



California Cadet Corps Curriculum on Citizenship



C2/B: Improve Your Community



Agenda

B1. Voting

B2. Speaking/Testifying to Government

B3. Individual Community Service Opportunities

B4. Unit Community Service Opportunities



VOTING

B1. At your 18th birthday, register to vote, seek information regarding the candidates and initiatives, and vote responsibly in every election.



Voting

OBJECTIVES

Cadets will have a better concept of how they may better serve their community, and will actively seek to do so.

Plan of Action

- At your 18th birthday, register to vote, seek information regarding the candidates and initiatives, and vote responsibly in every election.

Essential Question: What are my responsibilities as a citizen during elections?



Voting Defined

vote

\ 'vōt \

- *intransitive verb*
- **1** : to express one's views in response to a poll; *especially* : to exercise a political franchise
- **2** : to express an opinion; consumers ... *vote* with their dollars—
Lucia Mouat
- *transitive verb*
- **1** : to choose, endorse, decide the disposition of, defeat, or authorize by vote; he was *voted* out of office
- **2a** : to adjudge by general agreement : DECLARE
- **b** : to offer as a suggestion : PROPOSE



Voting in Elections in the USA

American “Electoral System”

- Federal elections every two years
- State & local elections annually
- Plurality votes in primaries
- Majority votes in general elections





Plurality vs Majority

- A *plurality* is an excess of votes over those cast for an opposing candidate
- A *majority* is a number or percentage equaling more than half of a total

<p>Example of Plurality</p> <p>3 candidates run for office Vote results: Candidate #1: 44% Candidate #2: 35% Candidate #3: 21%</p> <p>Candidate #1 wins</p>	<p>Example of Majority</p> <p>3 candidates run for office Vote results: Candidate #1: 44% Candidate #2: 35% Candidate #3: 21%</p> <p>No one wins. Runoff election between Candidates 1 & 2</p>	<p>Example of Majority</p> <p>2 candidates run for office Vote results: Candidate #1: 51% Candidate #2: 49%</p> <p>Candidate #1 wins</p>
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Who Can Vote?

- US Citizens
 - At least 18 years old
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- In most states you can pre-register or register to vote at 16 or 17. You can't actually vote in an election until you're 18
 - In some states you can vote in primary elections at 17 if you'll be 18 by the general election



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Who Can't Vote

- Prisoners serving time for felony convictions (except in Maine & Vermont)*
- People deemed “mentally incapacitated”
- Residents of US territories (Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, US Virgin Islands)
- States have different rules about ex-felons voting. Many can after serving their sentence, some can't, and some allow the ex-felon to petition to have their right to vote restored.
- In some states, people without proper ID or a permanent address



Your Responsibility

- To Vote Responsibly
 - Informed electorate
 - Vote for who & what you believe in
 - Not because someone is handsome, rich, or pays you
 - Research the candidates & issues
 - Most political advertising is marketing – not truth
 - Get your information from reliable, *nonpartisan* sources



Primary Elections

- Held on different dates between FEB and JUN
- Political Parties select their candidate
- May have initiatives

Closed Primary Elections

- Members of a political party vote on who should represent that party in an upcoming election



Open Primaries

- Voters don't need to be affiliated with a political party to vote for partisan candidates
- Highest voted candidate in each party advances to the general election
- California has modified open primaries since 2011 – you may vote for any candidate, and the top two candidates regardless of party advance to the general election (except for presidential candidates)
- You have to request a ballot from another party



Voting by Mail

- You may request a vote-by-mail ballot up to one week prior to the election
- You can request to permanently vote by mail, and will always receive your ballot in the mail
- You can mail in the ballot (no postage required) or drop it at the polling place or at various civic locations prior to the election





Vote Responsibly

- You don't have to vote for everything on the ballot
- Skip a candidate/issue if you don't know anything about him/her/it.
- Spend time to learn the issues, and do your best to determine who/what you believe will happen as a result of your vote





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Electoral College

- The Electoral College consists of 538 electors
- The President is not chosen directly by qualified voters but by a majority vote of at least 270 electors
- Each presidential candidate has pre-assigned electors in each state
- States manage their electors in different ways. Some are proportional from the election, others give all their electors to the party with the majority of votes



Pros of the Electoral College System

- Smaller states get a voice
- The Electoral College helps ensure the election concludes in a timely manner
- The Electoral College accommodates a smooth transition of power



Cons of the Electoral College System

- The Electoral College can disregard the will of the majority
- Swing states have too much electoral power
- Rogue electors add uncertainty into the process



Electoral College vs Popular Vote

- The fundamental advantage of the electoral college is that it gives states with smaller populations a voice in the process
- The primary advantage of a popular vote is that voters, regardless of state, are equally represented in the final national vote tally



