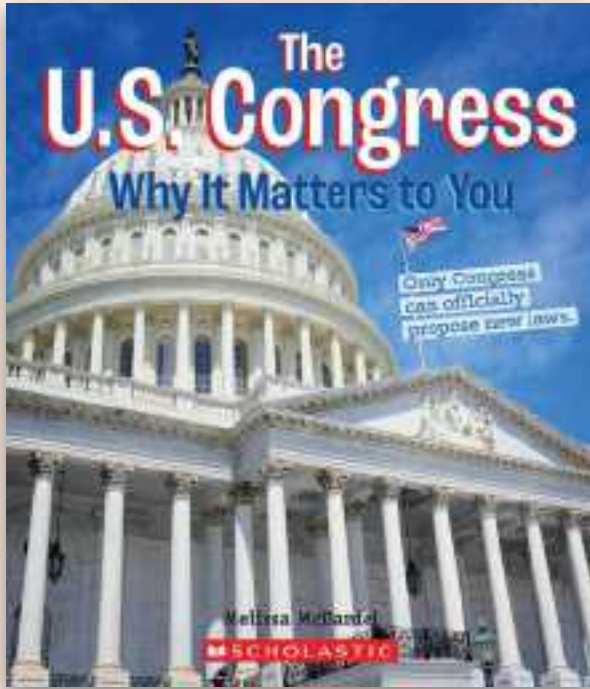
When You Grow Up to Vote: How Our Government Works for You, by Eleanor Roosevelt with Michelle Markel, illustrated by Grace Lin. Roaring Brook Press, 2018. 9781626728790 (HC). Ages 6-11.



GOVERNMENT

Who can be president? What is the nature of the Chief Executive's job? Who are the people who help the President do the enormous work of leading the nation? What does "Checks and Balances" mean? The good information packed into this slim book is complemented by pertinent photos, graphics and resources, bringing readers right up to the present day as they learn about what the presidency means for us.

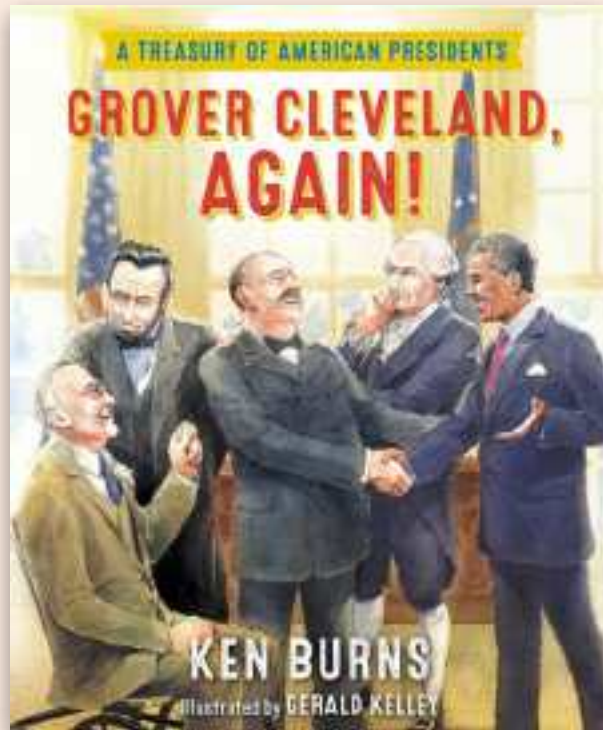
The Presidency: Why It Matters to You, by Karen Kellaher. A True Book/ Children's Press, 2019. 978-0531239971 (PB). Ages 8-10.



GOVERNMENT

Rich with leading questions and documentary pictures, this book provides, in five short chapters, an inside look at the Capitol Building, the structure of the Congress, and the work of senators and representatives. It also conveys the dynamic elements of a democracy: the voices of the people in Congress and in the nation around issues such as immigration, gun safety, representation and climate change.

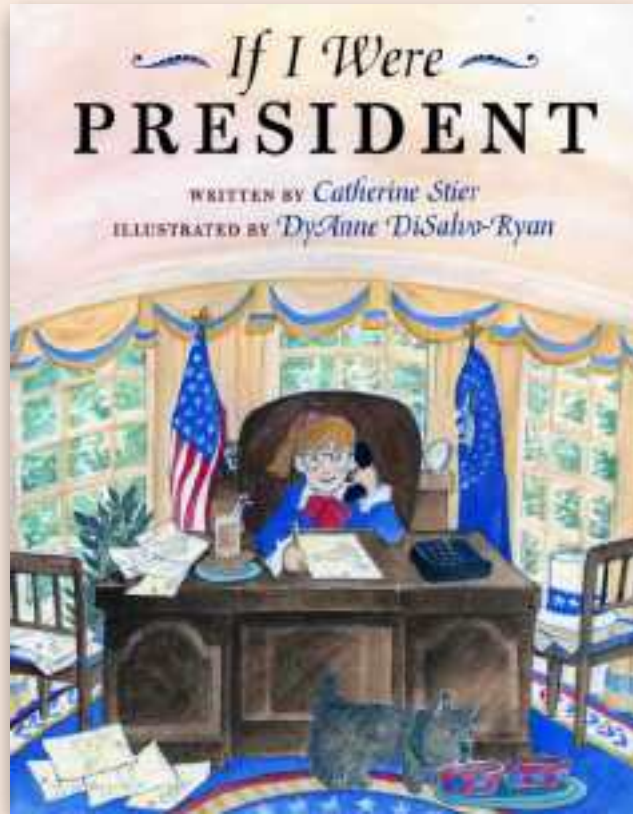
The U. S. Congress: Why It Matters to You, by Melissa McDaniel. A True Book / Children's Press, 2020. 9780531231821 (HC); 9780531239940 (PB). Ages 8-10.



GOVERNMENT

Historian Ken Burns' daughters provided the title for this book. They loved reciting the names of our presidents, shouting out "Grover Cleveland, again!" when his name came around for his non-consecutive second term. Burns brings his practiced eye to our nation's leaders from George Washington to Barack Obama, providing intriguing information about their achievements and their challenges, including thorny issues of the times in which they served. It is a fascinating and handsomely-presented gallery of history and presidential personalities; supplementary information rounds out the book.

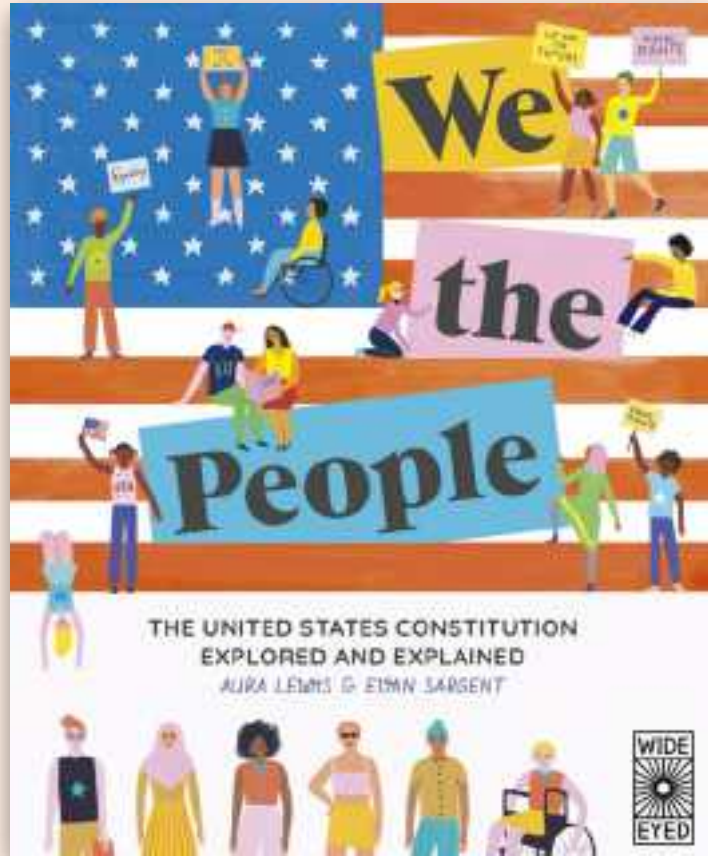
Grover Cleveland, Again!, by Ken Burns, illustrated by Gerald Kelley. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2016. 9780385392099 (HC). Ages 9-14.



In this conversational picture book, different children imagine what he or she would do if elected president: make important promises, work hard every day to do good things for the country (although probably not everybody will agree with the decisions), be in charge of quite a few things, sign bills, and live in a big house (with its own movie theater!). The complex responsibilities of the presidency are distilled and depicted from a child's perspective, providing food for thought about what it would really be like to lead the country.

If I Were President, by Catherine Stier, illustrated by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan. Albert Whitman & Co., 1999. 978-0807535424 (PB). Ages 5-8.

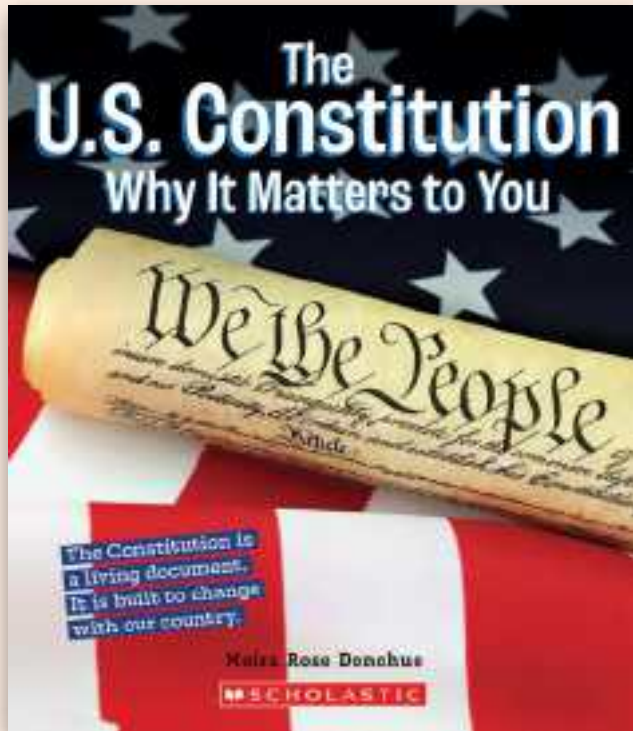
GOVERNMENT



“The Constitution outlines the basic fundamental laws and principles of our government. People in law and politics still reference (and debate) its contents every day. They’re supposed to, because it was written with the intention that it should be reinterpreted and revised over time as our society evolves.” This comprehensive introduction to the U. S. Constitution shines a light on each element of the document, with fresh, relevant graphics, explanations of terms, and thoughtful questions about the document that shapes our lives as citizens.

