

## LOCATION KEY

- CA Calhan Library**  
600 Bank St., Calhan  
(719) 531-6333, x7013
- CH Cheyenne Mountain Library**  
1785 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
(719) 531-6333, x7001
- EA East Library**  
5550 N. Union Blvd.  
(719) 531-6333, x7014
-  **eLibrary**  
ppld.org  
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- FO Fountain Library**  
230 S. Main St., Fountain  
(719) 531-6333, x7002
- HI High Prairie Library**  
7035 Old Meridian Rd., Peyton  
(719) 531-6333, x7003
- LI Library 21c**  
1175 Chapel Hills Dr.  
(719) 531-6333, x7012
- MA Manitou Springs Library**  
515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs  
(719) 531-6333, x7004
- MLS Mobile Library Services**  
ppld.org/mobile-library-services  
(719) 531-6333, x7702
- MO Monument Library**  
1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr.,  
Monument (719) 531-6333, x7005
- OL Old Colorado City Library**  
2418 W. Pikes Peak Ave.  
(719) 531-6333, x7006
- PA Palmer Lake Library**  
66 Lower Glenway St.,  
Palmer Lake (719) 531-6333, x7007
- PE Penrose Library**  
20 N. Cascade Ave.  
(719) 531-6333, x7015
- RO Rockrimmon Library**  
832 Village Center Dr.  
(719) 531-6333, x7008
- RU Ruth Holley Library**  
685 N. Murray Blvd.  
(719) 531-6333, x7009
- SA Sand Creek Library**  
1821 S. Academy Blvd.  
(719) 531-6333, x7018
- UT Ute Pass Library**  
8010 Severy Rd., Cascade  
(719) 531-6333, x7011



## HOMESCHOOL HUB | [ppld.org/homeschool-hub](https://ppld.org/homeschool-hub)

Whether you are a veteran homeschooling family or just getting started, visit the PPLD Homeschool Hub to find Library events and sign up for eNewsletters. Click on the “Resources” tab to link to information on getting started, Colorado homeschool law, local enrichment programs, tutoring, extracurricular activities, and more.

## GET OUT THE VOTE!

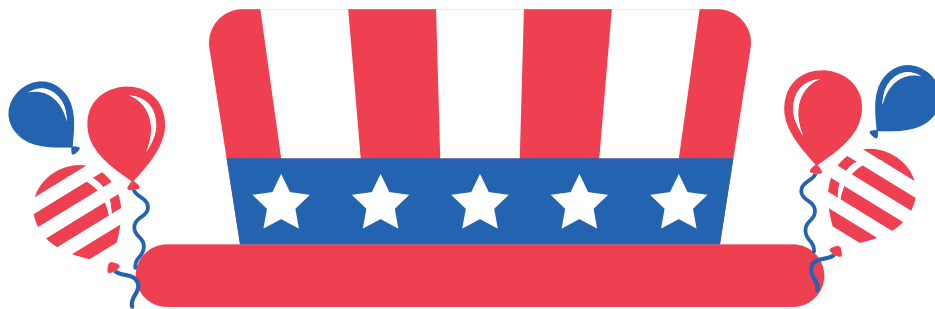
It’s an election year, and a great time for families to explore and discuss the history of elections, the election process, and the importance of voting! Understanding these ideas at an early age will help kids realize that their voice matters, and they will be better equipped to make educated choices when they are old enough to vote. It will also help them better grasp the right and privilege of voting, what it means to be a member of a community, and the idea that their vote may change the future and make the world a better place.

Voting is a process by which a group of people make a fair decision when they do not all agree. In a democracy, people vote to choose government leaders and for or against certain laws or projects in their community. During the first U.S. Presidential Election in 1789, George Washington was elected our first president.

Explore the concept of voting by encouraging children to voice their opinions. Try taking a family vote to choose which movie to watch, which game to play, or which playground to visit. For older kids, delve more deeply into American history, the hurdles that many people had to overcome to get the right to vote, and the importance of voting. You might also explore democracies, candidates, campaigning, elections, and ballots, as well as addressing civic engagement. Investigate these topics further with resources featured in this issue.

