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# Voting is a Process

*Different elections take place at different times. For example, every two years, the members of the House of Representatives and about one-third of the Senate are up for reelection. The president's position is up for reelection every four years. These federal votes always take place on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Other local elections may take place yearly. You can visit your state's election website to see when, where and how to vote. It will also give you information about registering to vote if you are unsure. Sometimes people do not know when to vote, and that can cause a decrease in the number of voters, so it is important for you to be aware of when voting takes place.*



*All voting is private, so you do not have to worry about people knowing who you voted for. Some places use a paper ballot, some places send out ballots for voters to complete and mail back in, but most places use a private voting booth. Only you are allowed in the booth to cast your vote. You will close a curtain behind you so that nobody can see who you voted for. Unfortunately, not everyone knows when to vote, where to vote or actually votes. This is a problem in the United States because we have too many eligible voters that are not voting. When you turn 18, make sure that you register and educate yourself on the voting process in your state. Your country needs you!*

Every Kid Votes Lesson 7: How Do You Register to Vote



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# Rock and Register

*Before you can vote, you must register, unless you live in North Dakota. Both federal and state elections within the U.S. are controlled by each individual state. Because of this, every state has its own set of rules. Article I and Article II of the U.S. Constitution give states this power. That is why North Dakota is able to decide that they do not require registration to vote. You can contact your local or state election office to find out the particulars about your state, but, for the most part, the majority of states have some basic steps they all follow.*

*Usually, you can register to vote at your local election office, department of motor vehicles, or by mail with a voter registration form. After you are registered, you may receive a voter registration card in the mail which will tell*

*you where to go to vote when the time comes. If you do not, that is okay. You can still go to your local voting site on election day and show your driver's license or a government form of identification like a passport or social security card. Then you are ready to vote. It's that easy! The difficult part is making an informed decision about who the best candidate is.*

*Can't make it to your polling place? Maybe you are sick or unable to leave your house due to a disability. You may qualify for something called an absentee ballot. All states allow absentee voting, but the qualifications vary by state. All you need to do is get an application and apply.*

*By voting, you gain power as a group of people. You are making big decisions for your country and bring about a real change for your community. Make sure to do your due diligence and educate yourself on all elections and candidates. The future of this country depends on you! You can do this!*



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