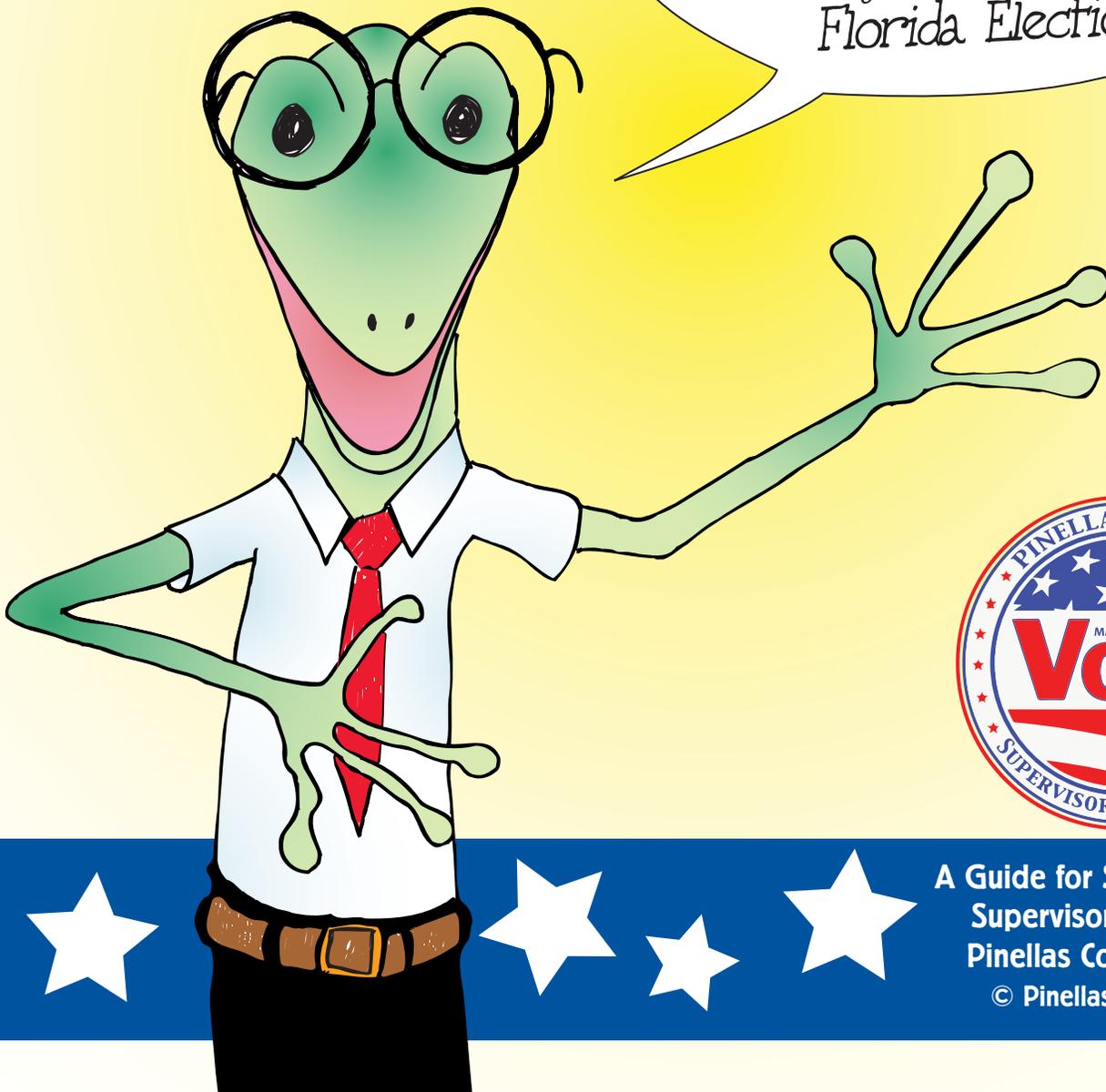


# ★ Election Facts and ★ ★

# FUN for Florida Kids

Hi! I'm Billy Ballot  
and I have some cool stuff  
to tell you about  
Florida Elections!



A Guide for Students by the  
Supervisor of Elections  
Pinellas County, Florida  
© Pinellas County SOE

# We the People

of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

## Article. 1.

### Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

### Section. 2.

Clause 1: The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

Clause 2: No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Clause 3: Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. (See Note 2)

The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative, and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

Clause 4: When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

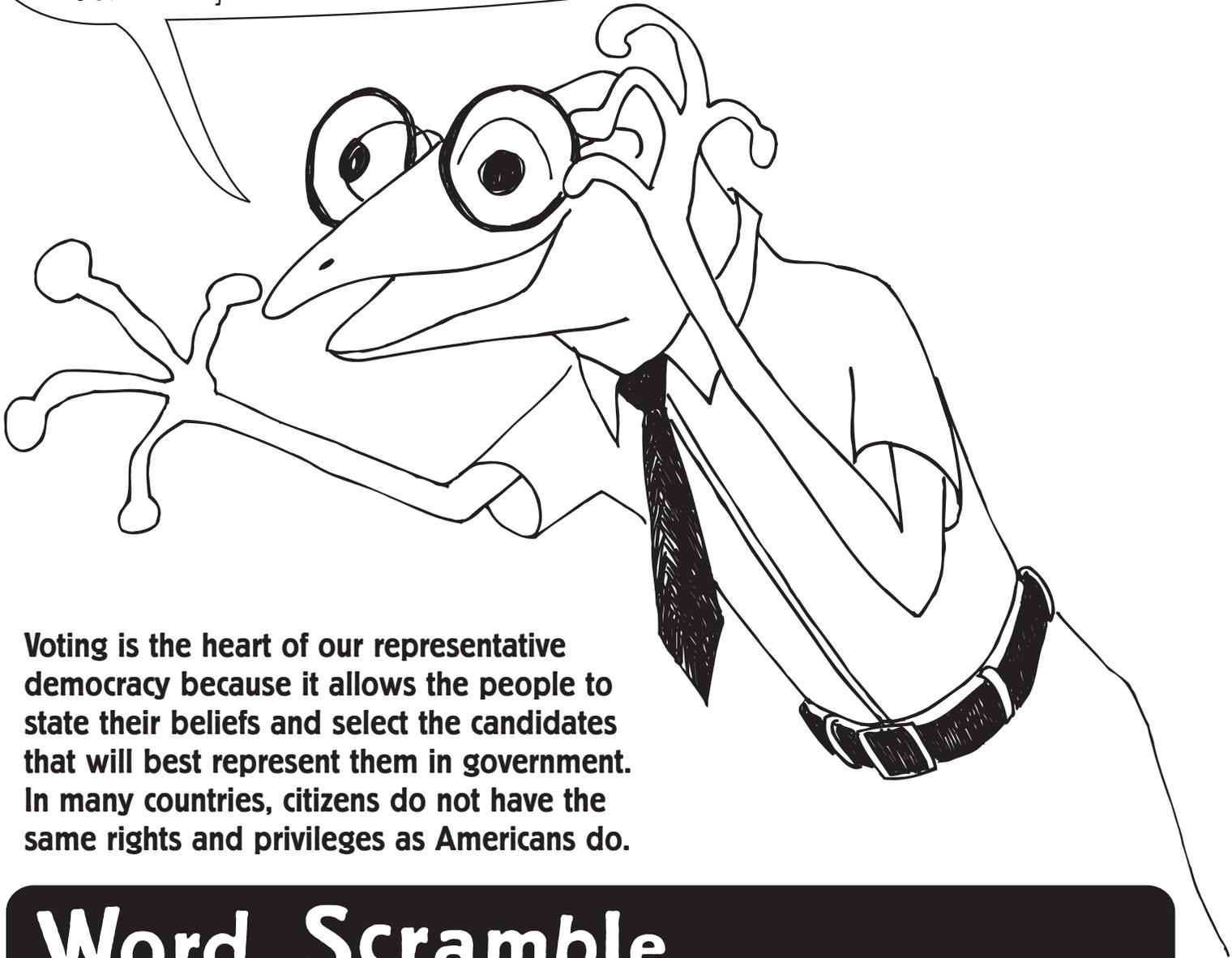
Clause 5: The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

