



# The Constitution and the Election

## Educational Resources

Teaching the election is only half the battle. Understanding, explaining, and holding civil discourse post-Election Day is key to engaging students in relevant and difficult discourse on constitutional issues surrounding the election.

In conjunction with our discussion and listening session we have compiled a list of free educational resources to support teachers, students, and parents post-Election Day.

### FROM THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Join the National Constitution Center this election season as we explore the ins and outs of American elections from a constitutional angle. With our online resources, audiences can revisit the Constitutional Convention and the debates over the Electoral College, explore some of the most famous elections from history, and learn about historic figures who fought to expand voting rights.

#### Tools for Civil Discourse:

- [Civil Dialogue Tool Kit](#)
- [Civil Dialogue Activity Sheet](#)
- Video: [Justice Breyer on the Supreme Court](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/educational-video/article-iii-justice-breyer-on-the-supreme-court) [How the Supreme Court](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/educational-video/article-iii-justice-breyer-on-the-supreme-court) [Reaches](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/educational-video/article-iii-justice-breyer-on-the-supreme-court) [Decisions](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/educational-video/article-iii-justice-breyer-on-the-supreme-court)
- Video: [Constitutional Conversation and Civil Dialogue](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/educational-video/scholar-exchange-constitutional-conversations-and-civil-dialogue-9-4-20) [with Jeffrey Rosen and David Colman](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/educational-video/scholar-exchange-constitutional-conversations-and-civil-dialogue-9-4-20)

- [View](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/constitutional-conversations) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/constitutional-conversations"](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/constitutional-conversations) [A HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/constitutional-conversations"](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/constitutional-conversations) [II Civil Discourse](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/constitutional-conversations) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/constitutional-conversations"](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/constitutional-conversations) [M](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/constitutional-conversations) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/constitutional-conversations"](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/constitutional-conversations) [aterials](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/constitutional-conversations)

### Learning Material Collections:

Each collection of learning materials on our *Interactive Constitution: Classroom Edition* contains video lessons and recordings of previous Scholar Exchanges, plus links to podcasts, blog posts, *Interactive Constitution* essays, and more. Great topics for election season include:

- [Article II and the Presidency](#)
- [The Electoral College](#)
- [Voting Rights](#)
- [The Branches of Government and the Separation of Powers](#)

### Podcasts:

- [Why Does the Electoral College Exist?](#)
- [Election 2020 in the Courts](#)
- [The Hayes-Tilden Election of 1876](#)
- [Parties, Platforms, Conventions, and the Constitution](#)
- [Should](#) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/podcast/should-we-abolish-the-electoral-college"](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/podcast/should-we-abolish-the-electoral-college) [W](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/podcast/should-we-abolish-the-electoral-college) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/podcast/should-we-abolish-the-electoral-college"](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/podcast/should-we-abolish-the-electoral-college) [e](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/podcast/should-we-abolish-the-electoral-college) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/podcast/should-we-abolish-the-electoral-college"](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/podcast/should-we-abolish-the-electoral-college) [A](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/podcast/should-we-abolish-the-electoral-college) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/podcast/should-we-abolish-the-electoral-college"](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/podcast/should-we-abolish-the-electoral-college) [bolish the Electoral College?](https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/podcast/should-we-abolish-the-electoral-college)

### Recent Town Hall Discussions:

- [Social Media Platforms and the Fight Against Election Disinformation](#)
- [America's Contentious Presidential Elections: A History](#)

### Blog Posts:

- [The 23rd Amendment and the](#) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election"](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [C](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election"](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [hance of a](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election"](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [T](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election"](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [ied 2020](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election"](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [P](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election"](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [residential](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election"](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [E](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [HYPERLINK "https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election"](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election) [lection](https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-23rd-amendment-and-the-chance-of-a-tied-2020-presidential-election)
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## FROM THE BILL OF RIGHTS INSTITUTE

### Video: [John Fortier Discusses Election 2020 with BRI Master Teachers](#)

Election 2020 has brought many constitutional and civic questions into public discussion. In this video, Dr. John Fortier discusses some of the most pressing issues with BRI Master Teachers.

### Video: [The Electoral College](#) HYPERLINK

["https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTUnkij7AEo&feature=youtu.be"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTUnkij7AEo&feature=youtu.be) - HYPERLINK

### ["https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTUnkij7AEo&feature=youtu.be"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTUnkij7AEo&feature=youtu.be) Homework Help

In this Homework Help narrative, learn about the origins and functions of the Electoral College. This constitutional institution has long been the subject of intense debate and scrutiny, and this video challenges students to think about it for themselves.

