



PARENTAL READINESS AND  
EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

A PROGRAM OF  
THE LAWYERS'  
COMMITTEE FOR  
CIVIL RIGHTS

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# NEWSLETTER

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## Educating Students about Elections

Election media coverage continues to bombard us constantly through Facebook, Twitter, radio, in peoples' yards, and even in school. The election is right around the corner, raising the question of whether to involve your child in politics. A crucial aspect of involving your children is they may not understand the issues at hand such as foreign policy, U.S. Supreme Court vacancy, climate change, and education to name a few, or even what a president accomplishes in general. It is in your hands to decide whether you want your child to be immersed in politics and if so, to educate them on the issues in a way they can understand. There are many resources, events, and establishments available to the public to help break down the general election and also, about the candidates themselves.

Whether your child is 4-years-old or 16-years-old, it will benefit him/her to be committed to learning about taking civil responsibility. It is important to make children familiar with the process in a way they will understand. They do not need to know every detail but should gain a more general understanding. Once they have a general idea, the best way for them to apply their newfound knowledge is to get involved. Involvement can mean a number of things such as going with you to the polls on Election Day or watching debates together. Encouraging your child to participate in school elections is also a great way to help them to better understand the election

process. From helping in the campaign process to running for class president, participation at any level will be a fun way for your child to gain more personal experience of the election process. At the local level, encourage them to ask questions directed towards officials or those running for a position.

For younger children, consider reading a children's book that will catch their attention. Books such as Amelia Bedelia's *First Vote* by Herman Parish are a great way to keep your child engaged in topics that can be too complicated for children to understand otherwise. In addition to books and television shows, there are also computer games to help educate children on political topics. Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor founded iCivics, an educational website with games where children can hear actual U.S. Supreme Court cases.

Teaching your child to be engaged in the election process will give your child tools they can use today and assist them to be informed knowledgeable citizen in the future. Participating in these activities with your child can also be a fun way for you to brush up on your knowledge and keep you up to date in this election season.





## Director's Comments

Depending on the age group, children may have questions about the election such as campaigns, political issues, and even voting. The upcoming election serves as a great opportunity to get children involved, engaged, and fascinated with the subject. While many children in school are unable to vote, it is still a fantastic idea to have them be aware of the election and to explain to them what is happening.

For teenagers and those who can vote legally, it is important to keep their engagement on topics and political issues. While many teens find it exciting to be able to vote, they should know that voting is not just a civil right but also a responsibility.

It is inevitable for children to hold similar views like that of their parents, however, it is important to present children with neutral information so that they can form their own viewpoints.

As Election Day continues to near, here at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, we have Election Protection, a national nonpartisan coalition established to ensure that everyone has an equal right to vote in the political process. With the help of volunteers, it is our greatest effort to help Americans across the country to be able to exercise their right to vote. If there are issues at a designated polling place or if there is trouble with an absentee ballot, Election Protection has been working tirelessly to advocate and defend the right to vote. If you would like to access their hotline, please dial:

- 866-OUR-VOTE (English)
- 888-Ve-Y-Vota (Spanish)
- 888-API-VOTE (English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, Tagalog)
- 844-418-1682 (Arabic)

Natasha Quiroga is PREP Manager and Senior Counsel on the Education Opportunities Project

[www.PREPParents.org](http://www.PREPParents.org)

# PREP Resources

## NOW PLAYING... VIDEO TUTORIALS

- ◆ *Parent Advocacy*
- ◆ *Navigating the School System*
- ◆ *Special Education*

[www.youtube.com/prepparents](http://www.youtube.com/prepparents)

## STATE-SPECIFIC PARENT GUIDES

- ◆ *On education law and policies*

[www.prepparents.org/resources/for-parents/](http://www.prepparents.org/resources/for-parents/)

## RECORDED WEBINARS

- ◆ *Parent advocacy*
- ◆ *Mobilization*
- ◆ *Special Education Process*
- ◆ *School Discipline*

[www.prepparents.org/webinar](http://www.prepparents.org/webinar)

## UPCOMING EVENTS... WEBINARS

### **Dec. 07 - Special Education**

*Learn about special education process and the rights and responsibilities in your child's special education program*

**English webinar: 12:00 p.m. ET/9:00 a.m. PT**

**Spanish webinar: 6:00 p.m. ET/3:00 p.m. PT**

**RSVP: [prepparents.org/webinar](http://prepparents.org/webinar)**

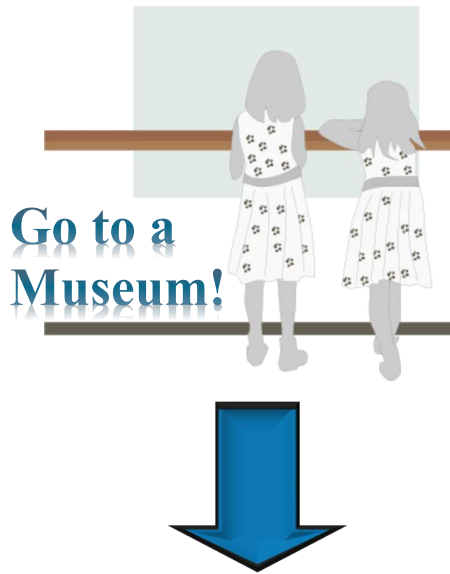
*Have questions about special education, school discipline, English learners, or discrimination-related issues? Are you a parent in California? Check our newly launched e-Clinic!*

***[Prepparents.org/appointments](http://Prepparents.org/appointments)***



# PEP TALK FROM PREP!

## Tips to Keep Your Child Engaged in Politics!



Make travel time *fun* and *educational* while teaching your child to be aware of the support given to certain issues and candidates. Have them tell you what names and which propositions they have seen on a weekly basis.




Take them to a Presidential Museum, library, or capital city! Every state has one of some kind and this is a great way to educate your child while getting them out of the house! Exercise and learning? Who knew?

Have your child write a letter to your state representative or senator or even the President! Whether your child is 5 or 18, writing a letter is an absolute great way to show them engagement in action.

## Other Tips:

- ✦ Share political cartoons! (when appropriate)
- ✦ Remind them to not believe everything they read!
- ✦ Arrange a one-on-one meeting with your child and local official!

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