

PICK YOUR CANDIDATE



A Workbook for Adult Learners

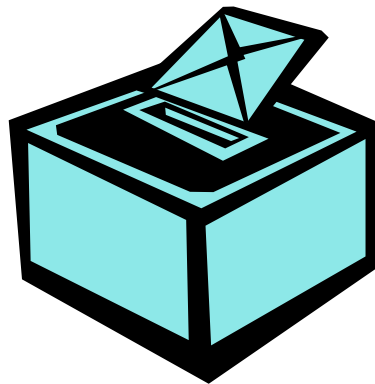
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PICK A CANDIDATE

A big campaign is exciting. A lot is going on. There is news about the election on the radio. You see candidates on TV. Soon you feel like you know the candidates.

Ask yourself some questions. Do I know how the candidates think? Do I know their ideas? Do I agree with their ideas?

This book will help you pick a good candidate for you.



THE ADS

The candidates put commercials on TV. The ads look good. They are made by people who are good at selling things, just like the ads for cars. They try to give the candidate a good image.

You need to know more before you pick a candidate. You want to know what the candidate thinks. Do you agree with his or her ideas? How did he vote in the past? What does she want to do if she is elected?

Tell about an ad you heard on the radio or on TV.

Does this ad try to give the candidate a good image?

Does it also tell about some of the candidate's ideas?

THE MAIL

You may get letters from the candidates. They may seem to be nice personal letters. Computers help candidates send letters like this. Be sure to look for ideas in the letters. You want to know if the candidate agrees with you.

You may get flyers in your door. Campaign workers may hand you flyers. The flyers will tell about the candidate. They may show a picture of the candidate's family. The candidate may seem like a nice man or woman, but you still need to know his or her ideas. Look for information about how the candidate will vote.

Find a flyer or letter from a candidate. Paste it on the back of this page.

Does the flyer or letter you found give any information about the candidate's ideas?

CANDIDATE WEB-SITES

Many candidates put information on a web-site. They may have a home page. The home page may give information about the candidate. It may tell how to send email to the candidate.

Do you have a way to use the Internet? If you do, find a candidate's web-site. Write the address below:

Print out a copy of the candidate's home page. Paste it on the back of this page.

Does the web-site give information about the candidate's ideas?

TALKS BY THE CANDIDATE

You may hear a candidate talk. If you meet a candidate, listen for his or her ideas. You need to know if you agree with the ideas.

Candidates should not just try to make you mad at the other candidates. They should tell you why their own ideas are better. Candidates should not try to make you feel sorry for them either. Don't let them get away with that. Make sure they explain their ideas.

Do the candidates tell what good things they plan to do? Or do they just put their opponents down? Always listen for the ideas.

Listen to a candidate on radio or TV or in person. Tell which candidate you heard.

What did you like or not like about what the candidate said?

WHAT THE CANDIDATE SAYS

What does a candidate promise to do? Does he promise everything to everybody? Does she promise too many things? Can the candidate really do what he or she says?

Choose one candidate. What is the name of the candidate you chose?

What are some of the things that he or she promises to do? Write them below.

LOOK OUT FOR TRICKS

Do not pay attention to name-calling. You do not want to hear a candidate call names and try to make an opponent look bad. You want the candidate to give the good ideas that he or she has.

You want to vote for the best candidate. The best candidate for you may be a man or a woman, any race, any religion. The best candidate may be nice looking or ugly. It does not matter much what the candidate looks like or what his name is. It is the candidate's ideas that are important.

Find an example of name calling by a candidate. Tell what the candidate said about his or her opponent.

Do not pay attention to gossip. A candidate may say bad things about an opponent. You need to know if they are true. If you are not sure, it's better not to pay attention.

A candidate may use buzzwords. They are words that sound good and that people like to hear. They may not mean much, though. Candidates may say they are for "*law and order*." That sounds good, but what does it mean? Does the candidate want more police? Does he want more jails? Does she want to have the death penalty? Does he want more judges and more courts? How much money will it cost? Where will the money come from?

Watch how the candidates act. Do they answer questions or do they try to change the subject? Do they explain things in a way that makes sense to you?

For example, a candidate may say he has a plan for good health care. Be sure he tells how it will work. How much will it cost? Where will the money come from? Will everybody get to have the health care or is it only for a few people?

Give an example of a buzzword used by a candidate. What buzzword did the candidate use? _____

POLLS

You may hear about polls. Polls are a way to count how many people like a certain candidate before the election is held. A poll taker asks people questions: *“What candidate do you like best? Who do you plan to vote for?”* Then the poll taker adds up the answers.

A poll may say that most people like one candidate. This may be true. But you have to be careful about believing a poll. You need to know more.

Find an example of a poll reported in the newspaper. Paste it here.

Ask yourself some questions.

- ✓ *Who did the poll?* A candidate may have someone do the poll for himself. The candidate may only tell the good results.
- ✓ *Who made up the questions?* Were they fair questions? Who did they talk to? Did they ask all kinds of people? Did they ask men and women, old people and young people, rich people and poor people?
- ✓ *How many people did they ask?* There have to be many people for a fair poll.
- ✓ *When did they take the poll?* Is it up to date?

