

Teaching the Election: Elementary

- Start by discussing election-related vocabulary:
 - Voting
 - Candidate
 - Election
 - Nonpartisan
 - Politics
 - Politician / Elected Official
- Ask students to brainstorm politicians: *Who is a politician you have heard of? What role do they have?*
 - Prompt students to think past the president (if possible!)
- Discuss topics that students care about: *What is something you care about? Do you think that topic is related to politics/the election at all?*
 - Schools
 - Safety: seat belts, speed limits
 - Where We Live: streets, sidewalks, planted trees, public transit
 - Public Health: COVID-19, washing hands
 - Climate Change
- Make connections between which elected officials were listed in the brainstorm and **who** they can affect with their decisions, e.g.
 - A President makes decisions that affect the entire country
 - A Governor makes decisions that affect our state of Minnesota
 - A Mayor makes decisions that affect a certain city or town
- Make connections between which elected officials were listed in the brainstorm and **what** they can affect with their decisions:
 - The School Board makes decisions about public schools
 - The Public Works Commissioner makes decisions about highways, bridges, and clearing snow out of the way.