### Section. 3.

Clause 1: The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof. (See Note 2) For six Years, and each Senator shall have two

# What is an Election?

*Since the United States Constitution was written in 1787, the right to vote has been part of our freedoms!*



**Voting is the heart of our representative democracy because it allows the people to state their beliefs and select the candidates that will best represent them in government. In many countries, citizens do not have the same rights and privileges as Americans do.**

## Word Scramble

RMFEDOE \_\_\_\_\_

EIBLFES \_\_\_\_\_

RCCDMEOAY \_\_\_\_\_

ETOV \_\_\_\_\_

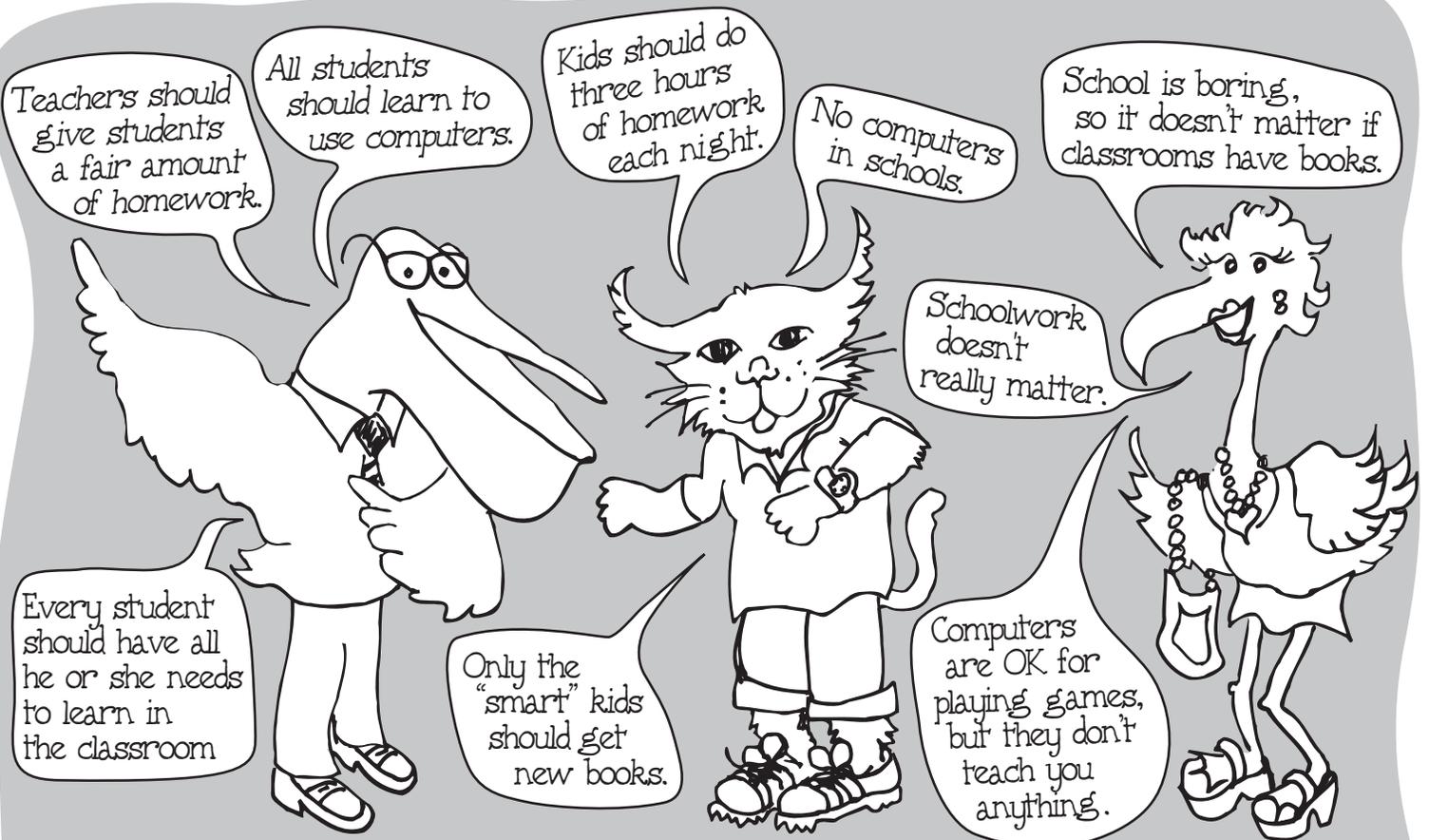
answers on page 16

# Our System of Government

## Choosing our Representatives

To select our representatives in government, registered voters go to the polls during an election to cast their ballots. But voters need to be informed before casting their ballots. Part of being an informed voter is to think about issues, examine each candidate's positions and then select the one whose views best match yours.

If these three candidates wanted to be elected to the Student Council, which one would you vote for? Examine their platform (their positions on issues) and then cast your vote.