We the People: The United States Constitution Explored and Explained, by Aura Lewis and Evan Sargent. Wide Eyed Editions / Quarto Publishing, 2020. 9780711254046 (HC). Ages 10-14.

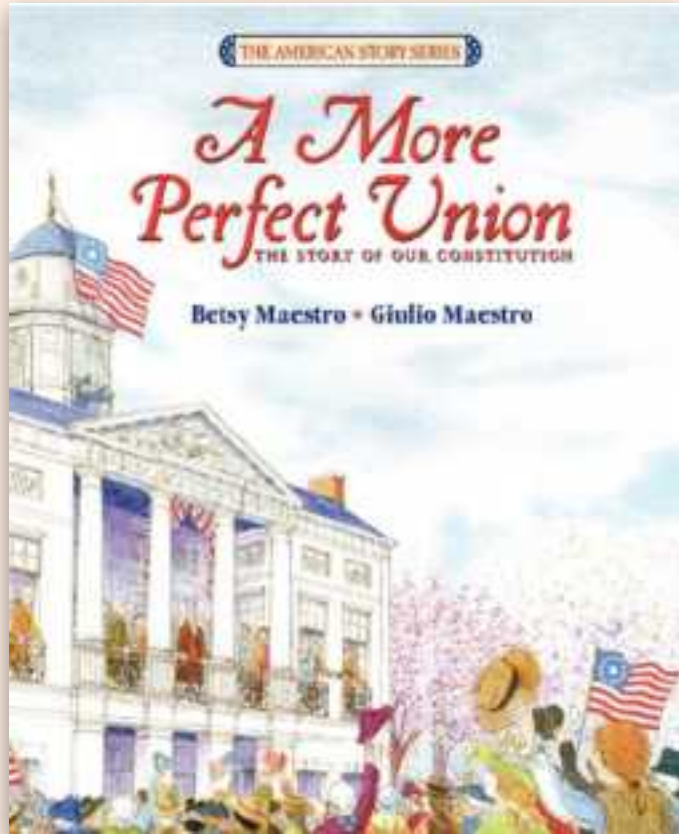
GOVERNMENT



GOVERNMENT

Jam-packed with information about our Constitution, this compact, visually-lively book introduces its history, the three branches of government it established, the Bill of Rights and further amendments, a few landmark cases of the Supreme Court, and some current issues that pose Constitutional questions. One of the “Why It Matters” series, it sets the scene for thoughtful discussion about the relationship of our founding document to our lives today.

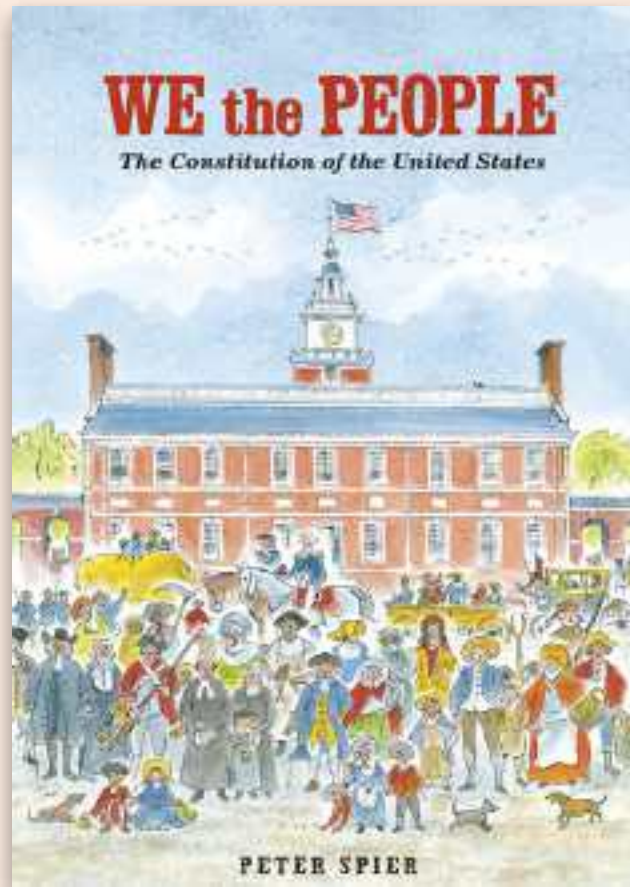
The U. S. Constitution: Why It Matters to You, by Moira Rose Donohue. A True Book / Children’s Press, 2019. 9780531231838 (HC); 9780531239957 (PB). Ages 8-10.



What happened during the summer of 1787 in Philadelphia? Well, the leaders of the new nation were worried about its stability—worried that individual states were not cooperating enough for the common good. They came together and worked, argued, wrote, compromised, and wrote some more, in very hot weather, until thirty-nine delegates put their signatures to the new Constitution. The hard work of ratification lay ahead, as did the adoption of the Bill of Rights in 1791. The flowing, illustrated narrative brings alive the hard work that produced the document that remains the basis of our democracy today.

A More Perfect Union: The Story of Our Constitution, by Betsy Maestro, illustrated by Giulio Maestro. HarperCollins, 1990. 9780688101923 (PB). Ages 6-10.

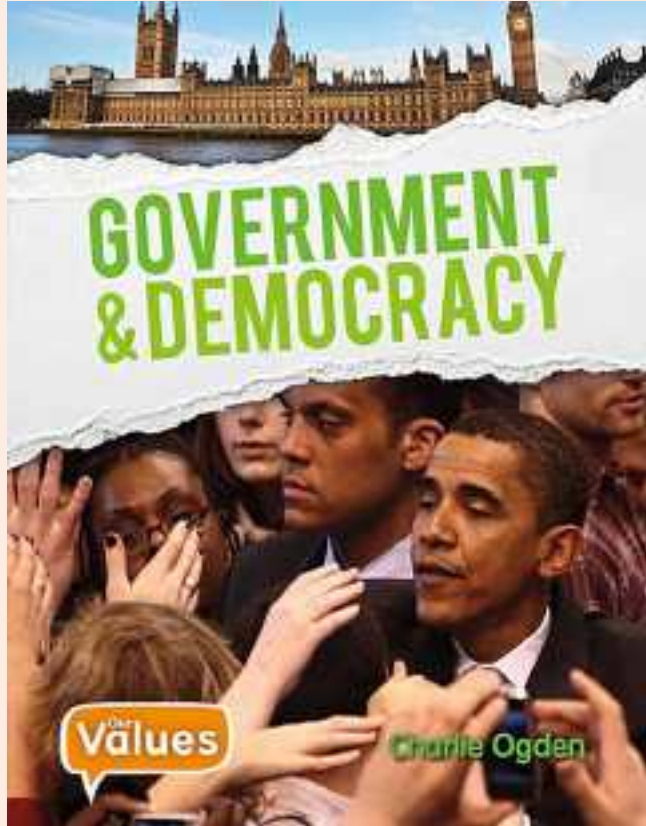
GOVERNMENT



In this large-format picture book, each phrase of the preamble to the U. S. Constitution is depicted in multiple small watercolor-and-ink drawings of scenes in American life. These vignettes—countryside and city; workplaces, parks and homes; backyards and highways—draw readers into thinking about the possible meanings of each phrase, providing good conversation-starters. The words of the entire Constitution and Bill of Rights, plus a brief history, are appended.

We the People: The Constitution of the United States, by Peter Spier. Dragonfly Books / Random House Children's Books, 2020. 9780385376174 (HC); 9780593128084 (PB). Ages 5-9.

GOVERNMENT

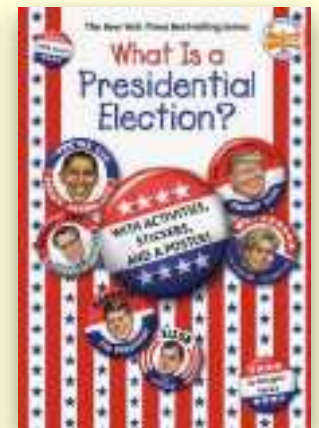
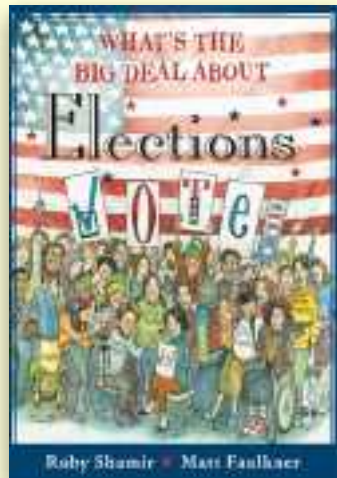
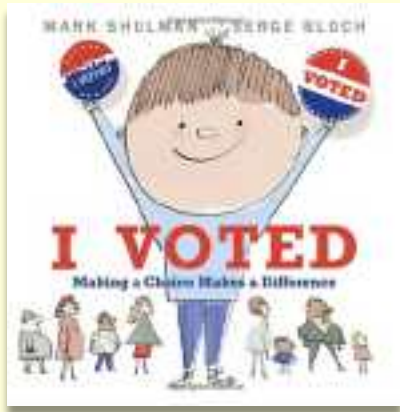