*As you talk to your kids about the election and voting, keep these things in mind:*

- **Encourage** their curiosity! Start a conversation, listen to their questions, and keep the communication open.
- **Explain** the right to vote in language they can understand.
- **Show** respect to all. Standards of behavior matter.
- **Prepare** kids for the opinions of their peers. It’s a good time to talk about empathy and working together despite differences.
- **Ease** their concerns and help them feel safe.
- **Discuss** what happens after the election. Consider talking about our government’s checks and balances, election promises, the fact that all people make mistakes, and that as we live in a democracy, we have the right to different opinions, and we work together through them.





## THE BOOKSHELF

### **Small Places Close to Home: A Children's Declaration of Rights**

by Deborah Hopkinson

This poetic picture book was inspired by the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights drafted by Eleanor Roosevelt. Brief, accessible sentences and lovely artwork inform children that universal rights begin "close to home" – in their family, community, and beyond, emphasizing that it's every person's responsibility to ensure the rights of others. A great starting point for civics lessons.

**Ages 6 – 12; Civics; Human Rights; Eleanor Roosevelt**

### **The Artist**

by Nikkolas Smith

An African American boy introduces readers to his two passions – painting and helping his community – and describes how he combines these interests to shine a light on social injustices (problems such as homelessness, limiting voting rights, and environmental issues are depicted in the artwork). This empowering and inspiring book shows that kids can make a difference in the world.

**Ages 6 – 10; Artists; Activists; Creativity; Social Change**

### **Your Voice, Your Vote**

by Leah Henderson

It's Election Day, and Quetta, her mother, and her grandmother travel to the polling station to vote (the journey includes a walk through a diverse city neighborhood, two buses, and a long wait line). Along the way, she learns about the importance of voting, how people (such as her own great grandparents) fought for the right to vote, and the power of making one's voice heard.

**Ages 5 – 8; Election Day; History of Voting; Civics**

### **A Take-Charge Girl Blazes a Trail to Congress: The Story of Jeannette Rankin**

by Gretchen Woelfle

This lively picture book biography introduces the first woman elected to Congress in 1916. It traces Rankin's childhood on a Montana ranch, her work in large cities that revealed the hardships faced by children, her fight for women's voting rights, and her early political career. Rankin's can-do attitude shines forth, and further information and photos are included.

**Ages 7 – 10; Voting; Women's History; Biography**

### **We the People!**

by Don Brown

Narrated from the tell-it-like-it-is perspective of Abigail Adams, wife of Founding Father John Adams, this engaging nonfiction graphic novel looks at the history of American Democracy, spanning back to the roots of civilization and through the centuries to modern times. Readers are introduced to a wide range of events and big ideas that led to the fundamentals of democracy – liberty, equality, and justice for all.

**Ages 9 – 12; United States History; Democracy**

## OTHER RESOURCES

### Downloads

These free resources about voting are available to download from Teachers Pay Teachers. [tinyurl.com/teachers-vote](https://www.tinyurl.com/teachers-vote)

### Websites

- **Ben's Guide to the U.S. Government** After clicking on the appropriate age level (4 - 8; 9 - 13; or 14+), kids follow host Ben Franklin to learn about this Founding Father's life, the Federal Government, and the Government Publishing Office. [bensguide.gpo.gov/](https://bensguide.gpo.gov/)

### Videos

- **"In the Neighborhood Voting Booth"** (Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood) [tinyurl.com/tiger-voting](https://www.tinyurl.com/tiger-voting)
- **"Presley Talks about Voting: You Choose"** (PBS Kids) [tinyurl.com/presley-voting](https://www.tinyurl.com/presley-voting)
- **"11 Great Videos to Teach Students about Elections and Voting"** (We Are Teachers) [tinyurl.com/11videos-voting](https://www.tinyurl.com/11videos-voting)