Pelican Pete

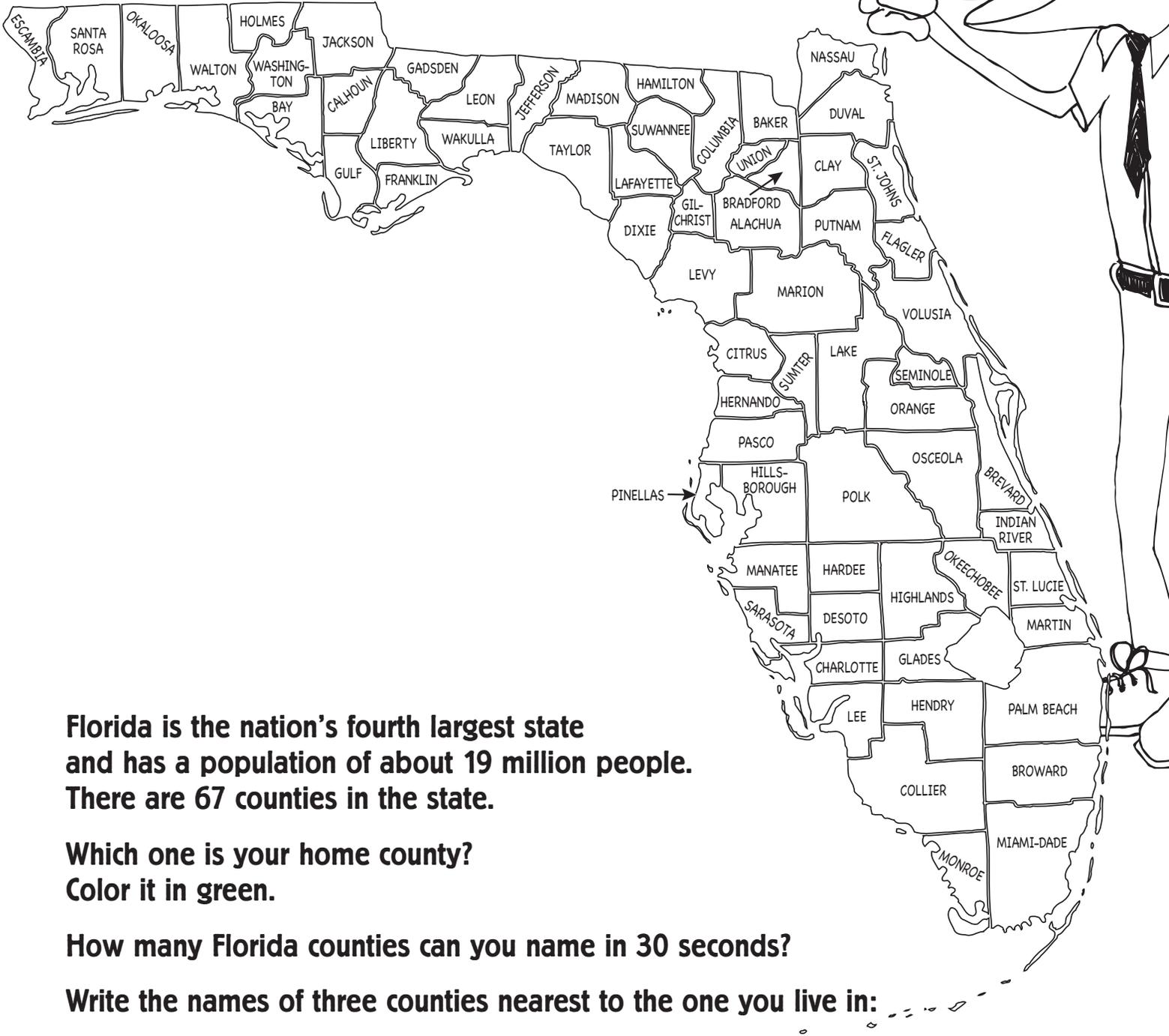
Bobby Bobcat

Flo Flamingo

I am voting for \_\_\_\_\_  
to represent me in the Student Council.

# Counties in Florida

Florida is divided into 67 counties.



Florida is the nation's fourth largest state and has a population of about 19 million people. There are 67 counties in the state.

Which one is your home county?  
Color it in green.

How many Florida counties can you name in 30 seconds?

Write the names of three counties nearest to the one you live in:

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# Florida Quick Facts

Color these symbols of our state:

Capital City: Tallahassee

Nickname: The Sunshine State

State Beverage: Florida Orange Juice

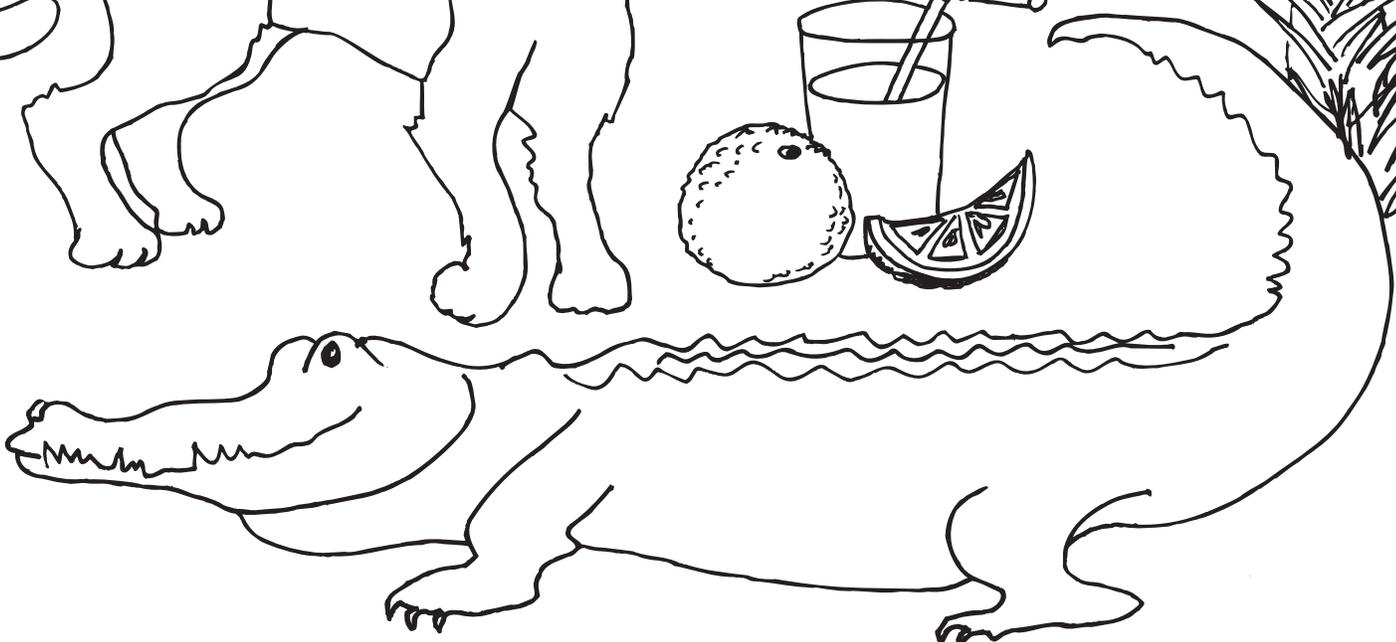
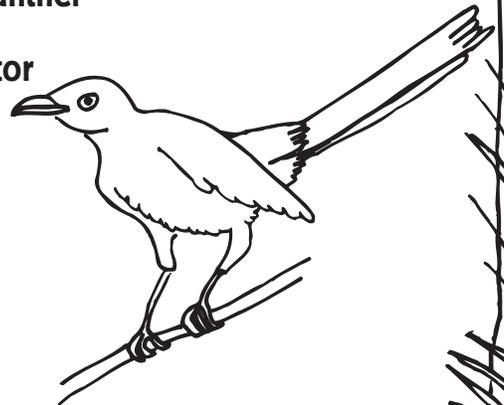
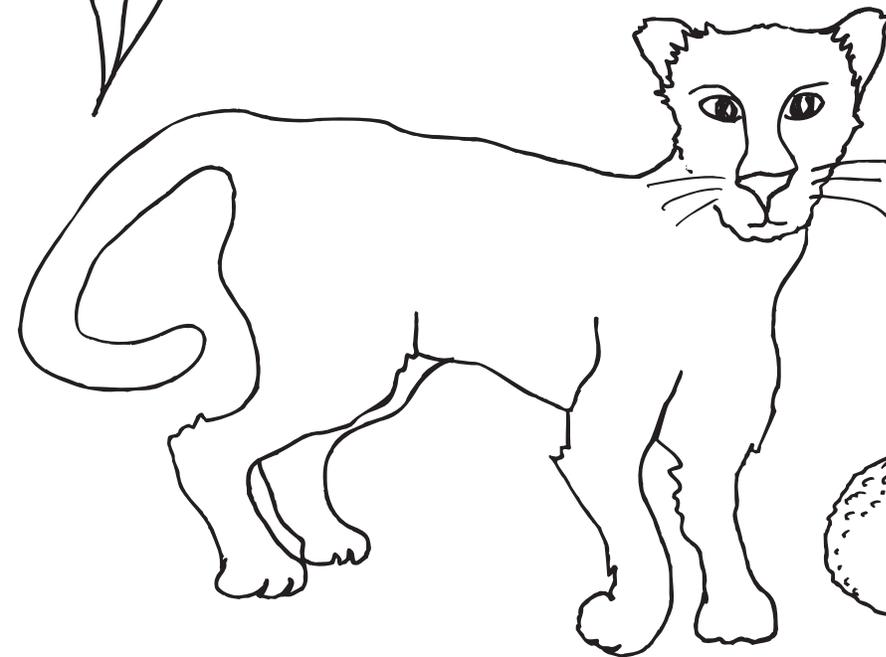
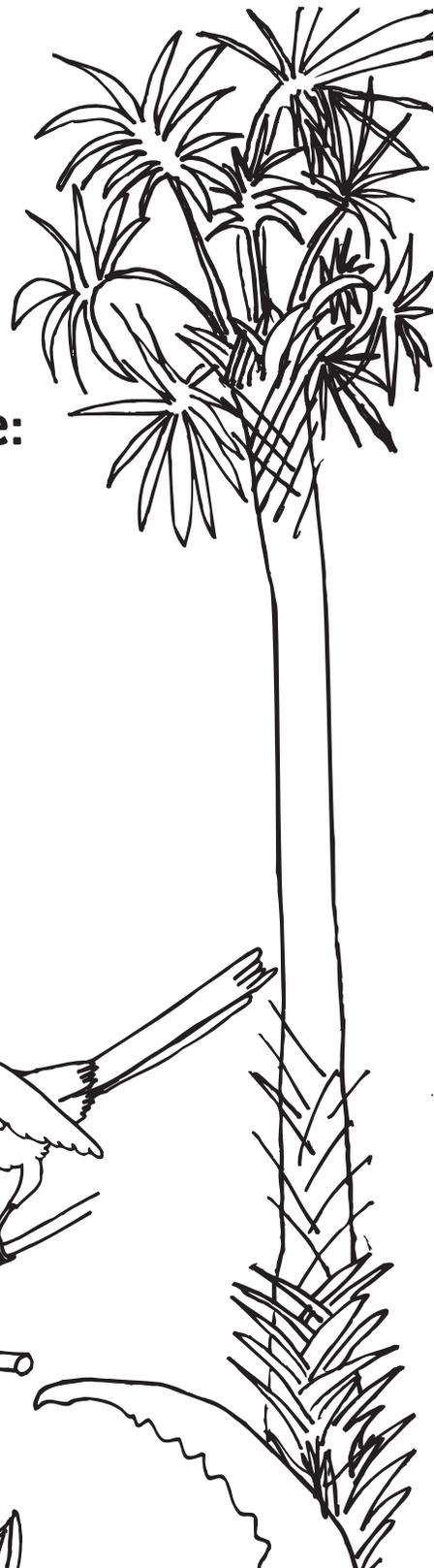
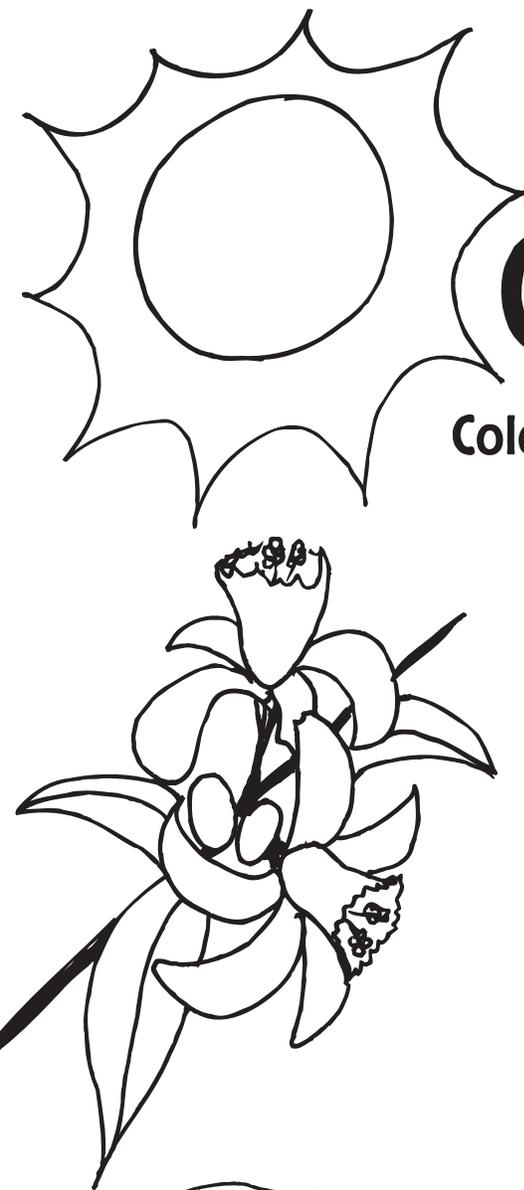
State Tree: Sabal Palm