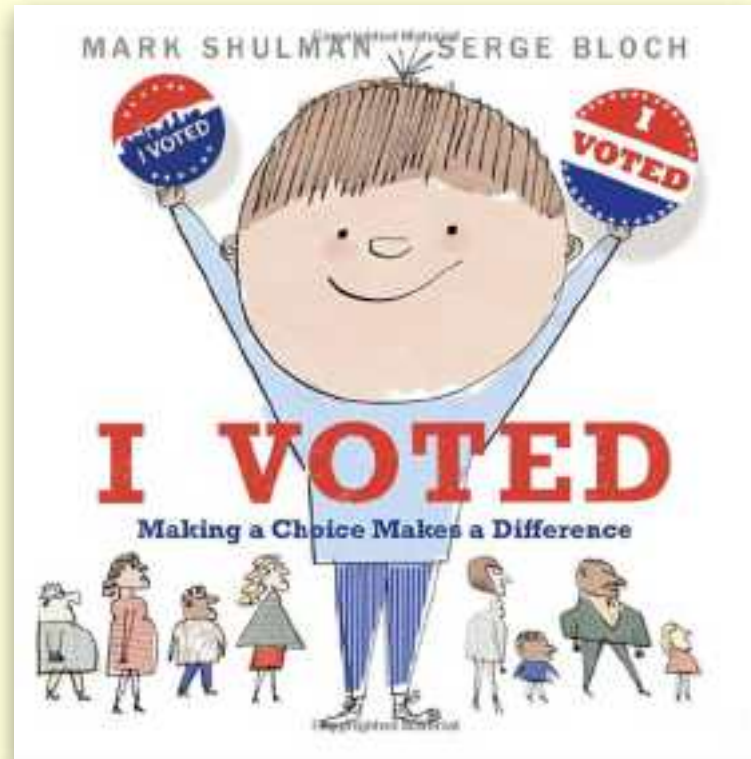
What is a government and why is it important? What are examples of governments around the world, and what roles do their laws, taxes and leaders play? A democracy is a form of government; it can be a direct or a representative democracy. In what ways does our democracy in the United States differ from other forms of government? What is the history of democracy and what remains important today? Readers are encouraged to reflect on these complex concepts, presented with clarity, interesting photos and explanatory graphics.

Government & Democracy, by Charlie Ogden. Crabtree Publishing Company, 2017. 9780778732662 (HC), 978-0778733492 (PB). Ages 9-13.

GOVERNMENT

Books about VOTING





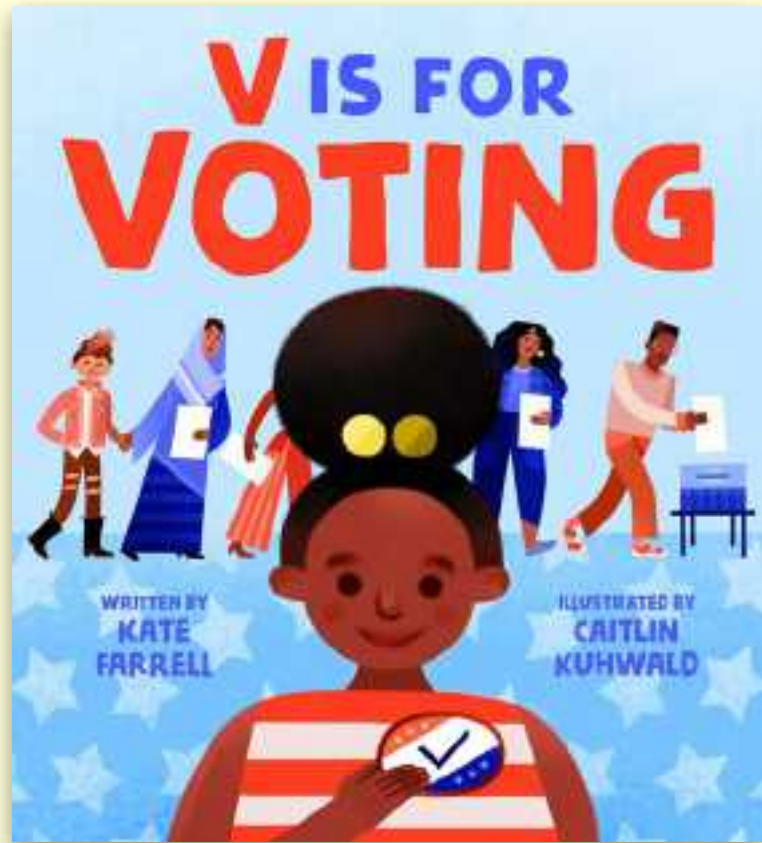
VOTING

“Any time you choose one thing or another, you can say that you voted for it.”

Young children know that some choices are easy and some are hard. This book presents many aspects of voting in brief, well-chosen text and lively illustrations. Do you, as a voter, always get what you want? How might you talk with other people to discuss your choice or work together for what you want? What happens in the actual process of voting in elections? How does voting stay fair? How do we learn about candidates for office, and why is it important to choose the leaders we want?

An afterword includes short descriptions of the roles of national, state and local governments plus recommendations for further exploration.

I Voted: Making a Choice Makes a Difference, by Mark Shulman, illustrated by Serge Bloch. Neal Porter Books / Holiday House, 2020. 9780823445615 (HC). Ages 4-8.



Bold illustrations and brief text characterize this spirited alphabet book. The chosen phrases for each letter have a gently activist bent (“A is for active participation” and “B is for building a better nation,” for example), providing a solid platform for conversations with young readers about why voting is important.

V Is for Voting, by Kate Farrell, illustrated by Caitlin Kuhwald. Henry Holt and Company, 2020. 9781250231253 (HC). Ages 4-6.

VOTING



VOTING

Titles in the Rookie Read-About Civics series introduce new readers to basic ideas about voting, our Constitution, and government. Thought-provoking questions and key words are highlighted in each short chapter, with an engaging photograph on every page. There are both wonderful opportunities and real responsibilities being part of a community and a nation!

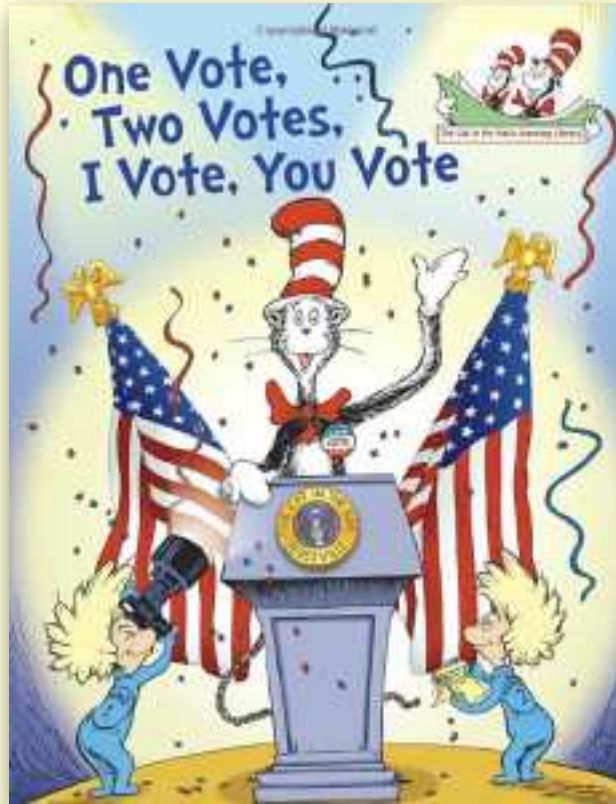
We Can Vote, by Ann Bonwill. 9780531137727 (PB). Other titles in the series: *We Have a Constitution* 9780531137734 (PB) and *We Have a Government* 9780531137741 (PB). Rookie Read-About Civics / Children's Press, 2019. Ages 5-7.



VOTING

Callie listens carefully when her teacher Ms. Trask shares why a vote is a powerful thing: because one vote, combined with other votes during an election, puts our local and national leaders into office. It also helps Callie's class decide between a field trip to a cookie factory and an expedition to the wilderness park. Callie, having visited the park with her grandmother, campaigns for the park; Lynn campaigns for the factory. Each does her research and tries to convince others to support her choice. Students cast their paper ballots and, in a gently suspenseful election, a single vote makes the difference! The class spends a great day at the park and learns that its future depends on the town's vote for future funding. The importance of voting is conveyed in an immersing, colorfully illustrated story, with excellent summaries about the ways to vote and the history of voting rights.

A Vote Is a Powerful Thing, by Catherine Stier, illustrated by Courtney Dawson. Albert Whitman & Co, 2020. 9780807584989 (HC). Ages 4-8.



In Cat in the Hat style, readers will breeze through how people vote and who people vote for in a democracy – presidents, vice presidents, senators and representatives, sheriffs and local leaders – as well as gain an idea about voting rights history and campaigns today. The rhyming narrative leads up to election day. “Voting gives each of us our very own voice. It allows a large group to make one single choice.” What a responsibility! This is an upbeat approach to the elements of an election and the principles of democracy.

One Vote, Two Votes, I Vote You Vote, by Bonnie Worth, illustrated by Aristides Ruiz and Joe Mathieu. Random House Children’s Books (The Cat in the Hat’s Learning Library), 2016. 9780399555985 (HC). Ages 5-8.

