



Help your students to build civic literacy and take informed civic action through real-world learning connected to Election 2024

K-5 CMS Teacher Information for Student Voting Activity

- The ballot is easy to implement in your classroom, for a grade-level or schoolwide vote, or homework.
- The Election 2024 student vote is open October 21-November 5, 2024.
- Student results will be available after the election ends. It is fun and instructional to compare how students voted vs the official vote.
- A wide variety of K-5 teaching resources are provided – use what is most helpful to you.

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Ballot information

Ballot options enable you to choose how your students participate. Read the important notes below before moving forward with your activity plans.

- CMS Student Advisor only
- *President, NC Governor, and CMS Student Advisor*
- *President only*

Important notes:

- Due to the highly political nature of this year's election, CMS encourages K-5 teachers to focus student learning on the CMS Student Advisor election.
- The CMS Student Advisor vote is an instructional mock election for K-8. High school students will vote to elect the student who serves next year with the school board.
- Additional ballot options are available for seasoned educators who have engaged in the mock election in previous years and wish to extend student learning.
- All educators are encouraged to focus student learning on content: the government office(s) on the ballot, exploration of civic literacy themes and knowledge, and engaging students in informed civic action through elections and voting.
- All materials are non-partisan and nonpolitical and are tied to social studies and ELA standards and related educational goals.

Access the 2024 ballots

[CMS Student Advisor K-5 Ballot for 1:1 devices](#)



[CMS Student Advisor K-5 Ballot for multiple users on one device](#) (ballot loops to the start after each voter – helpful if you set up a voting station such as an ipad, media center, or Chromebook or laptop cart)



Ballots incorporating President and Governor

Contact amy@generationnation.org and latondam.smith@cms.k12.nc.us if you are a seasoned GenerationNation/Kids Voting educator and wish to use student voting activities aligned to federal, state, and local government

Setting up the voting activity

Technology

- The ballot is designed for use on ipad, mobile phone, Chromebook, laptop, etc. Web access is required.
- Use the loop ballot if you are setting up a voting station used by multiple students.
- Depending on your device configuration, you may need to enter the URL each voting day and clear the cache and browser history.
- Use the 1:1 ballot if you are sharing the link or QR code with each student (for example on the screen in the classroom, for homework, etc.)

Timing

- This is up to you! The ballots are open October 21–November 5.
- Use the activity on a designated voting day, over a period of days you choose, or whatever works best for your school or classroom.
- If you are using shared devices, holding a vote in the media center, or need extra time, incorporate that into your plan.
- Include time for students to learn about the candidates and voting process. Use the provided lessons and information for this purpose.
- Some schools plan this like picture day or a similar activity – different grade levels or classrooms participating on different days.
- The ballot is very short and takes little time to complete.

Additional ballot information

School Name

- At the beginning of the ballot, students (or adults who assist) will select your school's name.
- This information is needed for school-level results. [You may request a school level ballot to bypass this step](#), or you can skip it if desired.

Spanish language ballot option

- Click the bar at the top of the ballot page and select Spanish

Candidate order and party

- Candidates are listed in alphabetical order. If you are using a ballot with official election races, the party is not listed.

Other races on the adult ballot

- The adult ballot you will vote on and student ballot in this activity are different.
- This activity is designed to be educational for your students and easy to implement in the time you have available.
- [The official Election 2024 ballot in NC has many offices and questions.](#)
- Having a student ballot exactly mimic the adult ballot would make this activity difficult for you and your students.

Decorating the classroom or school for elections

- You may decorate your school however you wish and is permitted by your school leadership and CMS district policy.
- If you choose to make a bulletin board or display for any election, ensure that all information is nonpartisan, fair, accurate, and equal. For example, candidate images should be the same for opposing parties (for example, don't have one large photo of a smiling candidate and one tiny one with a bad image of the other candidate). If you display one candidate's image, information, or name, you must do the same for all candidates in that race.
- If your school is an Election Day polling place, you have the opportunity to introduce your school to neighbors who don't have students at the school. While you may not display anything political or partisan – if in doubt, leave it out – students might make voting posters (“vote here” NOT “vote for...”) or flags to decorate doors and hallways voters might use, or write letters to thank the elections officials working there. (Be sure to get any activity approved by school leadership!)

Educational resources

This activity and the accompanying resources have been developed and informed over time by educators like you. Because different schools and classrooms have different needs, you may use what works best for your students. Feel free to modify lessons and activities as needed.

Toolkit contains lessons, resources, discussion, reading and writing activities, critical thinking, informational literacy, decision-making, government, civic participation, ways to align Election 2024 to curriculum standards, and more.

- [CMS K-5 lessons and activities for Student Advisor election are at the end of this document](#)
- The [Election Connection](#) is a weekly resource providing educators with timely information through the election season and Inauguration Day.
- All Election 2024 resources can be found at nc2024.generationnation.org

Recommended tools help your students to

- **Learn** about and explore elections and voting, the role of the office on the ballot, the candidates, and the process.
- **Read and think critically** about civic information using the Reading Jigsaw activities, discussion questions, and writing prompts.
- **Make informed decisions** using civic information with the Rate the Candidates organizers
- **Culminating activity:** take informed civic action in the student vote
- **Continue civic literacy and learning** after the election

Election results

After voting ends on November 5, election results will be posted publicly and shared with schools. The result of the Student Advisor election will be announced on or after November 6. Contact GenerationNation for [school-level results](#) (school level results cannot be provided for CMS high schools for the Student Advisor election).

Questions, ideas, or assistance

Contact amy@generationnation.org 704-343-6999 or your designated CMS social studies staff

GenerationNation

GenerationNation, a longtime CMS district partner, is your resource for K-12 civic literacy and student leadership through the year. Visit generationnation.org and connect on social media @GenerationNation @GenNation

K-5 lessons and activities for Student Advisor Election

[Student Advisor – role of this office and candidates](#)

[Student Advisor – meet the candidates](#)

[Candidate Jigsaw – reading and discussion](#)

[Rate the Candidates](#) decision-making organizer for this office

Elections and Voting lessons

K-2

- [Why vote?](#)
- [Making elections work](#)
- [Powered by information](#)
- [Democra-see](#)
- [Democracy and Me](#)
- [Registering to vote](#)
- [If Elected, I will...](#)
- [Visiting a polling place](#)

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- [If Elected, I will...](#)
- [Making elections work](#)
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- [Visiting a polling place](#)

- [5 ways to be a smart citizen](#)
- [5 ways for students to take informed civic action in this election](#) (slides)
- [Vocabulary](#)

- [Discussion questions and writing prompts for elections and voting](#)
- [Discussion questions and writing prompts for election 2024 \(focus on the office on your ballot\)](#)
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