State Flower: Orange Blossom

State Bird: Mockingbird

State Animal: Florida Panther

State Reptile: Alligator



# Who's in Charge?

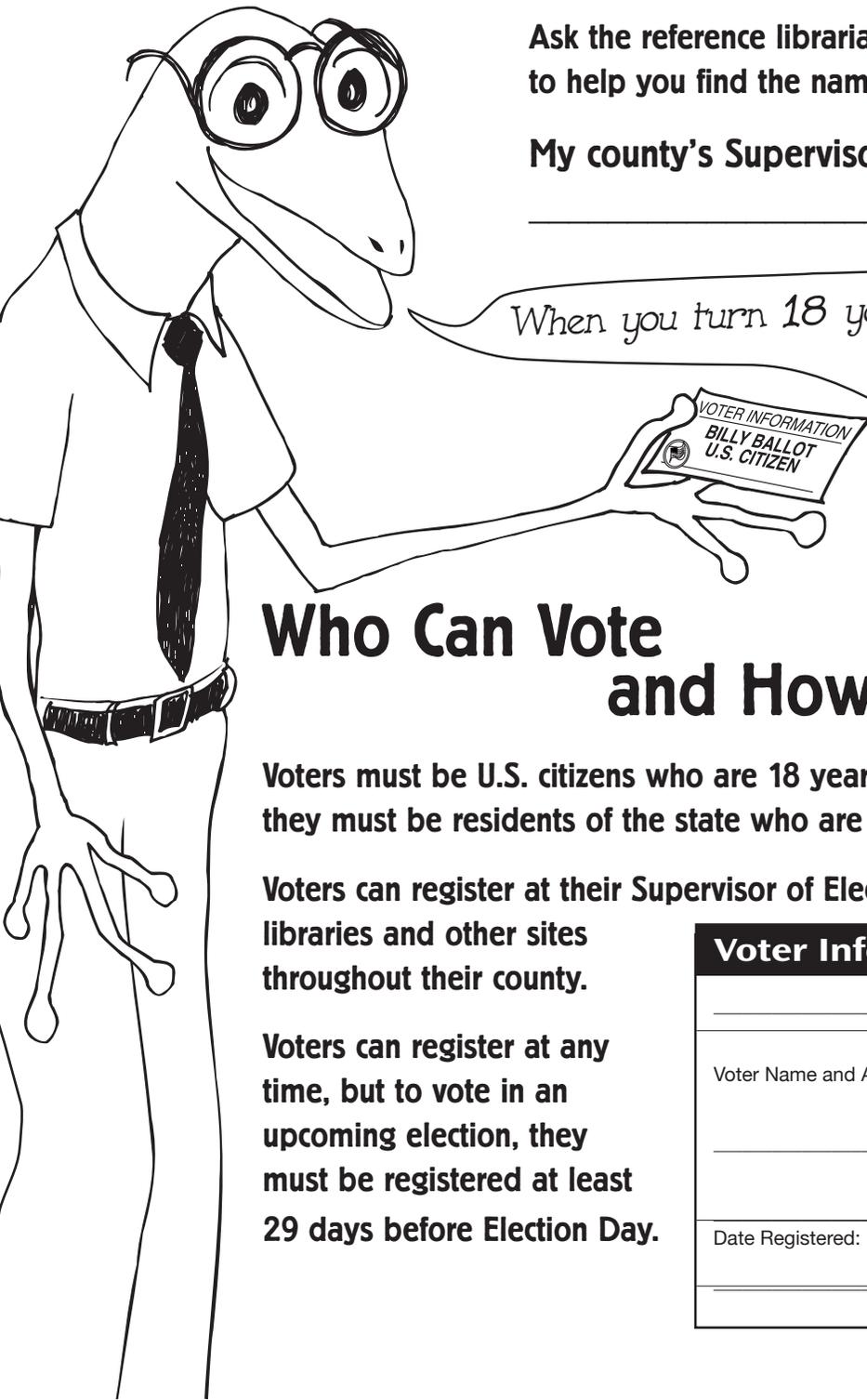
## The Supervisor of Elections

Each Florida county has a Supervisor of Elections, whose office is responsible for making sure elections are conducted fairly and accurately. The supervisor must abide by all federal, state and local laws. Each Supervisor of Elections registers voters, maintains voting records, issues voter information cards, trains poll workers who staff polling places on election day and educates voters about the election process.

