

Navigating the November 6th General Election

“The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men” – L.B.J.

“... no country can be well governed unless its citizens as a body keep religiously before their minds that they are the guardians of the law and that the law officers are only the machinery for its execution, nothing more.” – Mark Twain

Purpose & Overview:

On November 6, the entire United States will hold its General Election to determine who will serve as the next President of the United States, as well as who will serve in many other public offices, including U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, California State Assembly, California State Senate, San Diego City Council Districts, and judiciary positions. This election will include state- and city-wide ballot propositions.

During the last General Election (November, 2008), only 62% of eligible voters cast a ballot. Our job is to raise this number by informing and spreading awareness to ourselves and others of the key issues (candidates, propositions, etc...). All in all, we work towards building a democracy that represents a greater number of citizens by building citizen understanding of electoral politics.

Essential Questions:

- What are some key issues I care about that are up to a vote on November 6? How will I vote on these issues?
- How can I be an informed voter? How can I use available tools to build my understanding of future elections?

Deliverables*:

DUE DATES VARY

- WEEK 2 (9/3-9/7): Choose your issues and candidates
- WEEK 3 (9/10-9/14): President, U.S. House, & U.S. Senate
- WEEK 4 (9/17-9/21): CA State Assembly & CA Senate District 39
- WEEK 5 (9/24-9/28): San Diego Mayor and City Council
- WEEK 6 (10/1-10/5): California State and San Diego City ballot propositions
- WEEK 7 (10/8-10/12): \$ in politics.
- WEEK 8, 9: (10/15-10/26) prep, debates, exams
- FINAL EXHIBITION – Tuesday, October 30
- FINAL RESEARCH ESSAY DUE – Monday, November 5

**Each WEEK has a specific set of deliverables. There is one uniform set of deliverables for public office candidates (wks 3, 4, 5), a second set of deliverables for ballot propositions (wk 6), and a third set of deliverables – money in politics (wk 7) – that will be linked to public office candidates. These deliverables are in separate handouts.*

RESEARCH ESSAY

From centuries old controversies regarding the make-up of the Congress and the Electoral College, to modern controversies of money in politics and voter ID laws, we've covered our fair share of new information about the foundations of American government and the 2012 General Election. Now it is time for you to take the topic that you hold dearest and go in-depth. Students are expected to:

- Choose a topic and form an inquiry question.
- Find relevant sources to inform your understanding of the topic.
- Craft a thesis statement based on your initial research. Your thesis must take a stance on your topic.
- Follow deadlines for the rough drafts during the writing/revision phase.
- Complete an 8-10 page *persuasive essay* on your topic. Use *at least 8 sources*.

(This is a preliminary overview. Details will be posted on the course website)

FEDERAL OFFICE

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/2012-elections/nov-general/pdf/nominated-list-candidates.pdf>

President:

Democrat – Barack Obama
Republican – Mitt Romney
Independent – Edward Noonan
Green – Jill Stein
Libertarian – Gary Johnson
Peace & Freedom – Ross “Rocky” Anderson

California's U.S. Senate seat:

Democrat – Dianne Feinstein
Republican – Elizabeth Emken

California's U.S. House of Representatives seats:

District 50:???

David Secor (D)
Duncan Hunter (R)*

District 51:

Juan Vargas (D)
Michael Crimmins (R)

District 52:

Scott Peters (D)
Brian Bilbray (R)*

District 53:

Susan Davis (D)*
Nick Popaditch (R)

CALIFORNIA

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/2012-elections/nov-general/pdf/nominated-list-candidates.pdf>

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY:

District 71:???

Patrick Hurley (D)

Brian Jones (R)

District 77:

Brian Maienschein (R)

Ruben "RJ" Hernandez (D)

District 78:

Toni Atkins (D)*

Ralph Denney (R)

District 79:

Shirley Weber (D)

Mary England (R)

District 80:

Derrick Roach (R)

Ben Hueso (D)*

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE:

District 39:

Marty Block (D)

George Plescia (R)

SAN DIEGO

<http://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/elections/city/generalelection.shtml>

Campaign \$\$ disclosure: <https://ssl.netfile.com/pub2/Default.aspx?aid=CSD>

Mayor of San Diego:

Carl DeMaio (R)

Bob Filner (D)

San Diego City Council:

Map: http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/voters/Eng/maps/City_Council_Handout_2010v2.pdf

Another Map: <http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/voters/Eng/maps/SDCityCouncilMap.jpg>

District 1: The ONLY district with candidates competing in November's election.

Ray Ellis

Sherri Lightner*

District 3:

Todd Gloria*

District 5:

Mark Kersey

Name:

4

District 7:

Scott Sherman

District 9:

Marti Emerald*

BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

California: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballot-measures.htm>

- Prop 30: Higher taxes for public education
- Prop 31: Establishes a 2-year budget cycle
- Prop 32: Prohibits political contributions by payroll deduction
- Prop 33: New auto insurance rule
- Prop 34: Death penalty repeal
- Prop 35: Human trafficking, penalties, sex offender registration
- Prop 36: Revise 3 strikes law
- Prop 37: Mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods
- Prop 38: Tax for education and early childhood education programs
- Prop 39: Revised Taxes for Multi-State Businesses
- Prop 40: Revising CA state senate district boundary lines

San Diego:

- None as of 8-20-12.