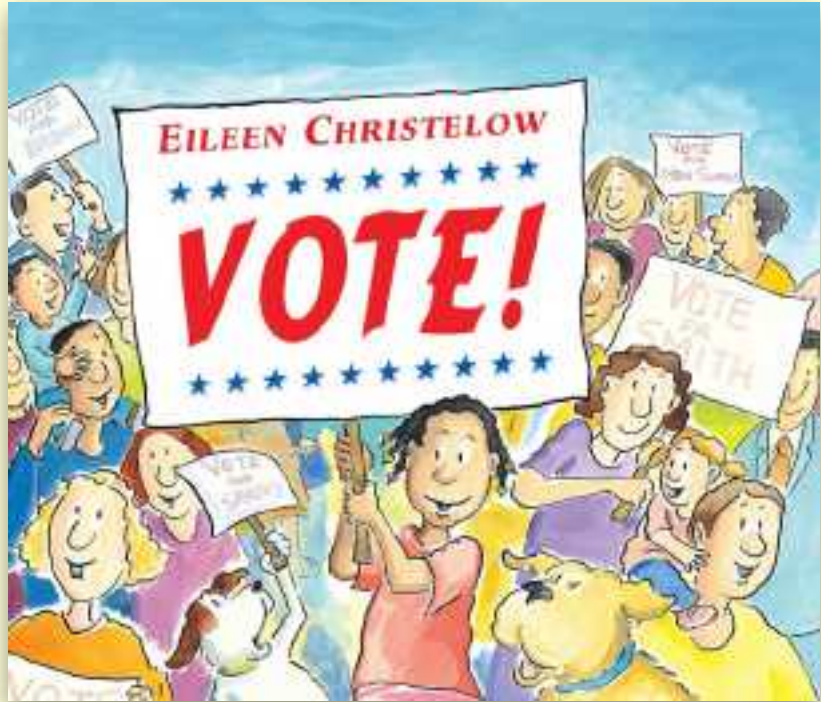
VOTING



VOTING

Every two years, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, Stanton Elementary School becomes a polling place for community members to vote. That's important because "...the reason people vote is to choose who makes the laws of the country." The Stanton students decide to participate in getting out the vote, figuring out how to encourage people to register, and helping them understand the voting process. Students discover that some of their parents are registered already while others need to become registered. They learn that resources like voter guides and volunteering to raise funds can be helpful in an election. The energy and excitement of getting out the vote is at the heart of this informative book.

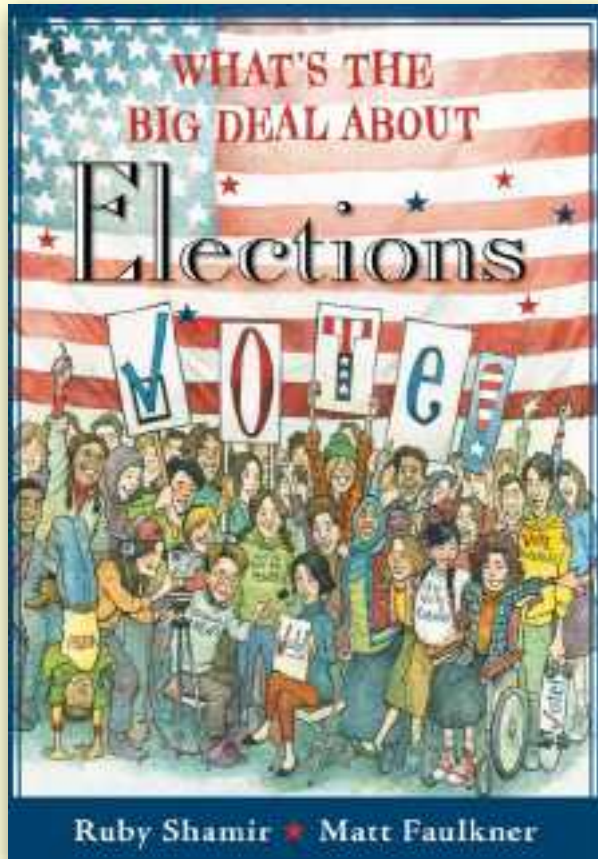
Vote for Our Future, by Margaret McNamara, illustrated by Micah Player. Schwartz & Wade, 2020. 9781984892805 (HC). Ages 4-8.



VOTING

Energetic drawings, speech bubbles and a wonderful cast of characters highlight numerous aspects of a mayoral campaign in a local community. Both Chris Smith and Bill Brown want to convince voters to put them in office, providing a chance for Chris's daughter Angela (accompanied by Sparky and Elmer, her faithful pups) to ask great questions. She wonders how to help a favorite candidate (her mother!). She sees what can happen in a debate, how people learn about voting in their town, and how they get motivated to place their vote. Even campaign funding, media advertising and polls are mentioned – all in an upbeat way. A glossary, a timeline of voting rights, and more about political parties are appended.

Vote!, by Eileen Christelow. Clarion Books, 2018. 9780618247547 (HC); 9781328499226 (PB). Ages 7-10.



Lively illustrations, interesting historical scenarios, anecdotes and good leading questions characterize this overview of elections in the United States. We have held elections for over two hundred years, and while things have changed over time (how we learn about candidates, and how we actually cast our votes, for example), elections remain the fundamental way to participate in our representative democracy.

What's the Big Deal about Elections? by Ruby Shamir, illustrated by Matt Faulkner. Philomel Books / Penguin Random House, 2018. 9781524738075 (HC); 978-0593116401 (PB). Ages 6-10.

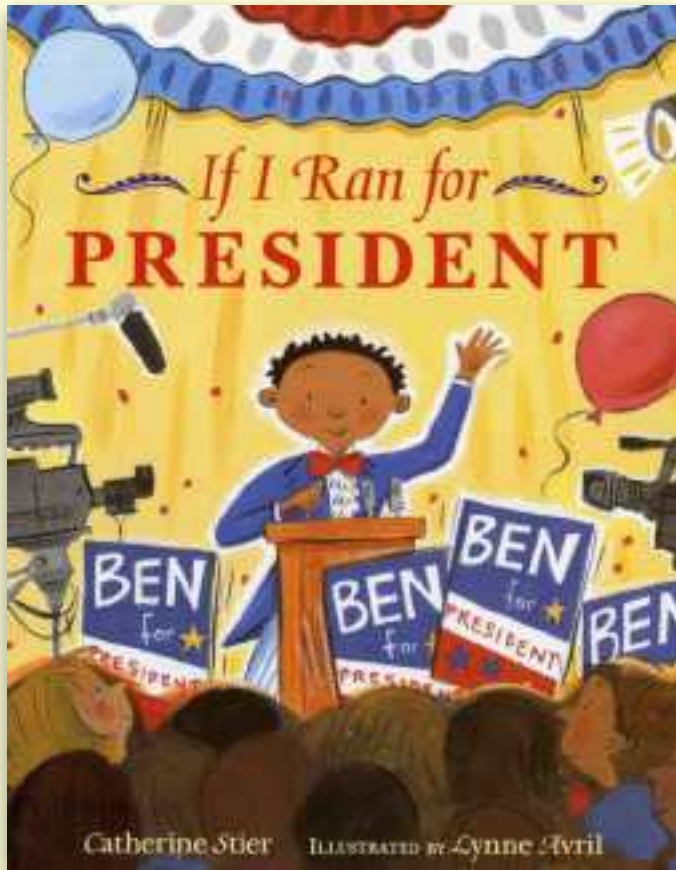
VOTING



VOTING

“Today, almost all American citizens can register to vote. No matter what a person’s race or religious beliefs are or how much money they have, they can vote.” Enhanced by clear and engaging photographs, brief facts are presented about registering and choosing a political party if desired, about how voting pertains to U. S. territories and to incarcerated people, and about the need to accommodate as many citizens as possible in choosing their leaders.

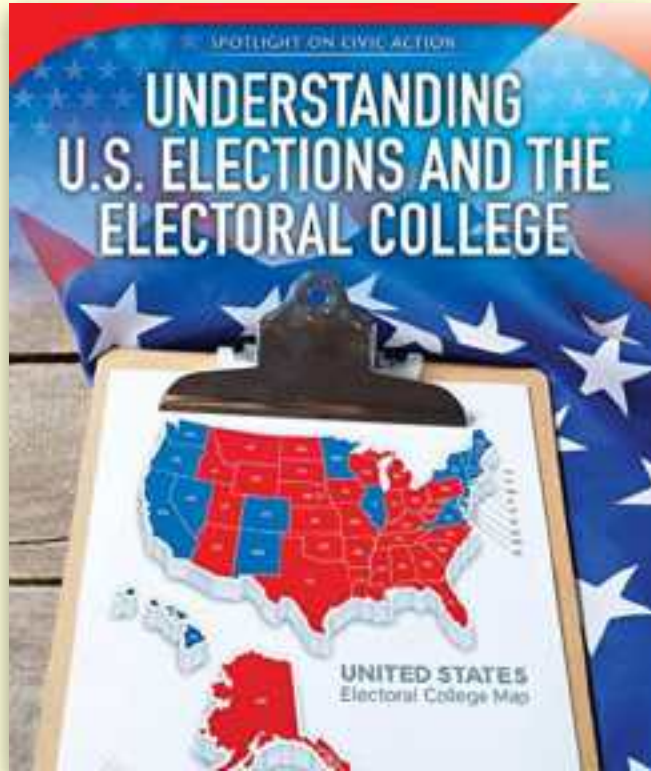
Who Can Vote?, by Kristen Rajczak Nelson. PowerKids Press, 2018. 9781538330173 (PB). Ages 7-10.



What must it be like to run for President of the United States? Six different young people imagine what it would be like: making the big decision to run; launching a campaign with its debates and primaries; talking to voters about your plans; waiting for the results on election day in early November—and considering the prospect of saying the oath of office on Inauguration Day in January! This thoughtful picture book captures both the hard work and excitement of a campaign.

If I Ran for President, by Catherine Stier, illustrated by Lynne Avril. Albert Whitman, 2008. 9780807535448 (PB). Ages 5-9.

