

# VOTING IN TEXAS

Learning Objectives: The students will

1. Research a voting website to gain foundation information
2. Use websites to analyze and make a decision on a candidate for president
3. Understand the rights and responsibilities of citizenship
4. Understand participation in the democratic process
5. Describe the different points of view in a democratic society
6. Understand the importance of effective leadership in a democratic society

TEKS: 7.16A&B; 7.17C

Materials Needed:

Set of laptop computers or computer lab  
Copies of the "Voting in Texas" worksheet-attached  
Issues organizer page-attached

Teaching Strategies:

1. Students are directed to [www.votexas.org](http://www.votexas.org) and given a copy of the "Voting in Texas" questions
2. Students work alone or with a partner to do a scavenger hunt through the website to answer the questions on the worksheet.
3. Students then go to websites to make a decision on their support for the primary or general election.
4. A follow up activity can be to have students write a one page paper to express their choice of candidate for president.

GT/Pre-AP- Give students a \$dollar amount to create a campaign for their candidate, researching the use of print ad, T.V., internet, and various forms of marketing.

**Voting in Texas**

**Go to [www.votexas.org](http://www.votexas.org) and answer the following questions while you search the site.**

- 1. How many sovereign powers have governed Texas?**
- 2. Who is charged with making sure voting in Texas is easy, transparent, and open to all?**
- 3. How many qualifications are listed to determine if you are eligible to vote? Which one prohibits you from voting?**
- 4. Where can you get an application to register to vote?**
- 5. What is the youngest you can be when you register to vote?**
- 6. What is an acceptable form of identification?**
- 7. If I want to vote in the November 4<sup>th</sup> elections, what is the last day I can register?**
- 8. How long do you have to wait for your voter registration certificate to arrive?**
- 9. What is a precinct number?**
- 10. What are the election dates in 2008?**
- 11. What hours are the polls opened?**
- 12. What happens if you are late to register in the county where you recently moved?**
- 13. When does early voting “in person” begin?**
- 14. When may you vote by mail?**

15. What are the three methods to vote?

16. What help can special needs voters receive?

17. What is curbside voting?

18. Registered voters in Texas have certain rights. Pick and record the top 2 rights you think are most important and explain why you chose the ones you did.

19. Who is the Texas Secretary of State? Who appointed him to his office? Who had to approve the appointment? What is this system called?

20. To what branch of the government does the Secretary of State belong?

Go to the website of the candidate of your choice. Fill in the following chart with notes that you will use when you vote in the school primary.

Candidate name \_\_\_\_\_

Position on an issue

Why that matters to me

1.

1.

2.

2.

3.

3.

4.

4.

5.

5.