### Articles

- **"How to Explain the Election and Voting to Kids"** (HuffPost) [tinyurl.com/huffpost-vote](https://www.tinyurl.com/huffpost-vote)
- **"6 Tips for Talking to Kids about the Election"** (Children's Hospital of Orange County) [tinyurl.com/6tips-vote](https://www.tinyurl.com/6tips-vote)
- **"A Kid's Guide to Becoming President"** (Rendell Center for Civics and Civic Engagement) [tinyurl.com/rendell-guide](https://www.tinyurl.com/rendell-guide)
- **"The Three Branches of Government, Explained in Terms Simple Enough for a Child"** (Parents.com) [tinyurl.com/three-branches](https://www.tinyurl.com/three-branches)



## PPLD Voting & Elections Resource Guide

[research.ppld.org/voting-elections](https://research.ppld.org/voting-elections)

Compiled and maintained by PPLD staff, this guide is intended as a starting place for finding information about local and national elections, voter registration, and other related resources. Navigate the tabs on the left to access a wealth of frequently recommended resources about related topics.

### PPLD Databases

You can search by name of database at [ppld.org/databases/all](https://ppld.org/databases/all).

Databases require a valid library card number and PIN when accessing outside of Library facilities.

Search these databases for terms such as *vote*, *voting*, & *elections*.

- **Gale in Context: Elementary**

Formerly known as Kids InfoBits, this database gradually lets elementary school children gain comfort with research by delivering age-appropriate, reliable, curriculum-related content covering a broad range of subjects taught in the classroom like animals, arts and music, social studies, and more.

- **Primary Search**

This database offers children's magazines and pamphlets designed for elementary school students.

- **World Almanac for Kids**

For elementary through middle school students, this database provides a wealth of trusted content – including engaging illustrated articles, videos, interactives, Fun Facts, and more – in a colorful, kid-friendly format perfect for students who are developing online research skills.

- **Points of View Reference Center**

This robust database for high school students and older contains resources that present multiple sides of an issue, helping students develop persuasive arguments and essays, better understand controversial issues, and develop analytical thinking skills. Entries include reading level/grade level indicators. Sections on Civics & Government and Voting & Elections are available.

- **(U.S.) History in Context**

Also designed for older students, this resource covers themes, events, individuals, and periods in U.S. history from pre-Colonial times to the present.

- Secret ballots were first used in 1890.
- Prior to 1890, votes were counted by a show of hands or a verbal vote.
- November was chosen for the election by Congress in 1845 because the harvest was always finished by then.
- Election Day is always Tuesday, November 2nd, or the Tuesday following if the 2nd doesn't fall on a Tuesday.

## Kids Vote

You must be 18 years old to have the privilege of voting in the United States; until that birthday rolls around, here are a few places youth can express their opinions and practice voting for fun!

### Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards

[nick.com/kids-choice-awards](https://nick.com/kids-choice-awards)

Famous for the ooey, gooey green slime that falls onto the winners at the ceremony show on TV, the winners of the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards are picked each year by kiddos! Categories span the worlds of film, television, music, sports, and more. Check the website to find out who won in 2024 and for information about 2025.

### Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award

[coloradobluespruceaward.partnersinliteracy.org](https://coloradobluespruceaward.partnersinliteracy.org)

Launched in 1985 by a group of secondary educators, this award is unique for giving teens a voice in the selection process. Young adults participated by suggesting titles for the award, reading the nominated books, and placing their votes. When the award moved under the umbrella of Partners in Literacy in 2020, the emphasis shifted slightly – now, there is a popular choice award (the CBSA Readers' Choice Award) and a juried award (selected by regional teen book teams). Winners are announced at the Colorado Teen Lit Conference held in Denver in April ([coteenlit.org](https://coteenlit.org)). Visit the Blue Spruce website for more information.

### Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

[cmzoo.org/conservation](https://cmzoo.org/conservation)

With each admission, the zoo donates .75 cents to conservation and kids can vote for their favorite Endangered Animal. They join in the fun by simply dropping a token into the box for their choice of furry, scaly, or feathery creature. Since 2008, over five million dollars have been raised for field conservation.



Did you  
**KNOW?**

- The second day of the month was chosen to accommodate business owners who often completed their books on the first day of the month.
- The second was also chosen to give families a chance to travel on Monday, since families did not travel on Sundays and polls were often far away.
- American astronauts in space can vote electronically thanks to a law passed in Texas in 1997.