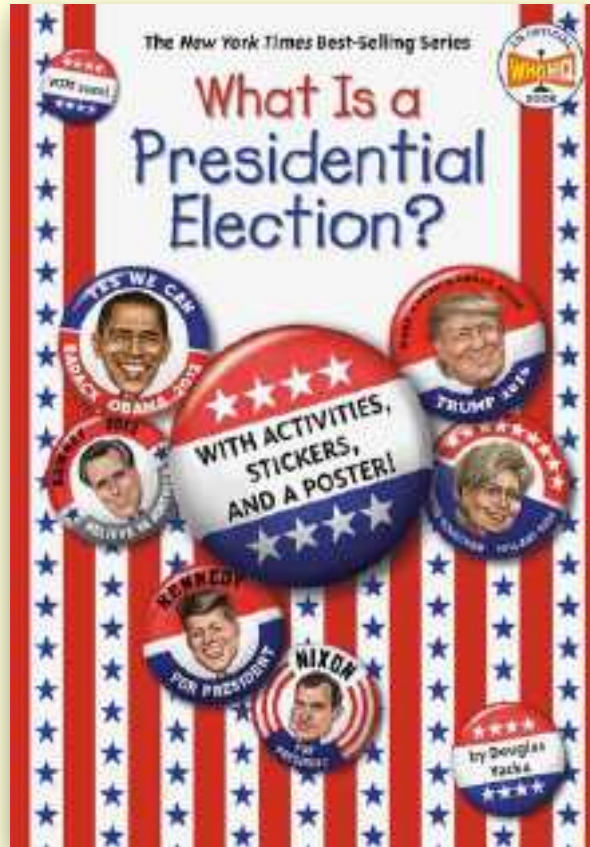
VOTING



How do elections work? How does a person's vote count toward the outcome? What does the U. S. Constitution have to say about our electoral process, and are our current systems working well? What does the U. S. electoral map look like, and how does it come into play in the results of a national election? What challenges face constituents today as our country strives for fair elections? Short, informative chapters are illustrated with photos and graphics.

Understanding U. S. Elections and the Electoral College, by Grace Houser. PowerKids Press, 2018. 9781508164012 (HC); 9781538327968 (PB). Ages 8-11.

VOTING

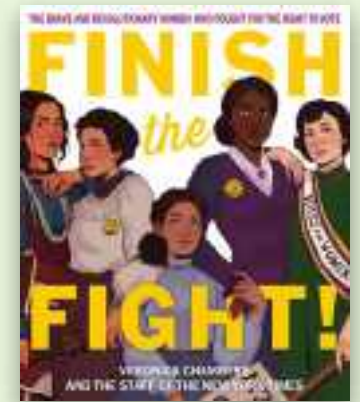
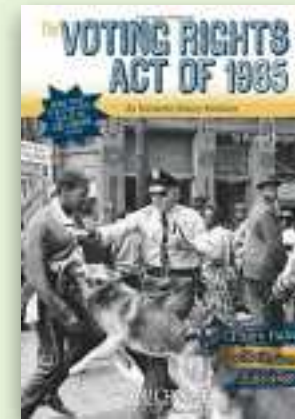
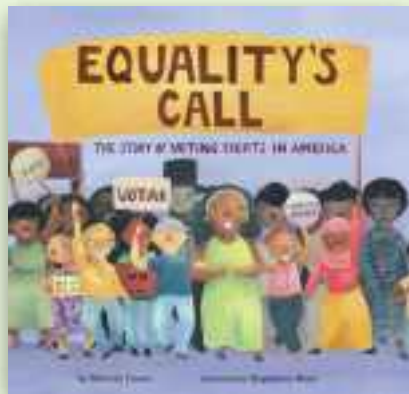
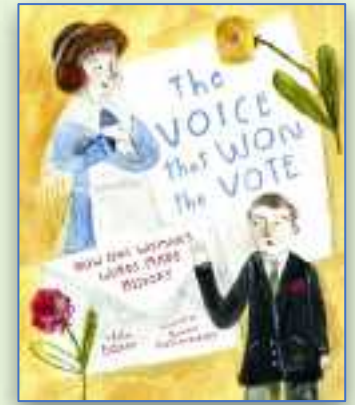
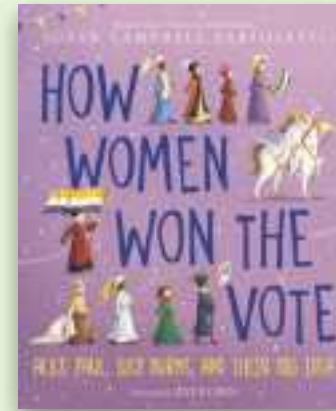
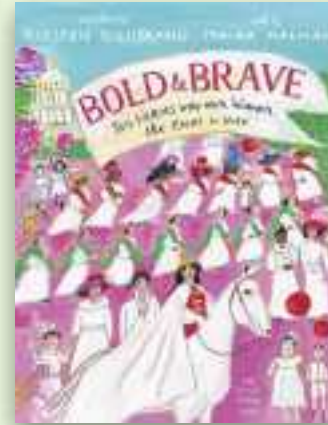
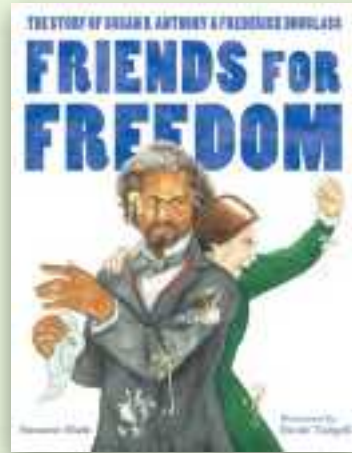
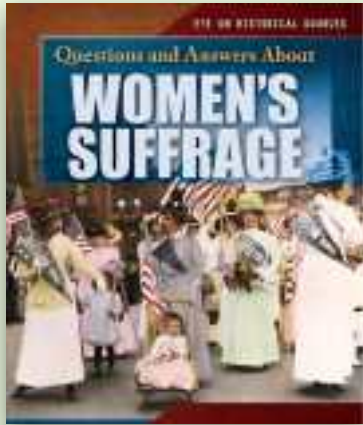


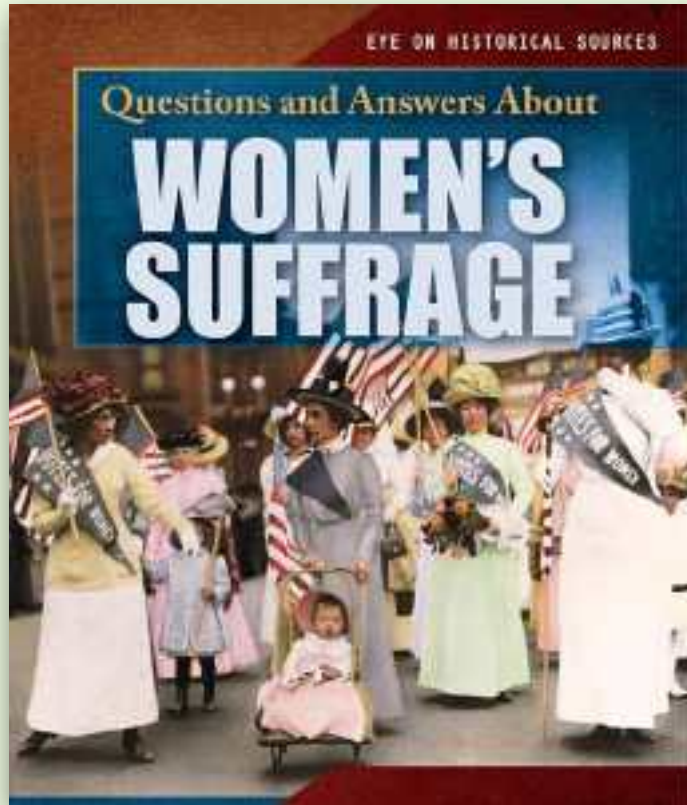
This hands-on chapter book guides readers through a presidential election process. Beginning with a description of the nature of the presidency, it moves through the decision to run, elements of campaigns over time, to election day itself. Numerous checklists and open-ended questions provide, literally, space for comments and choices by readers, in their roles as would-be candidates and voters. A color-your-own Electoral Map of states is inserted as a pull-out poster, making this a great companion for election night in November.

What Is a Presidential Election? by Douglas Yacka, illustrations by Robert Squier and others. Penguin / Random House, 2020. 9780593095614 (PB). Ages 8-12.

VOTING

Books about VOTING RIGHTS history

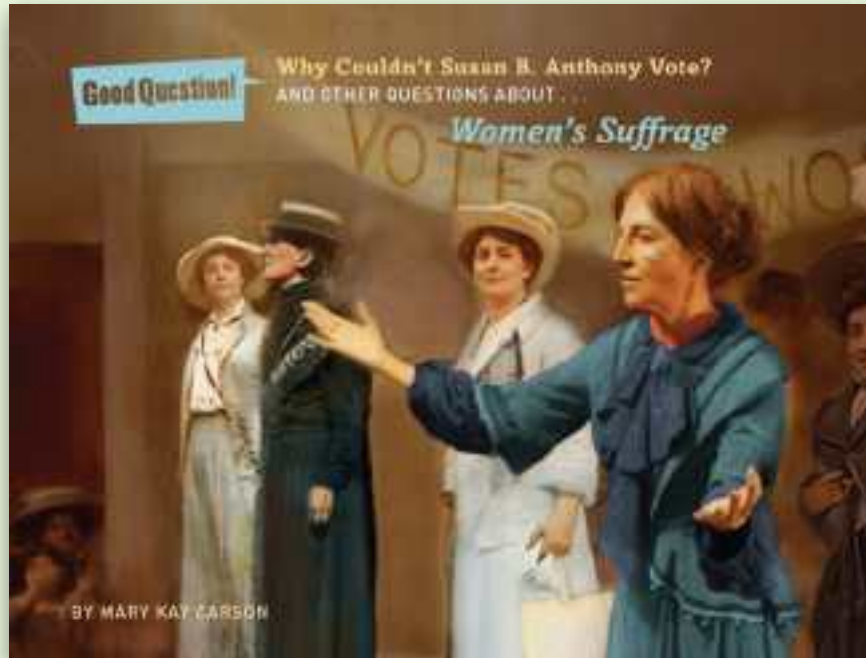




The movement for women's right to vote in the United States began in the mid-19th century, overlapping at times with the energy of the abolitionist movement as people strove to bring about equality for all. Straightforward text and primary source illustrations provide a look at the documents, meetings, organizations, and people that were part of the women's suffrage movement in America.

Questions and Answers about Women's Suffrage, by Kate Light. PowerKids Press, 2019. 9781538341360 (PB). Ages 8-11.

