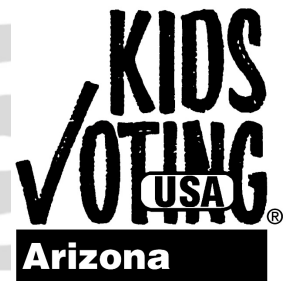


# State Elections: Grades 3 through 5



The following is a supplement to the Kids Voting *Civics Alive!* curriculum. The information and activities in this supplement are specific to the state of Arizona. Please use the grade level material in *Civics Alive!* before and while using this material.

The K – 2 Arizona specific curriculum concepts and activities have not been repeated but may be of value to your grade level. You may wish to refer to that section.

Concepts and Activities

## **I. There are three branches of Arizona state government: The Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches.**

### **A. Discussion:**

What are the roles and responsibilities of the members in the executive branch?  
the legislative branch?  
the judicial branch?

### **B. Activities:**

1. Make a mural with one section for each branch of government.
2. List job descriptions for members of each branch.

## **II. The Executive Branch of state government consists of the offices of governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer and superintendent of public instruction.**

### **A. Discussion:**

What are the responsibilities of each member of the Executive Branch?  
What qualifications must they meet in order to hold office?  
For how many years do they serve?

### **B. Activity:**

Divide into small groups representing each office. Have each group find as much objective information as possible on each candidate.

1. Make a scrapbook for each office which includes only positive information on each candidate.
2. Have a mock debate between candidates.
3. Share information with parents or other classes.

## **III. The Legislative Branch of state government consists of two houses: The Senate and the House of Representatives.**

### **A. Discussion:**

How many legislators are there and how many represent each area of the state?  
What are their responsibilities, what are the qualifications for holding office and how long may they serve in this position?

### **B. Activities:**

1. Using state maps divided into legislative districts, put one red dot on each legislative district. Have students identify their district with a green dot overlapping the red dot.
2. Make a chart listing the responsibilities, qualifications and terms of office for a state representative. Make a similar chart listing the responsibilities, qualifications and terms of office for a state senator.
3. On the legislative district map referred to above, put blue dots in each district indicating the number of representatives from each area.
4. Make a mural depicting the differences between the two houses.

## **IV. The legislature meets every year beginning the second Monday of January.**

### **A. Discussion:**

Where does the legislature meet?  
Where do the members of each house meet?

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## **B. Activities:**

1. Start a vocabulary chart with words and meanings relating to the legislature. (legislature/legislator, capitol, bill, law, chambers, etc).
2. Start a timeline of when the legislature meets and what it accomplishes.
3. Watch the news to see what happens regarding proposed legislation: introduction through passage or defeat.
4. Have weekly reports on the progress of a targeted piece of legislation.
5. Have students keep a diary pretending they are a legislator representing a certain area. List daily activities and achievements.

## **V. Each vote makes a difference in selecting executive officers or legislators.**

### **A. Discussion:**

How can one vote make a difference?

### **B. Activity:**

Using the sample ballot found on our website, [www.kidsvotingaz.org](http://www.kidsvotingaz.org), conduct a mock election in your classroom.

## **VI. There are 15 counties in the state of Arizona each of which is a territory of the state.**

### **A. Discussion:**

What is the importance of county government and how does it differ from state government?

### **B. Activities:**

1. Make an Arizona map puzzle showing the 15 counties and the county seats.
2. List the county officers and their responsibilities on a chart.

## **VII. By general laws, the legislature has provided for incorporation and organization of cities and towns for the purpose of local governments.**

See the Local Election section for details on municipal organizations.



**Kids Vote ONLINE at**  
**[www.kidsvotingaz.org](http://www.kidsvotingaz.org)**