Ask the reference librarian in your school or community library to help you find the name of your county's Supervisor of Elections:

My county's Supervisor of Elections is

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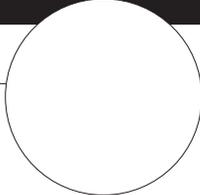
When you turn 18 you can register to VOTE!  
Create your own  
Voter Information Card  
below and decorate it!

## Who Can Vote and How Can You Register?

Voters must be U.S. citizens who are 18 years of age or older. To vote in Florida, they must be residents of the state who are not registered to vote anywhere else.

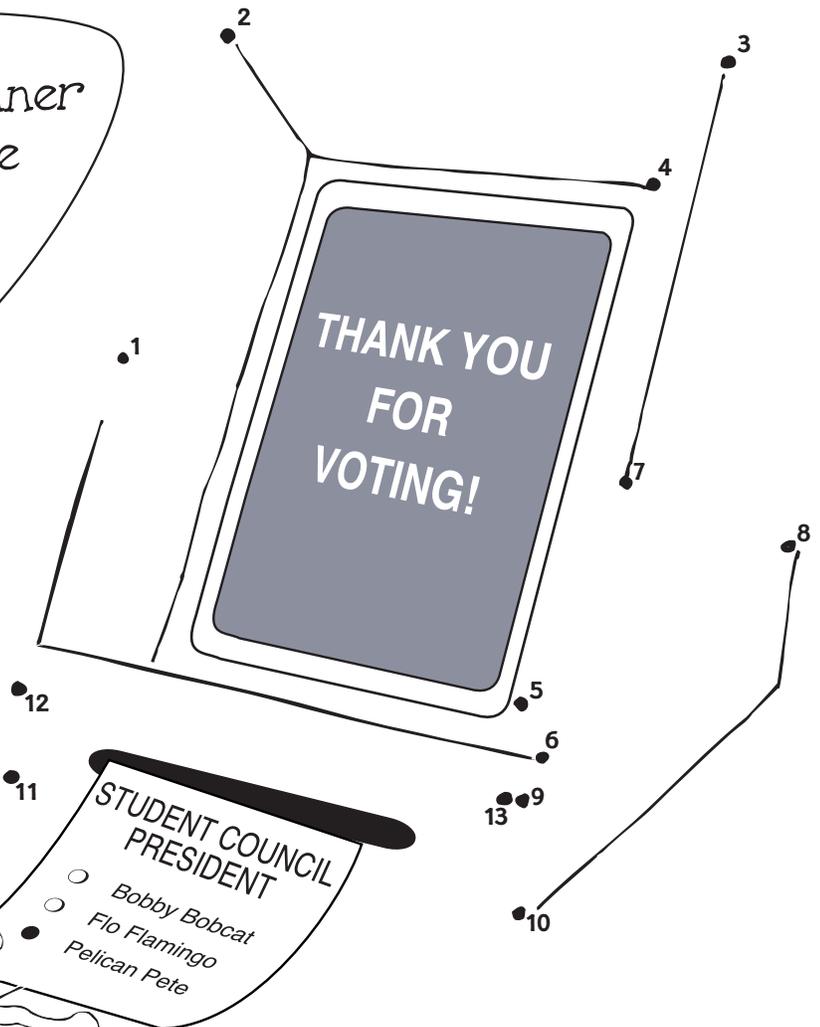
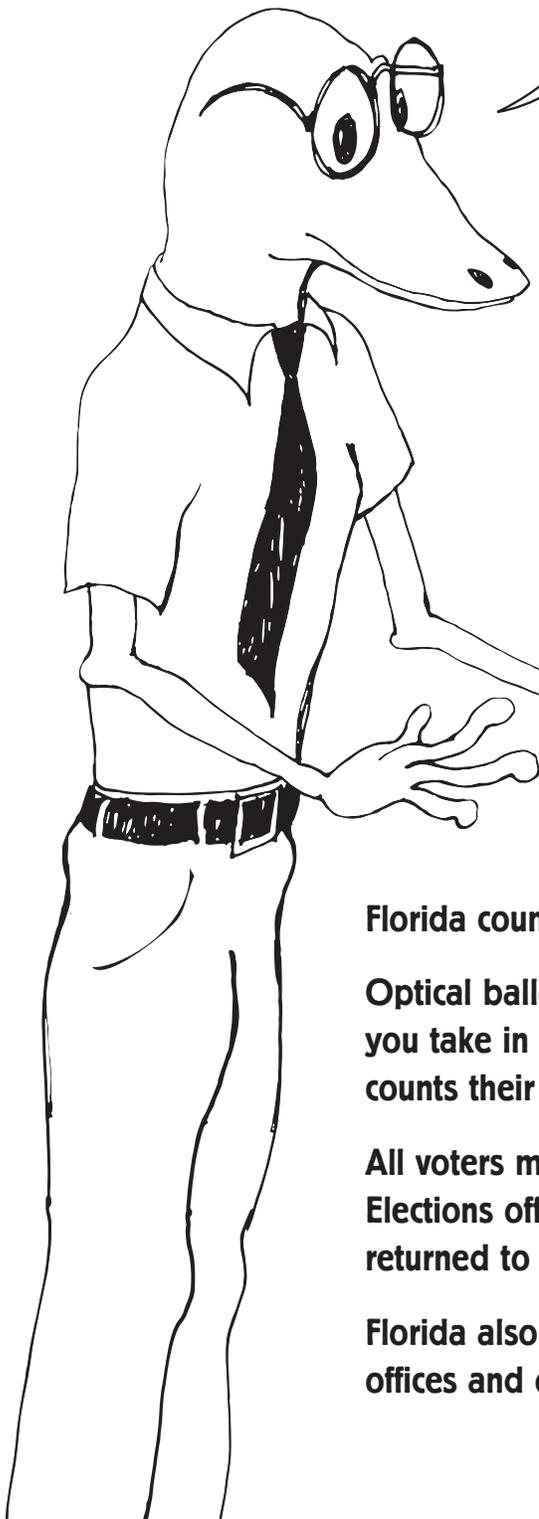
Voters can register at their Supervisor of Elections office, Tax Collector offices, libraries and other sites throughout their county.

Voters can register at any time, but to vote in an upcoming election, they must be registered at least 29 days before Election Day.

Voter Information Card		
_____ County, Florida		
Voter Name and Address: _____		
Date Registered:	Date of Birth:	Political Party:
_____	_____	_____

# How do we Vote in Florida?

I like this cool ballot scanner  
Connect the dots to see  
what it looks like!



**Florida counties use optical ballot scanners.**

**Optical ballot scanners “read” ballots much the same way that tests you take in school are graded. Voters fill in ovals and the machine counts their votes by reading the marks on the paper ballot.**

**All voters may request an absentee/mail ballot from the Supervisor of Elections office. Absentee/mail ballot envelopes must be signed and returned to the Supervisor of Elections office in person or by mail.**

**Florida also provides for early voting in the Supervisor of Elections offices and other selected locations, before certain elections.**

# What Does a Ballot Look Like?

Let's suppose Florida kids could vote in an election for their favorite snack.  
The ballot might look something like this:

Fill in the circle next to your favorite snack.  
Congratulations!  
You've just become a voter!

OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT ANY COUNTY, FLORIDA	
NONPARTISAN	
FAVORITE SNACK (Vote for One):	
<input type="radio"/>	Pizza
<input type="radio"/>	Banana
<input type="radio"/>	Pretzels
<input type="radio"/>	Chocolate
<input type="radio"/>	Gummies

Create your own sample ballot below and get your friends and family to vote:

OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT ANY COUNTY, FLORIDA	
NONPARTISAN	
_____ (Vote for One):	
<input type="radio"/>	

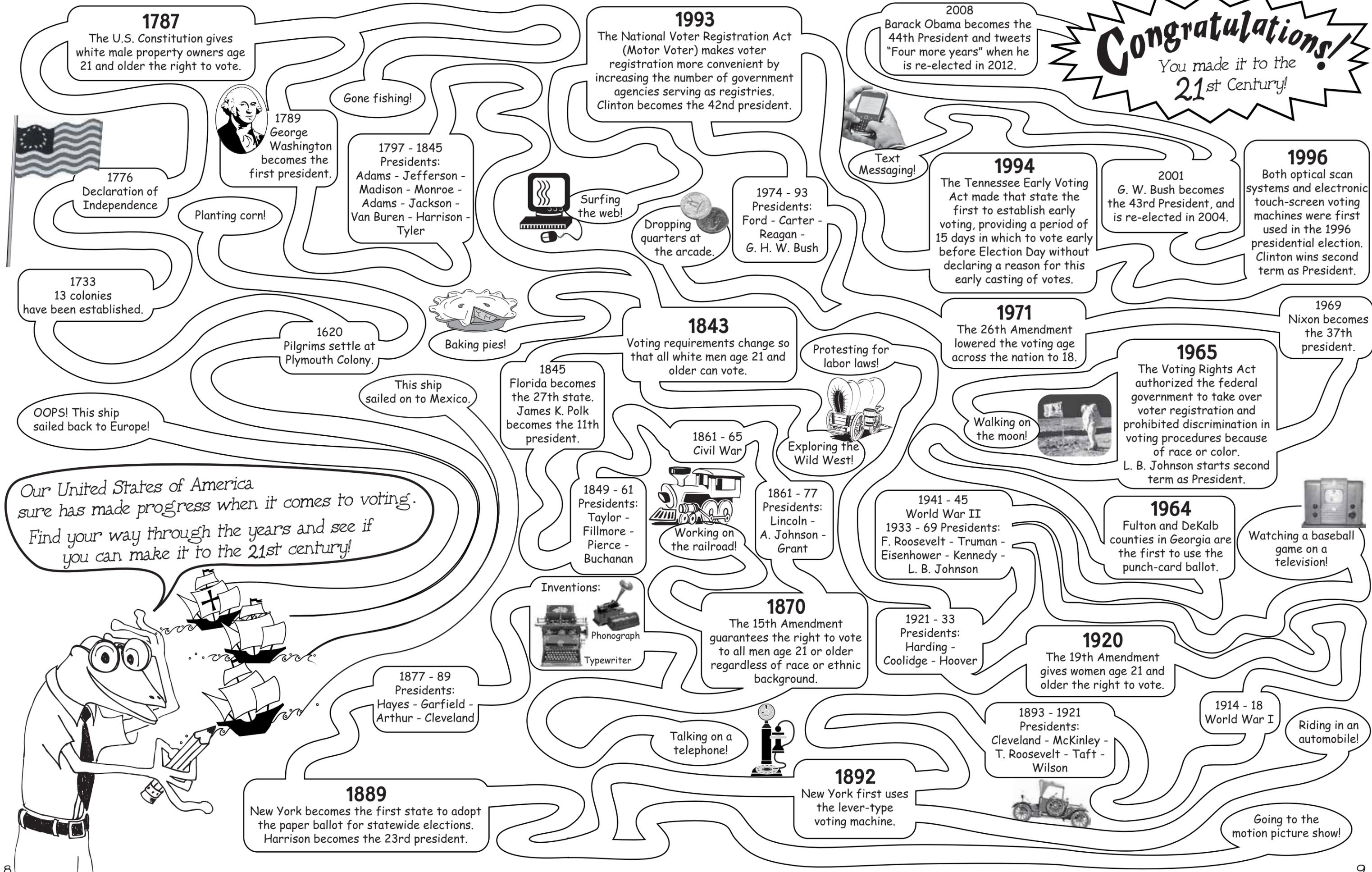


What were the results of your own election?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Congratulations! You've become a Supervisor of Elections!

# Congratulations!

You made it to the 21st Century!



Our United States of America sure has made progress when it comes to voting. Find your way through the years and see if you can make it to the 21st century!



# When Can You Vote?

## Federal, State, County and Local Elections

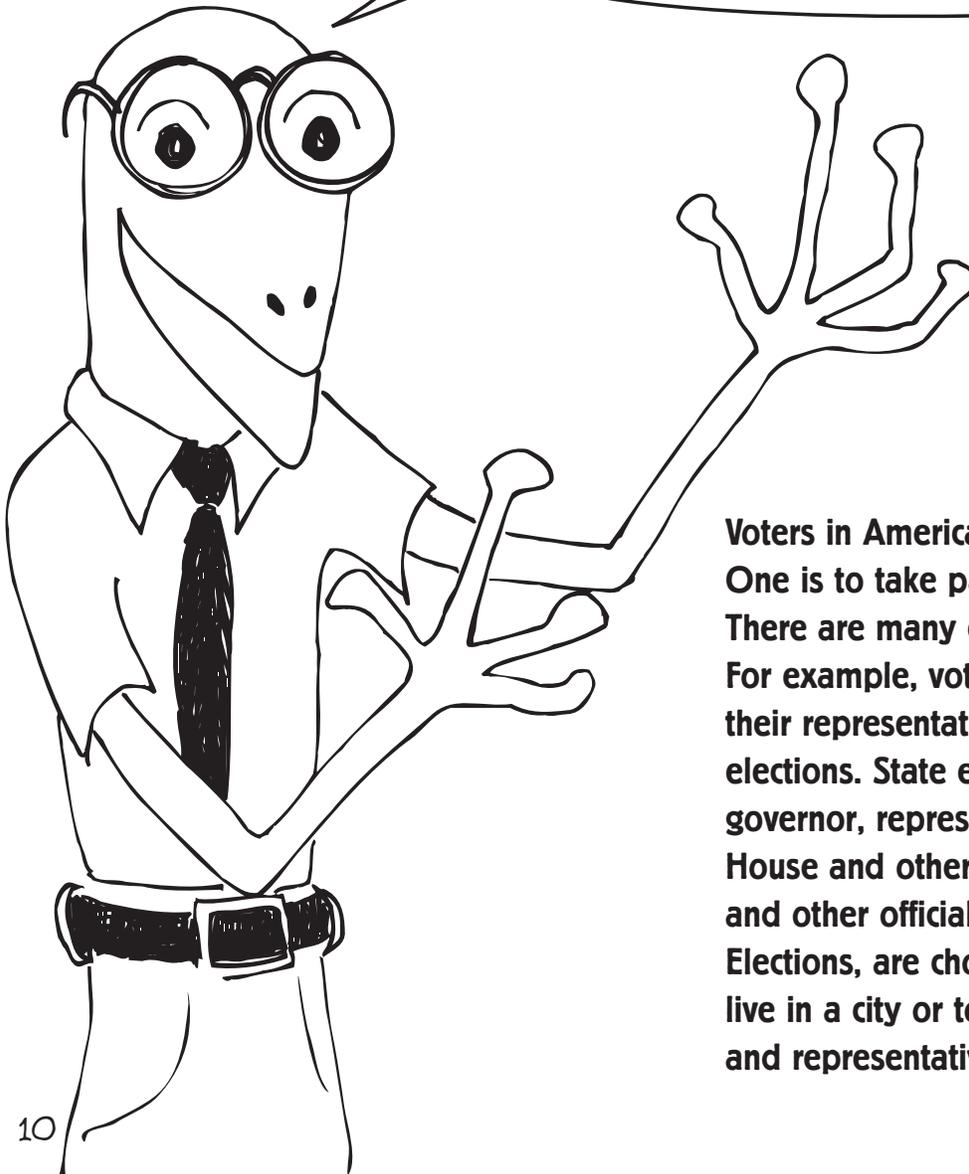
*Do you know your:*

*Country?* \_\_\_\_\_

*State?* \_\_\_\_\_

*County?* \_\_\_\_\_

*City/Town?* \_\_\_\_\_



**Voters in America have many responsibilities.**

**One is to take part in elections regularly.**

**There are many chances to vote.**

**For example, voters select the president and their representatives in the U.S. Congress in federal elections. State elections are held to select the governor, representatives in the state's Senate and House and other officials. County commissioners and other officials, including the Supervisor of Elections, are chosen during county elections. If you live in a city or town, you may choose your mayor and representatives during a local election.**