## BOOKS FOR KIDS: J-NONFICTION

***Bold and Brave: Ten Heroes who Won Women the Right to Vote*** by Kirsten Gillienbrand

***Equality's Call: The Story of Voting Rights in America*** by Deborah Diesen

***So You Want to Be President?*** by Judith St. George

***Voting Q & A*** (First Rockridge Press)

***Around America to Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, a Kitten, and 10,000 Miles*** by Mara Rockliff

***When You Grow Up to Vote: How our Government Works for You*** by Eleanor Roosevelt with Michelle Markel

***I Voted: Making a Choice Makes a Difference*** by Mark Shulman

## BOOKS FOR KIDS: J-FICTION

***Sofia Valdez and the Vanishing Vote*** by Andrea Beaty

***Bad Kitty for President*** by Nick Bruel

***Class Act*** by Kelly Starling Lyons

## BOOKS FOR KIDS: J-EASY

***Papa's Mark*** by Gwendolyn Battle-Lavert

***The Walk*** by Winsome Bingham

***Duck for President*** by Doreen Cronin

***Grace for President*** by Kelly DiPucchio

***V Is for Voting*** by Kate Farrell

***Susie B. Won't Back Down*** by Margaret Finnegan

***Rock that Vote*** by Meg Fleming

***Mayor Hubble Is in Trouble!*** by Dan Gutman

***Vote for Our Future!*** by Margaret McNamara

## BOOKS FOR KIDS: J-READER

***What Is an Election?*** by Caryn Jenner

## BOOKS FOR TEENS: FICTION

***The Voting Booth*** by Brandy Colbert

***Vote: The Theory, Practice, and Destructive Properties of Politics*** by Gary Paulsen

***Revolution*** by Deborah Wiles

***Sometimes We Tell the Truth*** by Kim Zarins

## BOOKS FOR TEENS: NONFICTION

***One Person, No Vote: How Not all Voters Are Treated Equally*** by Carol Anderson with Tonya Bolden

***Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony: A Friendship that Changed the World*** by Penny Colman

***Votes for Women!: American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot*** by Winifred Conkling

***Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box*** by Evette Dionne

***Unequal: A Story of America*** by Michael Eric Dyson & Marc Favreau

***Votes of Confidence: A Young Person's Guide to American Elections*** by Jeff Fleischer

***Stolen Justice: The Struggle for African-American Voting Rights*** by Lawrence Goldstone

***The Electoral College and the Popular Vote*** edited by Lisa Idzikowski

***The Suffragist Playbook: Your Guide to Changing the World*** by Lucinda Robb & Rebecca Boggs Roberts

## ACTIVITY: ELECTION SEASON

*Electing the President of the United States is a complex process with a long history! Here are some ways you can explore how the election works and even participate before you turn 18.*

### TEENS

Consider the long-standing debate over the popular vote vs. the Electoral College vote by watching a video. [tinyurl.com/why-electoral](https://tinyurl.com/why-electoral)

Exchange thoughts and ideas about this topic with family and friends. Then watch the final hours of the election process unfold on Tuesday, November 5, 2024!

Teens who will be a Junior or Senior in high school and are age 16 or 17 can apply to work at a Colorado polling place as a Student Election Judge. They will earn money for their participation while gaining first-hand experience with grassroots democracy in their community. [tinyurl.com/student-judge](https://tinyurl.com/student-judge)

### KIDS

Everyone in the family can get in on the excitement of the U.S. Presidential Election! You can create an Election Season Scavenger Hunt focusing on a list of items related to elections (e.g., ballot box, yard signs, voting stickers/badges, clothing with candidate advertisements, flags, polling place, televised debate or advertisement, etc.). Consider a search that will take your kids around the house, neighborhood, and larger community.

With school-age children, you can watch a video together and talk about what you learn about the popular vote and Electoral College vote. [tinyurl.com/popular-vs-electoral](https://tinyurl.com/popular-vs-electoral)

On election night, follow the results pouring in from around the country, tracking the popular vote numbers vs. the Electoral College numbers to see our current system in action. You can print a free tracker here [tinyurl.com/electoral-tracker](https://tinyurl.com/electoral-tracker) to fill in together as the results come in.