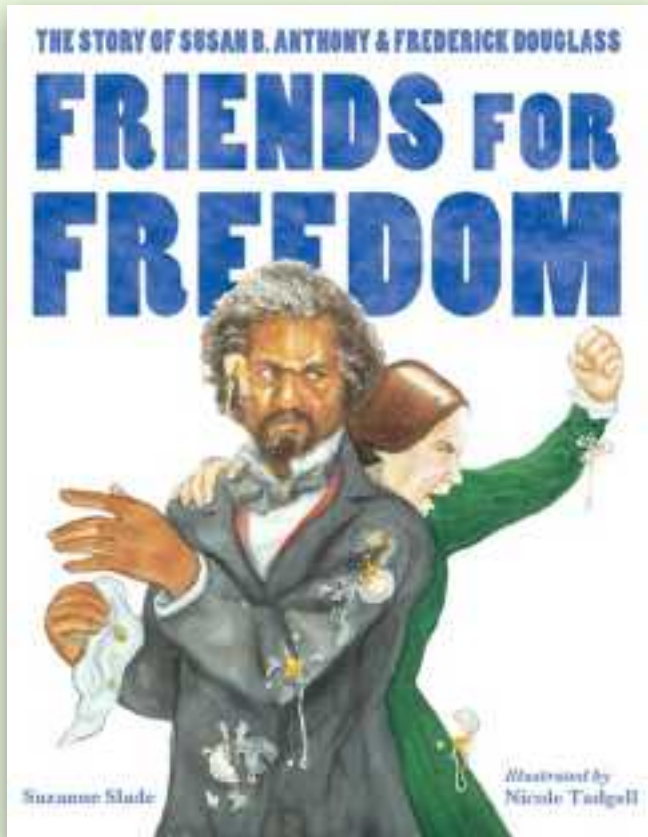
VOTING RIGHTS



VOTING RIGHTS

Susan B. Anthony was called a “reformer,” someone who wanted to make the United States a better place. Reform movements in the 19th century sought to end slavery and harsh child labor conditions, among other things. Without the right to vote, it was hard for women like Susan B. Anthony to influence change. Gaining women the right to vote became her focus. Readers come to know Anthony’s life and times through her eyes, providing a good look at the span of the women’s suffrage movement from Seneca Falls to the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

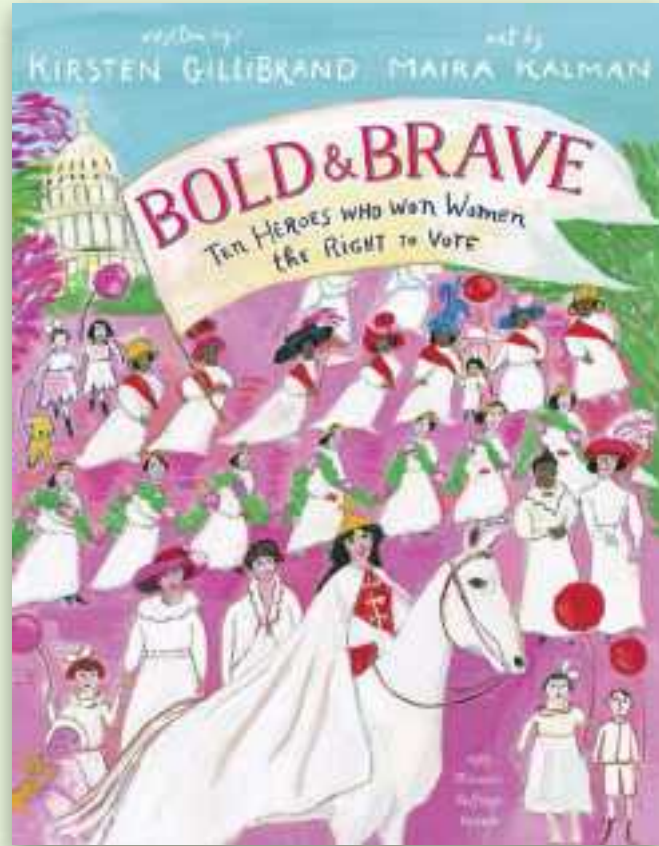
Why Couldn't Susan B. Anthony Vote? And Other Questions about Women's Suffrage, by Mary Kay Carlson. Sterling Children's Books, 2015. 9781454912415 (HC); 978-1454912422 (PB). Ages 8-10.



VOTING RIGHTS

In order to tell this interesting and inspiring story, the author studied documents of all kinds that charted the friendship Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass had over years of their lifetimes. They forged a bond despite their very different backgrounds—a friendship unusual at the time they met in mid-19th century America. They shared a passion for standing up for equal rights for people. They had disagreements too, yet their friendship lasted until Frederick died in 1895, when Susan gave the eulogy at her friend’s funeral.

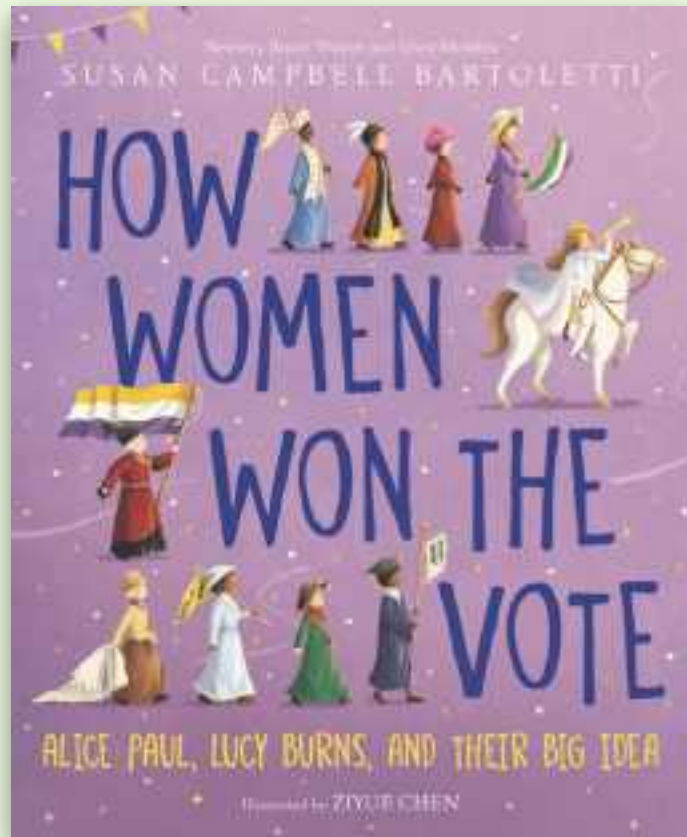
Friends for Freedom: The Story of Susan B. Anthony & Frederick Douglass, by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell. Charlesbridge, 2016. 9781580895682 (HC); 9781580895699 (PB). Ages 5-8.



VOTING RIGHTS

“Who taught my mom and her mom and *her* mom to be bold and brave so they could teach me and you? I can tell you who.” Ten of the remarkable women who powered the suffrage movement leading to the passage of the 19th Amendment one hundred years ago are the author’s inspiration. Concise, colorful, informative pages profile each person: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Jovita Idár, Alice Paul, Inez Milholland, Ida B. Wells, Lucy Burns, and Mary Church Terrell. Their cumulative efforts are placed in context with our larger history, creating a wonderful picture book introduction to the fight for women’s right to vote.

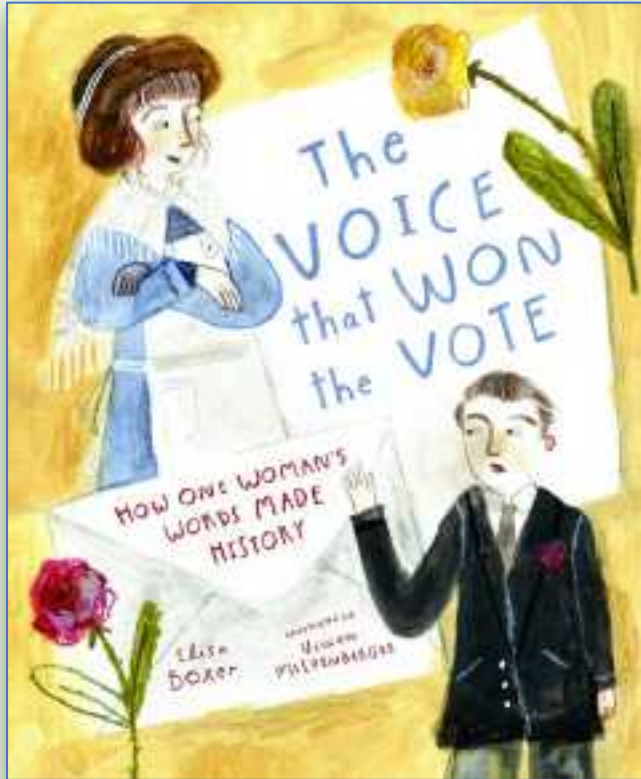
Bold & Brave: Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote, by Kirsten Gillibrand, illustrated by Maira Kalman. Alfred A. Knopf / Random House Children’s Books, 2018. 978052557901 (HC); 9780593302668 (PB). Ages 6-10.



VOTING RIGHTS

Two American women, Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, met in 1909 in London, England, where British suffragettes were marching to Parliament to demand that women have the right to vote. They became activists back home, organizing, in 1913, a huge suffrage parade in Washington DC the day before President Woodrow Wilson's inauguration. Thousands participated, demanding an amendment to the U. S. Constitution enfranchising women. The effort resonated for seven more years, through many difficult events and divisions in the ranks of suffragists, until the 19th Amendment was ratified. Numerous archival photos, lively illustrations and riveting text take readers into the heart of the era, and make connections to the past, before Alice and Lucy, and to the present.

How Women Won the Vote: Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and Their Big Idea, by Susan Bartoletti, illustrated by Ziyue Chen. HarperCollins Children's Books, 2020. 9780062841308 (HC). Ages 9-12.