# Here are some types of elections:

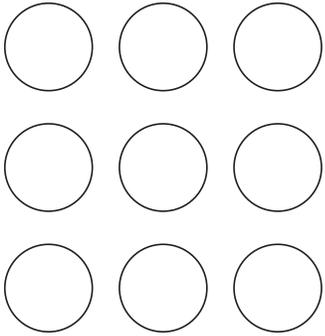
**Primaries:** Voters choose candidates within their own political party only. The two major political parties are the Democratic and Republican parties. There are many other minor political parties. Florida uses a closed-primary system which means that during a Republican primary, only voters who have identified themselves as Republicans when they registered can vote in Republican races. The same rules apply for a primary election for Democrats. All voters may vote in nonpartisan races, for school board members and judges.

**General Election:** All registered voters may vote for any candidate, regardless of their political party, and on any ballot questions.

**Special Election:** In addition to General and Primary elections, Special Elections can be called any time of the year. A common reason might be to vote on a referendum or issue that requires the voice of the people to become a law.

**Presidential Preference Primary:** Every four years, voters have a chance to have their say on several candidates running for president. During this type of primary, the candidate with the majority of votes is likely to become the party's nominee in the upcoming presidential election.

**Color each star & circle a different color**

	
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**In this sample Primary Election, only registered stars can vote for stars, and registered circles can vote for circles. Choose the winning color for each and color them below.**

		
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**Any registered star, circle or square can vote in this sample General Election. Circle the shape that you think should win.**

**If you were running for president, what would be one of your campaign issues?**

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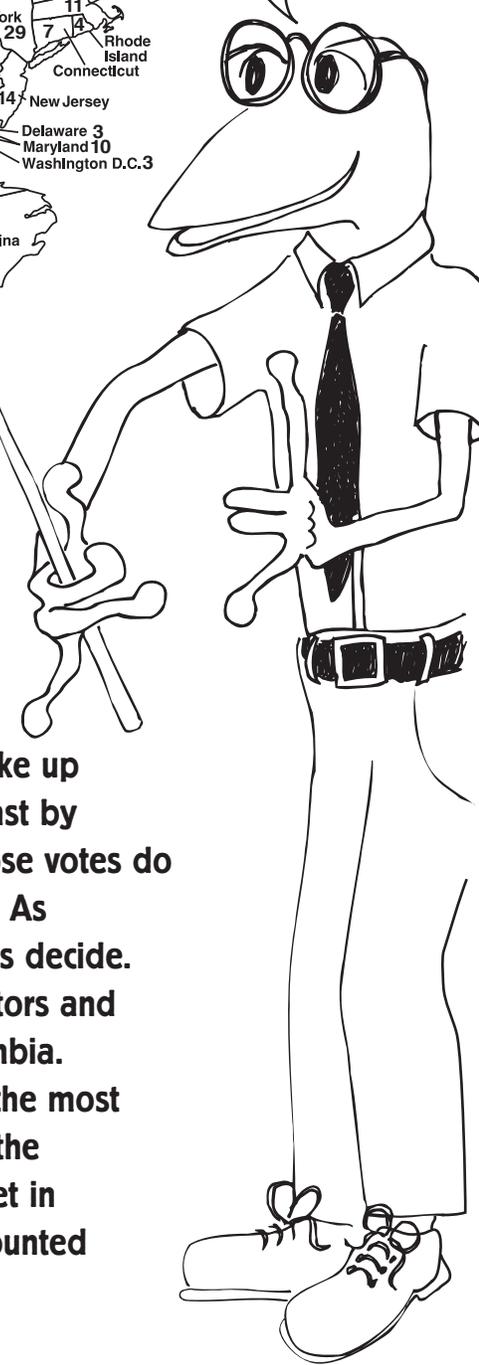
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# What is the Electoral College?

