

## **Helping Students Understand Candidates & Issues**

Online Resources you can use with your student

*News For You* Voting Guide:

[https://www.newreaderspress.com/filebin/pdf/2020\\_NFY\\_Voting\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.newreaderspress.com/filebin/pdf/2020_NFY_Voting_Guide.pdf)

*League of Women Voters* Resources:

<https://www.vote411.org/> (English)

<https://www.vote411.org/es> (Spanish)

### **Motivation to vote:**

Articles from mainstream media

<https://www.npr.org/2018/11/03/663709392/why-every-vote-matters-the-elections-decided-by-a-single-vote-or-a-little-more>

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/>

Articles with slow English audio

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/new-us-citizens-look-forward-to-voting/5538093.html>

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/will-latino-vote-decide-next-us-president-/5095362.html>

### **Understanding the Political Parties:**

Voice of America **2020 USA Votes Explainers** Playlist Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMWxa-uE499GKEZnsgXLZjNLBT71YtW8W>

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/why-do-american-newspapers-endorse-political-candidates-/5248282.html>

Political Party Quiz

<https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/quiz/political-party-quiz/>

### **Understanding the roles of Senators and Representatives:**

*What is the senate?* video from Voice of America:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrcdZRIL3IY>

*What is the House?* Video from Voice of America:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcMNHXCVisA>

US Senate & House Committees - see what committees incumbent candidates are on and/or identify what topics lawmakers focus on

<https://www.senate.gov/committees/> and <https://www.house.gov/committees>

Search bills sponsored by particular people or addressing topics of interest:

[https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/browse#enacted\\_ex=on](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/browse#enacted_ex=on)

**Gerrymandering:** (one of our Virginia ballot measures is about creating a commission to draw district boundaries instead of having the state General Assembly do it)

Article for educators:

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/teaching-the-truth-about-gerrymandering>

Washington Post video (2 minutes; Gerrymandering explained with blue & red dots)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGLRJ12uqmk>

TedEd Talk video (4 minutes; defines the term very clearly and explains packing vs. cracking districts)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcUDBgYodIE>

## **Electoral College:**

Articles on the history of the creation of the electoral college

<https://www.history.com/news/electoral-college-founding-fathers-constitutional-convention>

<https://people.howstuffworks.com/question472.htm>

Videos explaining how the electoral college works

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9H3gvnN468> (TedEd Talk; 5 minutes)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ok\\_VQ8I7g6I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ok_VQ8I7g6I) (Electing a US President in Plain English; 3+ minutes)

Maps focused on the Electoral College

[https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Electoral\\_College#/media/File:ElectoralCollege2016.svg](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Electoral_College#/media/File:ElectoralCollege2016.svg) – Electoral College map showing the number of votes each state has and how they voted in 2016

<https://www.nytimes.com/elections/2016/results/president> - collection of maps and data from 2016 election

<https://www.270towin.com/historical-presidential-elections/> - Electoral College historical maps