The 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution was passed by the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives in 1919 but it still needed to be ratified by thirty-six states in order for women to have the vote. Would Tennessee become the 36th and final state to say “Yes”? This pleasing picture book tells the little-known story of Febb Burn, an ordinary woman fed up with waiting. She wrote a letter to a key legislator, Harry Burn: “Hurrah and vote for suffrage and don’t keep them in doubt” — and his one vote made the difference! This single episode speaks volumes about individual advocacy and standing up for one’s beliefs; it is set in context by a brief timeline of women’s suffrage.

The Voice That Won the Vote: How One Woman’s Words Made History, by Elisa Boxer, illustrated by Vivien Mildener. Sleeping Bear Press, 2020. 9781534110496 (HC). Ages 6-10.

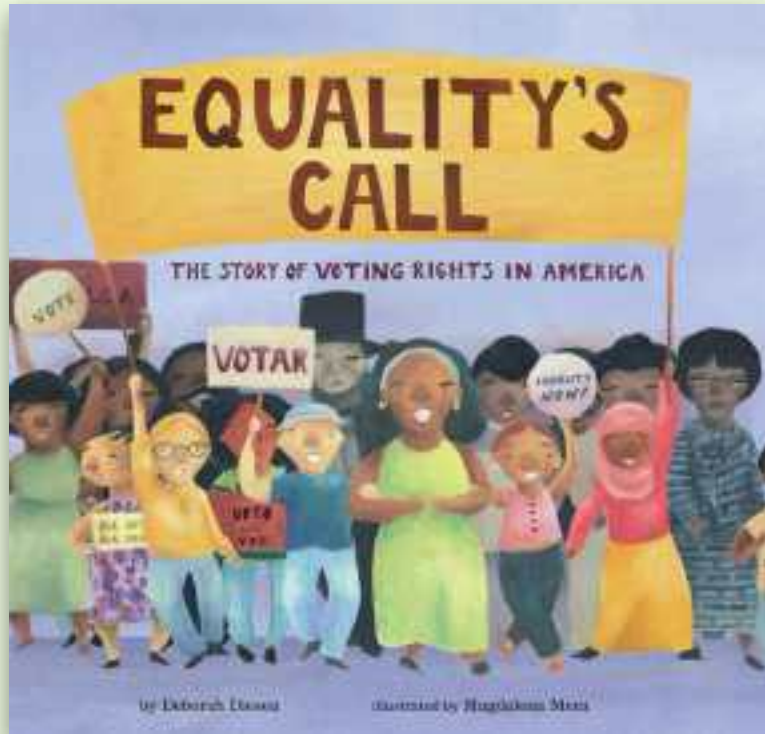
VOTING RIGHTS



VOTING RIGHTS

These historical accounts bring a wide lens to the events and people involved in the suffrage movement. Women with diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and priorities energized and shaped it. The profile of each woman featured echoes the sentiment of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper’s 1866 statement: “We are all bound up together in one great bundle of humanity.” Personal stories are blended with political; women found their voices variously—through writing, speaking and acting. Strong graphics and excellent supplementary material add to the richness of this book, which is dedicated to “the generations of women journalists who made suffrage and equal rights their beat.”

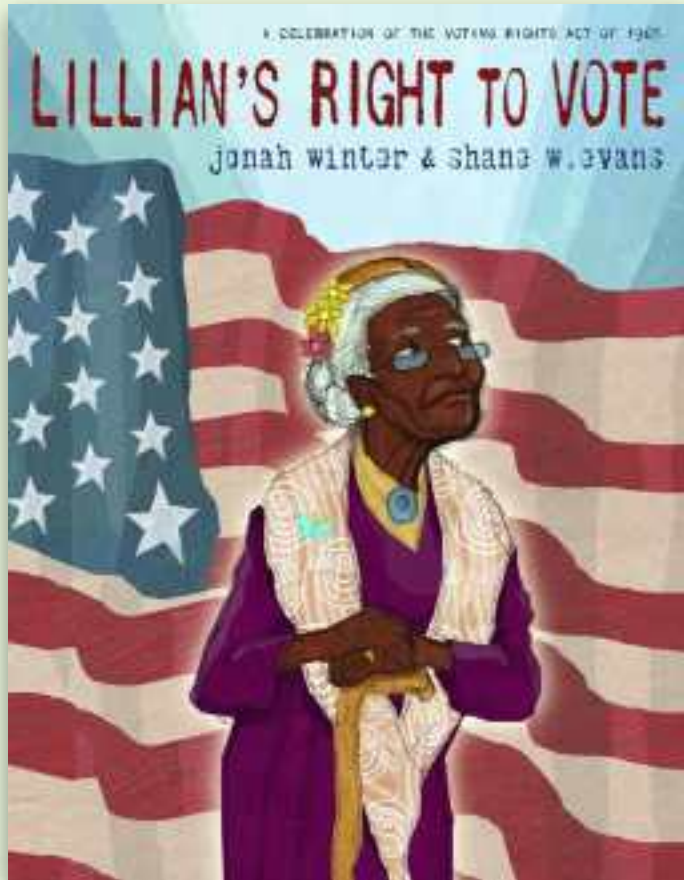
Finish the Fight: The Brave and Revolutionary Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote, by Veronica Chambers and the Staff of the New York Times. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2020. 9780358408307 (HC). Ages 9-14.



VOTING RIGHTS

Our country has struggled through the centuries to ensure that everyone governed has a voice through their vote. In this historical journey from our nation's founding through the history of suffrage to voting rights today, poetic text and rich illustrations provide cameos of the settings where debate about the franchise has taken place. Key amendments and legislation about voting rights are highlighted at the end. Readers may know some of these, such as the 19th Amendment, but perhaps not others, such as the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. Important voting rights activists throughout history—men and women—are listed, certifying the strength of the persistent belief that “a right isn't right till it's granted to all.”

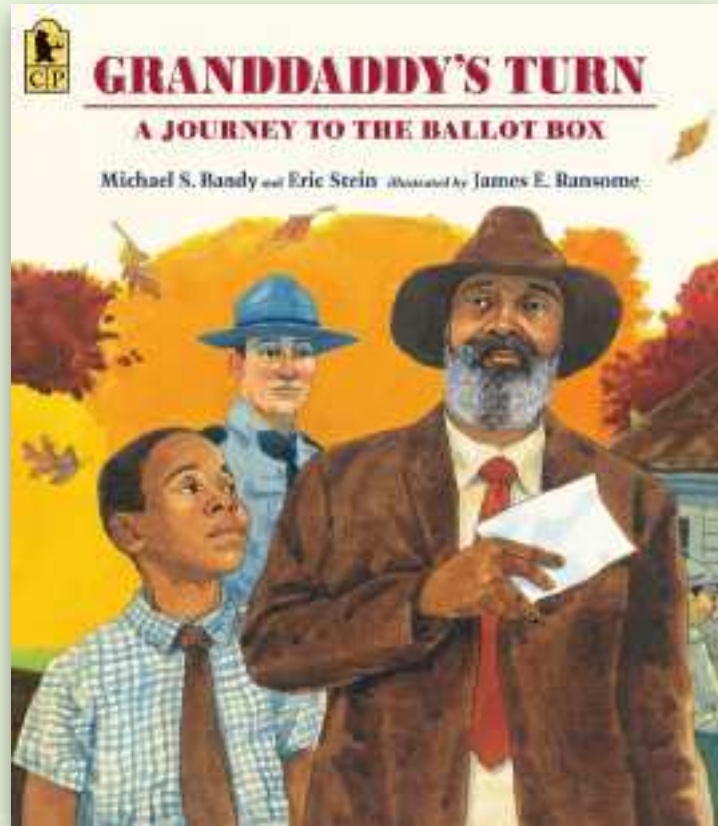
Equality's Call: The Story of Voting Rights in America, by Deborah Diesen, illustrated by Magdalena Mora. Beach Lane Books / Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2020. 9781534439580 (HC). Ages 5-11.



Lillian's walk to the polls is based on a real person, Lillian Allen of Pittsburgh, granddaughter of an enslaved person. The "very steep hill" Lillian ascends to cast her vote on election day represents a journey recalling the many obstacles to voting her ancestors endured over the years. Numerous acts of courage ultimately enabled all citizens, regardless of race or gender, to vote. The story is poignant and the images powerful, an inspiration to readers to consider how the right to vote must still be protected today.

Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Shaun W. Evans. Schwartz & Wade / Random House Children's Books, 2015. 9780385390286 (HC). Ages 5-9.

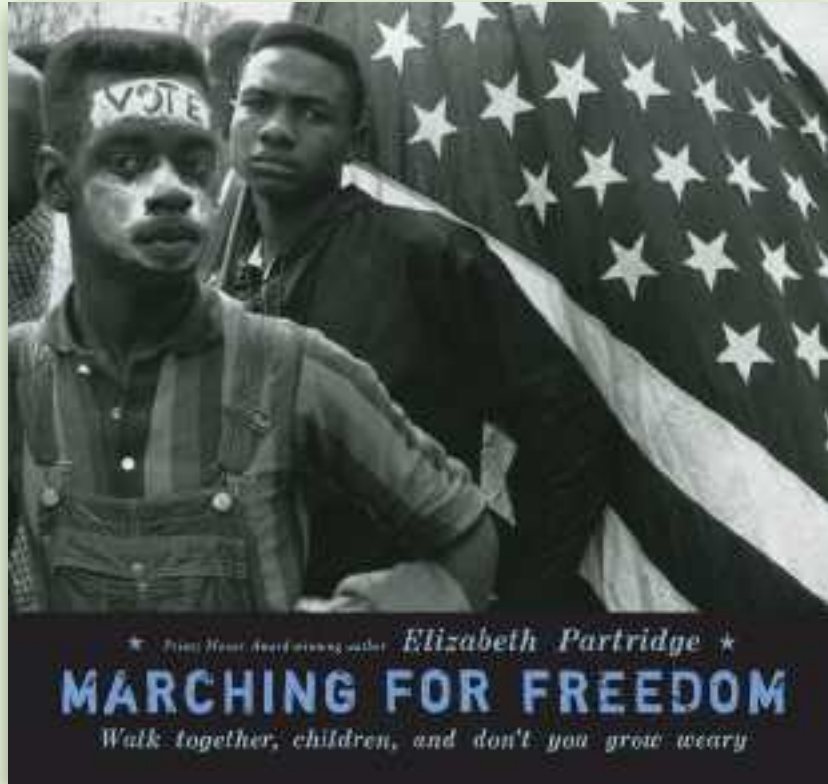
VOTING RIGHTS



VOTING RIGHTS

When a young boy goes fishing with his grandfather and must wait and wait for a bite, his grandfather says “Patience, son, patience.” It’s hard to wait. When Michael accompanies Granddaddy to the polls to vote for the very first time, the long line requires patience again. But this time it is very exciting...until a deputy asks Granddaddy to read a text too difficult for him and tears up his ballot. Years later, the young man remembers his grandfather as he casts his own first vote. This affecting picture book recalls the unfair tactics used to turn away people at the polls in the 1950s and ‘60s, particularly African-Americans in the south. Based on a true story, the gentle narrative and rich illustrations convey the emotions of the moment and remind us that challenges to constitutional rights are still present today.