## Do Voters Really Elect the President?

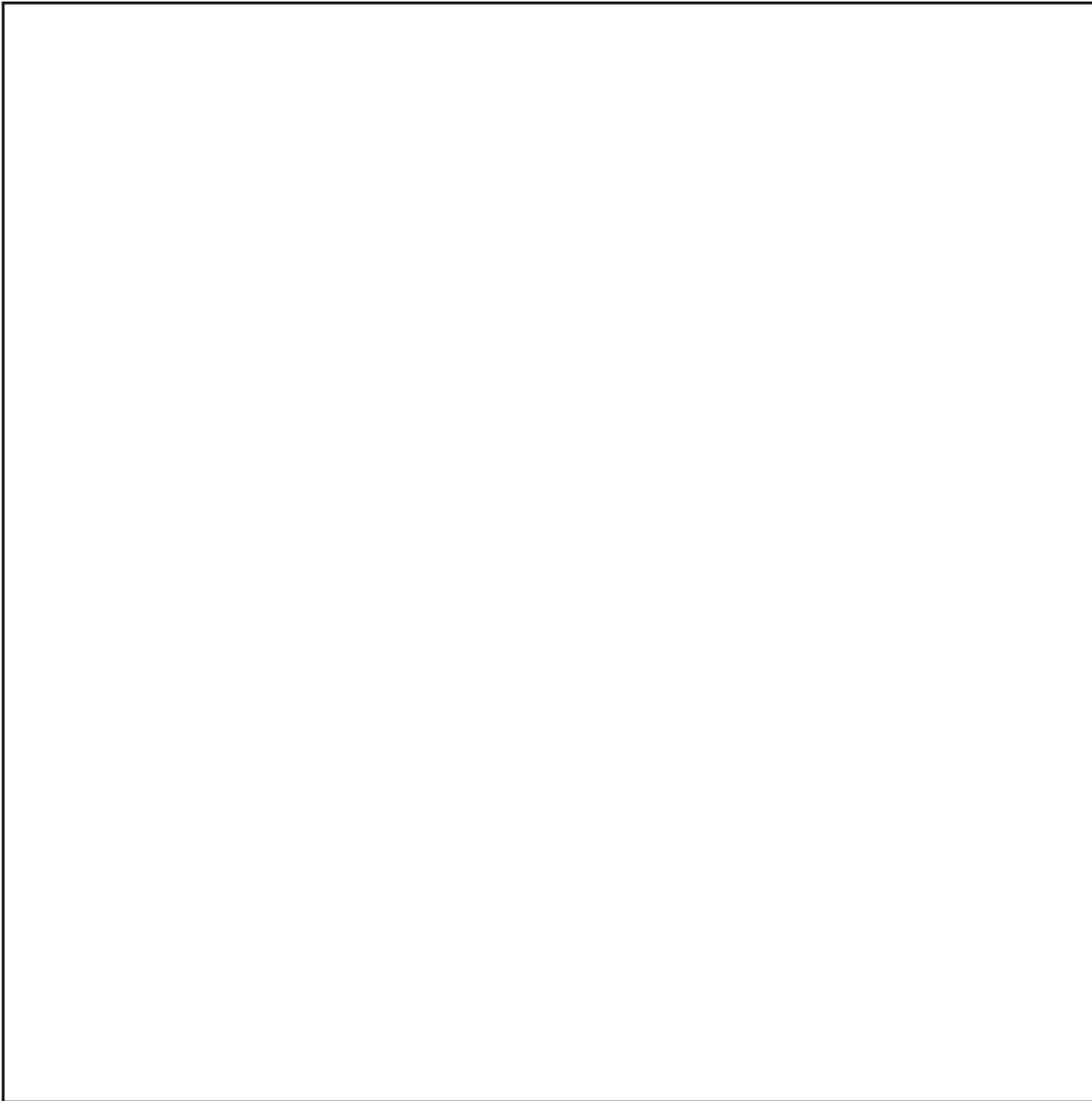


*This shows how many electoral votes each state has.*

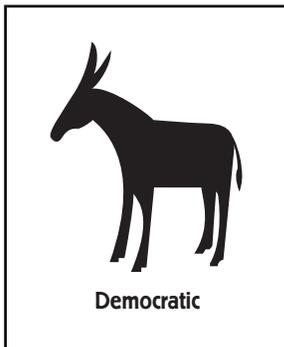
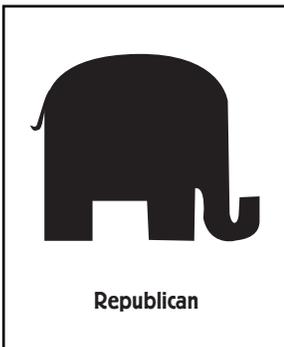


Even though America is a representative democracy, voters do not directly elect the president and vice president. Instead, members from all 50 states and the District of Columbia (Washington, D. C.) make up the Electoral College and vote for the candidates after the votes are cast by citizens. The votes cast in the election are called the popular vote. Those votes do not actually decide who the next president and vice president will be. As established in the Constitution, votes by the Electoral College members decide. The number of Electoral College members equals the number of senators and representatives from each state plus members for the District of Columbia. In most states, the presidential and vice presidential candidates with the most popular votes in a state wins ALL of that state's electoral votes. After the presidential election in November, the Electoral College members meet in December at their state capitols to cast their votes. These votes are counted in Congress in January when the winners are confirmed.

**Imagine that you are running for president. Design a campaign poster that would tell voters what you stand for and why they should vote for you:**



**Here are the symbols of the Republican and Democratic parties.**



**Create a new party that describes how you feel about issues.  
Design a symbol for your new party.**



# On The Campaign Trail

## Candidates are Everywhere

To let voters know what they stand for, candidates campaign before an election. They make speeches, create brochures and place ads on TV and radio, in newspapers and on the internet to tell voters what they will do if elected. Voters should carefully study each candidate's record and platform instead of voting for the candidate with the best or most expensive ads.

If you were running for president of your class, what would you promise your classmates you would do for them if you were elected?

Campaign promise 1:

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Campaign promise 2:

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Campaign promise 3:

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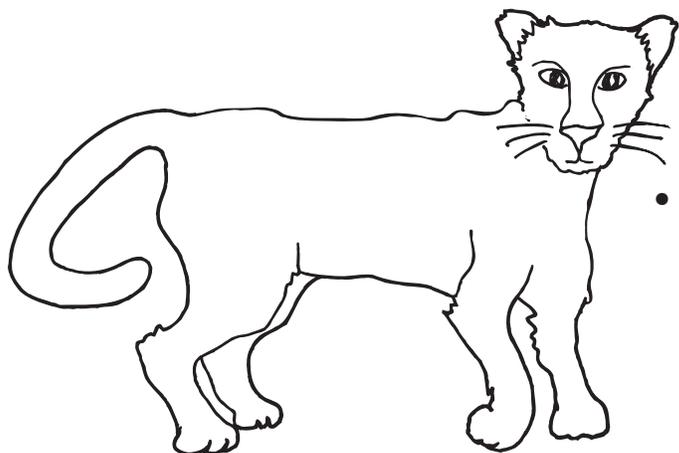
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Consider how many of these promises you would actually be able to fulfill if you were elected. Were they realistic?

# Kids Can't Vote, but They Can Make a Difference



- In 1982, Florida kids were allowed to vote for the state animal. Students chose the Florida panther.

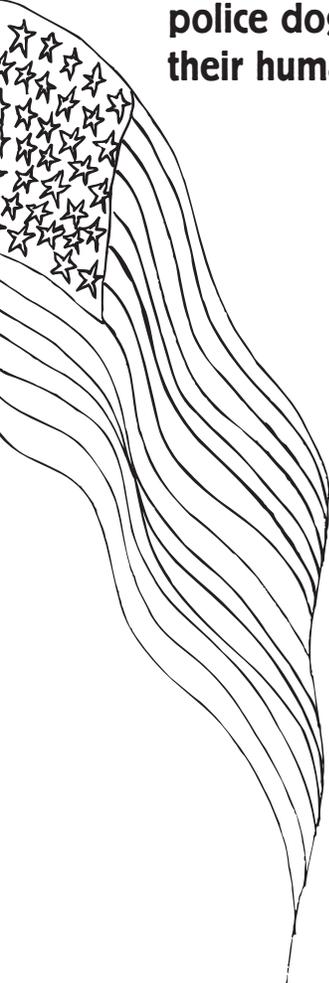
- Stacy Hillman, a 10-year-old Florida student, started Pennies to Protect Police Dogs in 2001 to raise funds to protect animals who work in law enforcement. Through Stacy's efforts, Baker County officials were able to purchase bulletproof vests for police dogs similar to the ones their human partners wear.



- Kids involved in organizations such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts perform community service as part of their membership.
- Students were the first to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in 1892. Can you fill in the blanks in the Pledge of Allegiance? Select the words from the list below:

United States    nation    justice  
 republic    flag    liberty

I pledge allegiance to the \_\_\_\_\_  
 of the \_\_\_\_\_ of America and  
 to the \_\_\_\_\_ for which it stands,  
 one \_\_\_\_\_ under God,  
 indivisible, with \_\_\_\_\_  
 and \_\_\_\_\_ for all.



# Answers

## Word Scramble

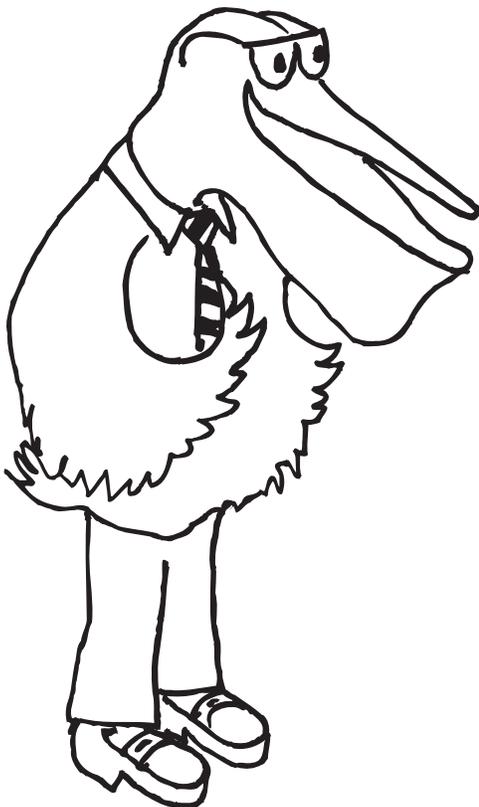
RMFEDOE F R E E D O M

EIBLFES B E L I E F S

RCCDMEOAY D E M O C R A C Y

ETOV V O T E

I pledge allegiance to the flag  
of the United States of America and  
to the republic for which it stands,  
one nation under God,  
indivisible, with liberty  
and justice for all.





## You've Made The Grade!

You're now on your way to becoming a future voter. When you're 18, you'll be able to take part in one of America's greatest freedoms and privileges. Encourage adults you know to register to vote and to take part in the process. Together, we can all make a difference in America!

Read and sign the Future Voter card below as a reminder:

### I'm a Future Voter!

I plan to register and vote when I'm 18 and to stay educated about candidates and issues that affect me and my community.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_