Does the poll you found answer these questions?

How much information is there about how the poll was taken?

Do you trust the results of the poll?

OTHER PEOPLE

You may hear that a lot of other people are for a candidate. A group may be for a candidate. A union may be for a candidate. Your friends may be for one person. Your neighbors may also be for the same person.

Ask why people are for this candidate. See if you agree with their reasons. Don't just take their word for it. Make up your own mind.

Talk to at least three other people. Ask what candidate they are for.

Who are they for?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Do you think the people you talked to have good reasons?

HOW THE CANDIDATE CAMPAIGNS

Does the candidate talk to people? Will he or she talk to all groups? Or does a candidate just talk to his or her friends? A candidate should be willing to answer questions from everyone.

How are the candidate's commercials? They should give you good information. Do they tell how the candidate has voted in the past? Do they give some good ideas? Do they give good reasons why you should vote for this candidate?

Pick one candidate to watch. Do you think he or she has a good campaign? Does the candidate answer questions well? What do you think of his or her commercials? Write your thoughts below.

MEETING A CANDIDATE

You may have a chance to meet a candidate. It's often fun to meet a candidate and to be part of a campaign. It's exciting to shake the candidate's hand. Most candidates are very friendly when they campaign, and it's fun to meet them in person.

No matter how nice the candidate is, you still need to know his or her ideas. Your vote is very important. Give it to the candidate who has ideas you agree with, the one who makes the most sense to you.

Go to see a candidate. Tell when and where you went and who you saw.

What did you think of the candidate?

HOW TO DECIDE

It can be hard to decide what candidate to vote for. Here is a way to go about making up your mind. The first step is to decide what things matter most to you. These are your issues.

- 1. Pick out the things you care about.***
- 2. Think about how you feel about these issues.***
- 3. Find out what the candidates think about these issues.***
- 4. Pick the candidate that agrees with you most.***
- 5. Be sure you think he or she can do the job.***
- 6. Vote for your candidate.***

ISSUES

Here are some issues. Tell what you think about each one.

1. Should we spend more money on health care?
2. Should welfare stay the same or be changed?
3. Should the minimum wage go up or stay the same?
4. Should we sometimes get into wars in other countries? When is the right time?
5. Should we help people in other countries when they need food or medical help?
6. Should all older people get Social Security, no matter what their income is?
7. Should we spend more on defense?
8. Should we spend more on schools? If so, where should the money come from?
9. What about the rules about new immigrants coming to the U.S.? Should the rules stay the same or be changed?

10. Should we have more rules—or less rules—about clean air and water?

11. Is climate change a problem? If so, what should we do about it?

12. Should we let in cheap things made in other countries?

13. Should the government have a balanced budget? If so, how should we get it? By having more taxes? By cutting out some programs?

You may have other issues. Write them here.

Look back at all the issues on the last two pages. Pick out the ones you care the most about. You may have an opinion on all the issues, but try to pick two or three that are very important to you. Write your issues below.

MY ISSUES

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Now find out what the candidates think about your issues.

ISSUE 1

Candidate A

Candidate B

Candidate C

Others

ISSUE 2

Candidate A

Candidate B

Candidate C

Others

ISSUE 3

Candidate A

Candidate B

Candidate C

Others

PICK A CANDIDATE

What do the candidates think about your issues? Which one is closest to your ideas? This may be hard to decide. You may like one candidate's ideas on Issue 1 and another candidate on Issue 2. Think about it and pick the candidate that comes closest.

Who is it? _____

Do you think this candidate can do the job?

Why do you think so?

If yes, this is your candidate. Write his or her name below:

HELP YOUR CANDIDATE

You have done a lot of thinking. You have picked a good candidate for you. Now you can help your candidate win. Here are some things you can do to make a difference.

- ✓ **Be sure you are registered to vote.**
- ✓ **Ask other people to register to vote.**
- ✓ **Tell your friends why you like this candidate.**
- ✓ **Volunteer to do some work for your candidate.**
- ✓ **Write a letter to the newspaper to tell why you support your candidate.**

VOTE.



MY WORK TO HELP MY CANDIDATE

Tell what you did to help your candidate.

1. Be sure you are registered to vote.

I am registered to vote in the town/city of

_____.

I have been registered since _____.
(Give date or year)

2. Ask other people to register to vote.

Write the initials of people you asked to register.

Did any of these people go to register? How many?

3. Tell your friends why you like your candidate.

What will you say to try to talk people into voting for your candidate? Write down some of the points you will make.

4. Volunteer to do some work for your candidate.

Tell what you did as a volunteer.

5. Write a letter to the newspaper to tell why you support your candidate.

Show a copy of your letter.

6. Vote!

Write down the place you will vote and the date of the election.

Place _____

Date _____

AFTER THE ELECTION

Did you vote? _____

How did your candidate do?

CONGRATULATIONS!

Whether your candidate won or lost, you have been a good citizen!

Keep taking an active part.



What we can't do alone we can do together.