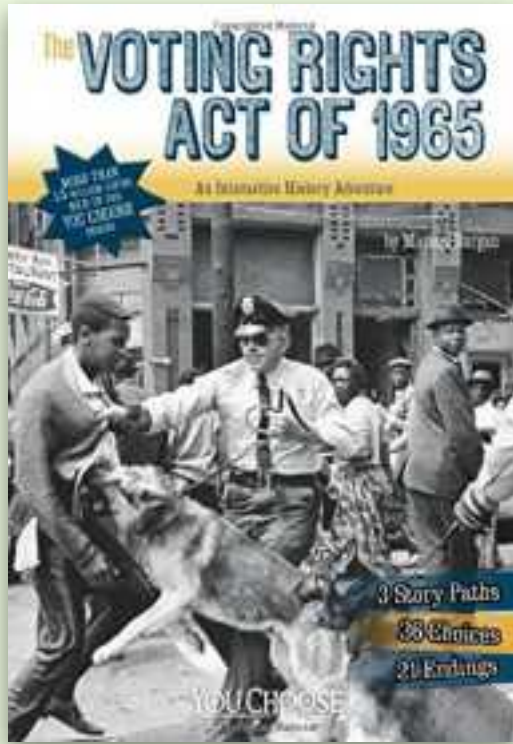
Granddaddy's Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box, by Michael S. Bandy, illustrated by James Ransome. Candlewick Press, 2015. 9780763665937 (HC); 9781536205619 (PB). Ages 6-9.



VOTING RIGHTS

This non-fiction book focuses on the role of young people in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches advocating for the right to vote for African-American citizens. It was a difficult time in Selma and throughout the South; Jim Crow laws stood in the way of many people's civil rights. In 1963, ten-year-old Joanne Blackmon accompanied her grandmother, who intended to register to vote, to the county courthouse. They were denied admittance and subsequently arrested, the first of numerous times over the following two years. Protests crystallized in the spring of 1965. The constancy of the community in protesting, the brutal events at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and the participation of Martin Luther King Jr., John Lewis and thousands of others led to President Lyndon Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act into law on August 6, 1965. Documentary photos and electrifying essays bring mature readers directly into this time in history.

Marching for Freedom: Walk Together Children and Don't You Grow Weary, by Elizabeth Partridge. Viking Books for Young Readers / Penguin Random House, 2009. 9780670011896 (HC). Ages 10-15.



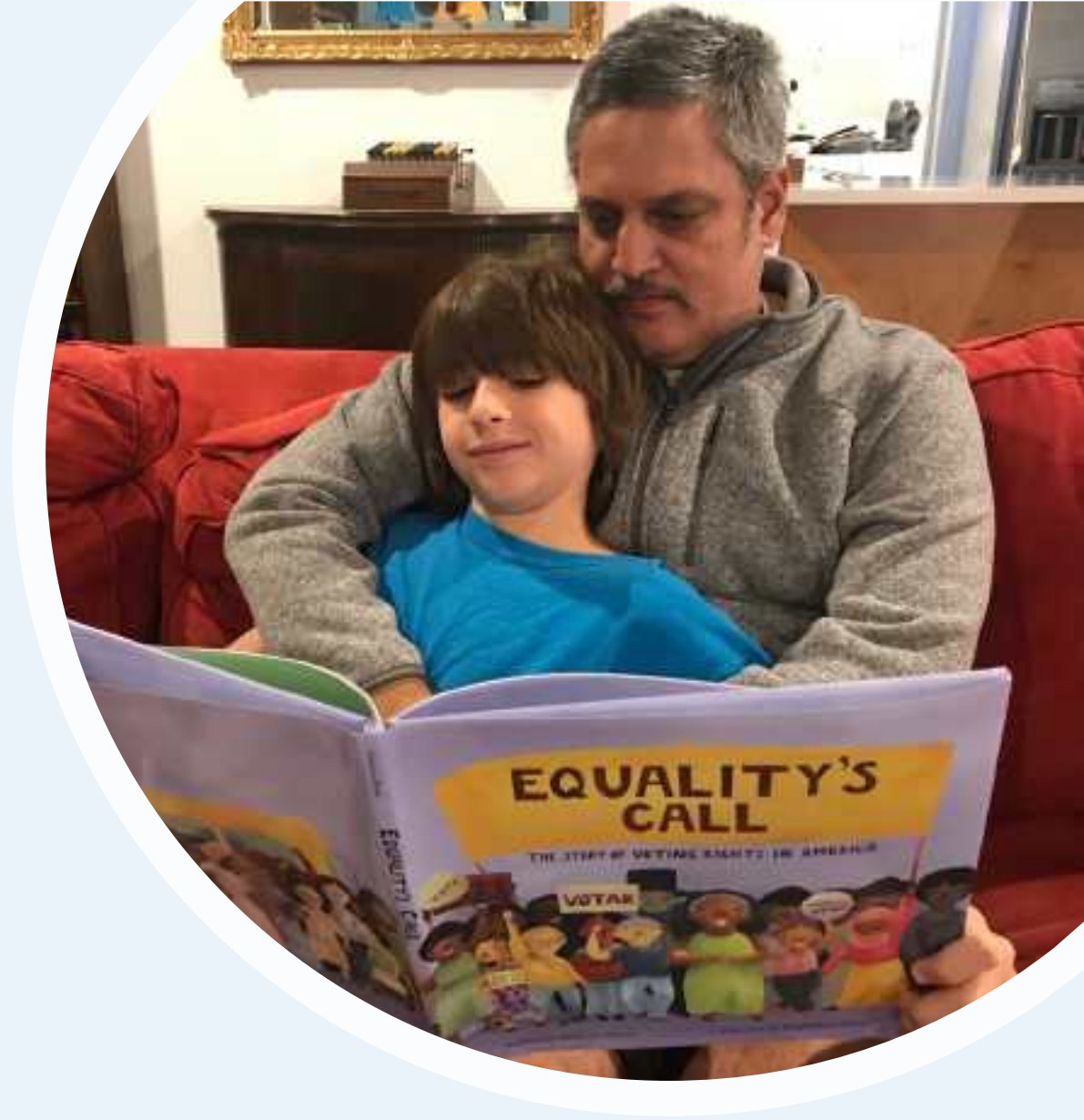
VOTING RIGHTS

In this interactive history adventure, readers are transported to the 1960s, a time of change and challenge in the United States. People were protesting the war in Vietnam, and many were demanding civil rights for African Americans. Chief among these rights was the right to vote without restrictions. A clear historical context is set, and readers are asked to consider any of three different story paths, make varied choices and arrive at one of twenty-one endings. Readers can examine multiple perspectives and the effects of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965: An Interactive History Adventure, by Michael Burgan. Capstone Press, 2015. 9781491418031 (HC); 9781491418055 (PB). Ages 9-12.

SO MANY GOOD BOOKS TO SHARE

There are more good books in our school libraries, public libraries and bookstores. Especially biographies! Biographies of people of courage—whose passions led them to step up for causes they believed in. People who knew from childhood how they could make a difference, and people who didn't know just what their contribution to a better community or a better world would be. Rachel Carson, César Chávez, Shirley Chisholm, Martin Luther King Jr., Maya Lin, Wilma Mankiller, John Lewis, Jackie Robinson, Bryan Stevenson, Ida B. Wells... The prospect of exploring the lives of interesting people is exciting. Your public library can help you register for a card if you don't yet have one.



Key Links to Voter Registration and Election Information

United States Government: Voting and Elections

<https://www.usa.gov/voting>

Registration & Election information from Secretary of State offices

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/e/>

Towns and cities provide information specific to them, at local administrative offices.

VOTE411.org <https://www.vote411.org>

A non-partisan gateway to comprehensive information about voter registration across the U. S., published by the national League of Women Voters

When We All Vote <https://whenweallvote.org>

A non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to bringing more people into the voting process

Rock the Vote <https://rockthevote.org/how-to-vote/>

A non-partisan, non-profit organization focusing on participation by young people in voter registration and advocacy



Felina S.R., public school parent and League of Women Voters Board member: “I am proud that my vote means something in today’s world.”

Moving Forward: The Next One Hundred Years

Your Vote is Your Voice

In 2020 the League of Women Voters observed the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution giving women the right to vote. Our mission is to support democracy and to inform voters. This book resource can help nurture the next generation of **voices speaking for democracy** for the next 100 years!



Joel S. and Ernie F. are dedicated poll workers, supporting citizens as they vote in person early or on election day. They are also members of their local League of Women Voters.

Thanks for taking this journey through resources for young people, produced by the League of Women Voters of Brookline, MA, with support from The Lotte E. Scharfman Citizen Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.

<https://bookswithmore.net>



The **League of Women Voters** is a non-partisan volunteer organization of women and men, ages 16 and up, that encourages informed and active participation in government through education and advocacy.

www.lwvbrookline.org

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVBrookline>

Email: info@lwvbrookline.org

PO Box 32, Brookline MA 02446