

Election Choices and Changes

An election is a choice. First, citizens have the choice about whether to vote. Then they have to decide which candidates to elect. This election year, voters in the State of Illinois are not voting for their governor. That's because the governor's time in office, called the term, is not over this year. Illinois voters are not electing senators, either. Each state has two senators, each of whom has a six-year term. The two Illinois senators have terms that run past this year. Citizens are electing local government leaders, including state representatives and national representatives. Those leaders will be responsible for making laws of the state and nation.

Every voter in Illinois also will select a President. There are two major political parties, the Democrats and the Republicans. Both parties have a long history that connects with Illinois. For example, Abraham Lincoln was a Republican, and he was nominated for President at a convention in Chicago. Figure out which way you think the vote will go in Illinois this year.

Who will win?

Before you start to survey voters, survey yourself. Complete this chart.

	What I Predict	Why
Who will be selected as President by most voters in the city ?		
Who will be selected as President by most voters in suburbs ?		
Who will be selected as President by most voters in Illinois ?		

Keep your predictions. Then, when you complete your surveys, look at what you thought and see if your survey changes your predictions.

Research and Report

Set up a survey to find out who's next. Your survey can include your class, your family and other members of the community.

Start with your class. Ask members of the class which candidate they choose and why. Here is a form you can use.

Your Choice for President

Candidate	Why You Choose This Candidate	Why You Do Not Choose This Candidate

Record the results of your survey on a list. List the reasons people give for their choices. Also make a tally of the numbers of persons who choose each candidate. Turn that tally into a bar graph. Be sure to include information about any undecided voters.

Discussion Points

- What kinds of things affect the person people want to elect as President?
- If you wanted to change the opinion of voters about one of the candidates, what would you say to them?

Make a prediction. Who will win the election and why?

	What I Predict	Why I Make This Prediction
Who will be selected as President by most voters in my community		
Who will be elected President		

The prediction you make does not have to be the person you would choose for President.

Which of the candidates do you want to be elected?

Write five reasons why you want this person to win the election:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Get It Across

Write a summary of what you learned from your surveys. Write it as a report. Include your survey information in graphs and tables.

Newspaper Connection

Write a newspaper article about what you learned about why voters want one candidate or another.