

Voting and the Law

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When people vote, they make a choice. For example, people voting for the U.S. Congress pick the men and women who pass laws that govern the country.

People who run for office are called candidates. During the weeks before an election is held, candidates describe what they plan to do if they are elected. The candidates make speeches about their ideas. They have discussions with other candidates. They may promise to work on changing laws they do not like or passing new ones.

Voters listen to these promises. Then they decide which candidates they think are the best. On Election Day, voters go to a public building, such as a school or a firehouse. They vote by filling out a paper form or, in some places, by using a computer.

Long ago, only a small number of people in the United States could vote. Some men were allowed to vote, but women, black people, poor people, and young people could not. Over the years, laws were changed. Now many more people can vote. All voters must be U.S. citizens and at least eighteen years old. They all must have registered, or signed up, to vote.

At the end of every Election Day, votes are counted. The winning candidates are announced. Soon, the winners will get their chance to do the things they promised to do.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. What do people do when they vote?

- A They have discussions with candidates.
- B They run for office.
- C They make a choice.

2. What does this article describe?

- A what candidates do before an election
- B what people who are too young to vote do on Election Day
- C the reasons that poor people were once not allowed to vote in the United States

3. Read this paragraph from the article.

"At the end of every Election Day, votes are counted. The winning candidates are announced. Soon, the winners will get their chance to do the things they promised to do."

What can be concluded from this paragraph about the winning candidates?

- A The winning candidates do not do the things they promised to do.
- B The winning candidates are the candidates who get the most votes.
- C The winning candidates are the candidates who made the most promises to voters.

4. Based on the information in the article, what effect might a candidate's promises have on voters?

- A If voters listen to the promises that a candidate makes, they will probably be disappointed after Election Day.
- B If voters like the promises that a candidate makes, they will vote for him or her.
- C If voters do not like the promises that a candidate makes, they will not vote on Election Day.

5. What is the main idea of this article?

- A Voting takes place by filling out a form or using a computer in a public building.
- B Once women, black people, and poor people were not allowed to vote in the United States.
- C People vote to choose the men and women who pass laws that govern the United States.

6. Read this paragraph from the article.

"When people vote, they make a choice. For example, people voting for the U.S. Congress pick the men and women who pass laws that govern the country."

Why might the author provide an example in the second sentence of the article?

- A to help explain what the first sentence means
- B to show readers that voting can mean two different things
- C to help readers decide which candidate to vote for

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Once only a small number of people in the United States could vote, _____ now more people can vote.

- A so
- B because
- C but

8. What are people who run for office called?

9. What do people voting for the U.S. Congress pick?

10. Is it important for people in the United States to vote? Support your answer with evidence from the article.
