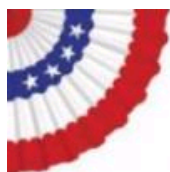




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Election Resources



Need help teaching the election? The October issue of *Social Education* will focus on the 2008 Election. NCSS has also put together a list of materials from NCSS and links to web sites that can help you in your classroom.

Election Related Articles in the October 2008 *Social Education*

The Updated Verdict of the Keys

See what a historically accurate prediction system forecasts as the outcome of the popular vote this presidential election.

Using the Internet to Teach About Political Cartoons and Their Influence on U.S. Elections

The visual imagery of political cartoons offers teachers the opportunity to explore the presidential election with students from a unique and stimulating angle.

The Electoral College

The Electoral College can normally seem dry to students, but it becomes very real in a close presidential election. In the featured lesson, students determine whether to keep or change the Electoral College System.

Turning Students on and Out to Vote

These election-related websites offer material that is specialized, timely, and appealing to students.

Not by Votes Alone...The Vital Imperative of Restoring the Civic Mission of Schools

Active citizenship requires more than spending a few minutes in a voting booth each November.

and more!

Helpful Websites as Election Day Draws Near

Turnout

[KidsVoting USA](#) promotes voting experiences for students that replicate adult voting.

[National Student-Parent Mock Election](#) will take place this year on October 30. This national-voter education program for students and their parents gives young Americans the chance to make their voices heard in the electoral process.

[www.rockthevote.com](#) aims to turn out the youth vote; it provides information on how, where and when to vote, and offers programs for voter turnout.

[www.declareyourself.com](#) is dedicated to encouraging every eligible 18-year-old to vote, and offers information on deadlines and election issues, as well as a Frequently Asked Questions section.

The Campaigns

[The Federal Election Commission](#) has information on elections, voter turnout and campaign finance.

[Project Vote Smart](#) is a nonpartisan resource that provides information on the voting records, positions, and interest group ratings of elected officials, state ballot measures in the upcoming elections, and links to information on campaign finances.

[www.opensecrets.org](#) is the website of the Center for Responsive Politics, a non-partisan, non-profit organization that tracks financial contributions to politicians.

[www.presidentsusa.net/campaigns.html](#) has historical information on campaigns and results in past elections; its listing of campaign slogans from presidential elections from 1840 to 2004 will interest classes.

Predictions

An up-to-date record of nationwide presidential election polls can be found at www.polingreport.com, which is also an excellent archive of opinion polls on all important issues.

University of Virginia professor Larry Sabato offers regular analyses of political contests and predictions of trends in the popular and electoral votes on his [Crystal Ball](#) site.

Some economists place their faith in predictions based on a market system in which participants "bid" on the changes of different candidates. The [Rasmussen market predictions](#) will interest those who want to explore that perspective.

As the election draws near, classes will want to evaluate the likely outcome in the Electoral College and not just review the nationwide opinion polls. Some sites offering Electoral College predictions are:

[PBS News Hour](#)
[New York Times](#)
[Fivethirtyeight.com](#)
www.electoralvote.com
www.livingroomcandidate.org

History of the Presidency

As mentioned above, www.presidentsusa.net, offers a great deal of information about past presidents and their administrations.

Presidential portraits and photos and other information can be found at www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents

[The Department of Treasury](#) has details on presidents that appear on coins. Treasury also has the same information for presidents whose [images appear on bills](#)

More Election Related Articles from the NCSS Archives (NCSS members only) More Election Resources

▣ ["Making Choices: An Exploration of Political Preferences"](#) , from *Middle Level Learning*

▣ [Teaching about the Electoral College](#)

▣ [Teaching the Election Process in Ten Days](#)

▣ [The Presidency and Presidential Elections in the Elementary Classroom](#)

▣ [ProCon.org](#)

ProCon summarized candidates' perspectives on various public issues.

▣ [FactCheck.org](#)

Analyses of candidate statements

▣ [League of Women Voters](#)

▣ [Vote: The Machinery of Democracy](#) Smithsonian Museum of American History

Artifacts and pictorial history of voting in the United States

▣ [National Archives](#) Information on the Electoral College

▣ [PBS Kids: The Democracy Project](#)

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Collection of Research relating to Elections

Submitted by [Stacy Kessler](#) (not verified) on Thu, 10/23/2008 - 11:48am.

IssueLab, an online publishing forum for non-profit research, has created a collection of election and voting related research for our most recent CloseUp. See it at <http://www.issuelab.org/closeup>. This research collection is a great centralized resource of sources that could be useful for grabbing statistics or for use in student's research projects. There are close to fifty reports that span topics from felony disenfranchisement to

exit polls to electronic voting machines.

[reply](#)

More election resources for teachers

Submitted by Anonymous on Tue, 10/07/2008 - 6:03pm.

Our feature article on Web-based election resources is by Eric Langhorst, Missouri Teacher of the Year.

<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6590042.html>

--Kathy Ishizuka, Technology Editor, School Library Journal

[reply](#)

Bill of Rights Institute

Submitted by Anonymous on Fri, 10/03/2008 - 1:58pm.

The Bill of Rights Institute has some great resources for middle school and high school teachers at www.billofrightsinstitute.org/election. The main resource is a Flash-based activity called "Powers of the President" that compares both the Democratic and Republican candidates positions on key election issues, and asks students to think about what constitutional authority do they have to carry out their promises.

There's also free lessons and an entire website for students dedicated to discussing issues on the election at www.DoYouHaveTheRight.org.

[reply](#)

The Role of Media In Politics (Debates, Advertising & More)

Submitted by Anonymous on Thu, 10/02/2008 - 10:57pm.

I invite all teachers to consider the resources I have created here:

http://www.frankwbaker.com/media_politics.htm

Frank Baker

media literacy consultant/ web master and author

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