### eLesson: [Contentious Elections and the Peaceful Transition of Power](#)

In this short eLesson, students will examine the various ways this peaceful transition is maintained and has been tested through American history. Students will examine the Constitutional mechanisms in place for deciding who wins a presidential election. They will then explore several elections during which this system was put to the ultimate test and obtain a better understanding of the systems that perpetuate American republican government.

### Curricular Resources:

BRI regularly speaks about elections in our nearly 30 full curricular resources. These lessons are drawn from those larger works.

- [Unit 5: The Electors Shall Meet: Electing the President | Presidents & the Constitution Vol 1](#)
  - [Constitutional Connection: Electing the President](#)
  - ["Selecting the President" by Marc Landy, Ph.D.](#)
  - [John Quincy Adams and the Election of 1824](#)
  - [Rutherford B. Hayes and the Disputed Election of 1876](#)
  - [George W. Bush and the Supreme Court Case of Bush v. Gore \(2000\)](#)
- [Unit 5: Together with the Vice President: Presidents and the Transfer of Power | Presidents & the Constitution Vol 2.](#)
  - [Constitutional Connection: Presidents and the Transfer of Power](#)
  - ["Transfer of Presidential Power" by Robert M. S. McDonald, Ph.D.](#)
  - [The Election of](#)
  - [The Election of 1860](#)

## FROM THE CENTER FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

### [Voting Lessons](#)

Lessons that can be taught at any time, but are most effective when teaching about voting during the time of actual federal, state, or local elections.

### [Podcasts HYPERLINK "https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4W3bC8eWAuUolmnJzCOL6-fR2-EZeFel" HYPERLINK "https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4W3bC8eWAuUolmnJzCOL6-fR2-EZeFel"Series: Voting, Elections, and Representation](#)

60-Second Civics is a daily podcast that provides a quick and convenient way for listeners to learn about our nation's government, the Constitution, and our history. The podcast explores themes related to civics and government, the constitutional issues behind the headlines, and the people and ideas that formed our nation's history and government.

## FROM FACING HISTORY AND FACING OURSELVES

### Teaching Idea: [Responding to the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election](#)

This teaching idea contains guidance for teachers on how to discuss the election with students, as well as a collection of activities to help students process their emotional responses to the

election, find accurate information, and consider the impact of the election once the results are known.

**Explainer:** [Free and Fair Elections](#)

This explainer describes the standards that governments need to meet before, during, and after an election to ensure that the election is "free and fair."

**Teaching Idea:** [How Can We Evaluate if an Election](#) [HYPERLINK](#)

["https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/how-can-we-evaluate-if-election-free-and-fair"](https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/how-can-we-evaluate-if-election-free-and-fair) [HYPERLINK](#) ["https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/how-can-we-evaluate-if-election-free-and-fair"](https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/how-can-we-evaluate-if-election-free-and-fair)'s [Free and Fair](#)

This teaching idea uses our [Free and Fair Elections Explainer](#) to help students to reflect on the importance of elections, define the phrase "free and fair elections," and learn about the strengths and weaknesses of electoral systems in their region.

## FROM GENERATION CITIZEN

**What** [HYPERLINK](#)

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We know this is stressful for educators and students alike. One of the most important steps we can take as educators is to support students in understanding that it might take days or even weeks to determine the actual winner and help support young people through a heightened moment of stress. It is important to remind students that policies that result in slow counting are good for democracy as they allow more people to vote safely in the midst of the pandemic. According to a recent survey by the American Psychological Association, 70% of Americans said the election was a significant source of stress and 77% reported being worried about the country's future. This post-election season will require strong media literacy skills, ample time for reflection, and, of course, patience. The attached resources are intended to support you and your students through this lengthy and stressful process.

**Website:** [Beyond the Ballot](#)

Beyond the Ballot is an initiative of Generation Citizen to turn the negativity and frustration associated with politics into meaningful and passionate participation. We're strengthening our democracy by teaching and inspiring young people to engage with—and lead—our political systems.

## FROM iCIVICS

### **Infographic: [Peaceful Transfer of Power](#)**

For over two centuries, American political offices have peacefully transferred power after every election. Use this infographic to show students how precedent, tradition, and legitimacy have helped create this democratic norm. Consider the importance of a peaceful transfer of power and why it is important to a democratic form of government.

### **Lesson Plan: [Popular v. President](#)**

Can the candidate who wins the majority of the popular votes miss out on being president? They can, and it's happened before. In this lesson, students learn about the Electoral College and the difference between the electoral and popular vote. Finally, students analyze arguments in favor of and against the Electoral College and decide which side they'll stand on.

### **Helpful Articles:**

- [How to Help Teachers and Students Navigate Election Anxiety and Noise](#)
- ['You Can't Be Silent.' Schools Brace for the Presidential Election Aftermath](#)