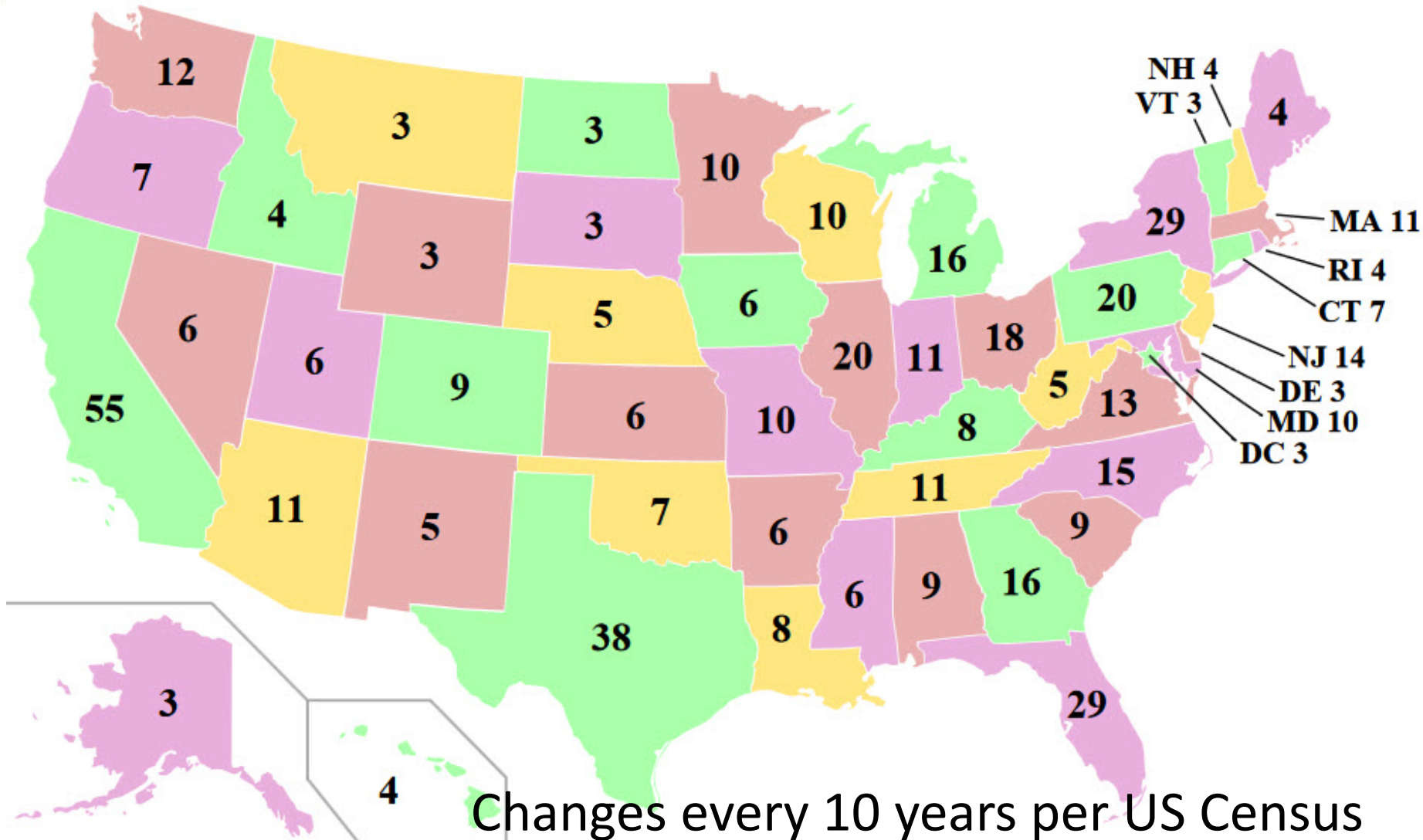
Example

- Colorado's population is ~5.7 million
- Wyoming's population is ~ 576,000
- Colorado has nine electoral votes
- Wyoming has three electoral votes
- Colorado has ~633,000 per electoral vote
- Wyoming has ~192,000 per electoral vote
- *A WY citizen's vote is 3.5 times more valuable than the vote of a CO citizen*



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Electoral Votes Per State





Check on Learning

1. If a candidate wins 55% of the vote, is that a plurality or a majority?
2. How old do you have to be to vote in a general election?
3. When is the latest you can request a vote-by-mail ballot?
 - a) A week before the election
 - b) A month before the election
 - c) When you register to vote
 - d) 21 days before the election
4. What is the primary advantage of the Electoral College system?
5. How many electors does California send to the presidential election?



SPEAKING/TESTIFYING TO GOVERNMENT (SCHOOL BOARDS, CITY COUNCILS, ETC.)

B2. Attend a meeting of your local School Board, determine its procedures (how to get onto the agenda, rules for speaking, how the meetings proceed)



Speaking/Testifying to Government

OBJECTIVES

Cadets will have a better concept of how they may better serve their community, and will actively seek to do so.

Plan of Action

- Attend a meeting of your local School Board, determine its procedures (how to get onto the agenda, rules for speaking, how the meetings proceed)

Essential Question: How can I be successful when I speak at a local government board?



Presenting to Government

- You may have the opportunity to speak before a government entity
 - School Board
 - City Council
- You'll probably be trying to convince them of your point of view
- You need to be persuasive





Why are you There?



The reason for your presentation makes a big difference in how it goes



You may just be present to receive an award or accolade – enjoy it!



You may be fighting for funding or the continued existence of your program – come prepared!



You may be giving them information so they can make better decisions – be professional!



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Basic Guidelines

- Ensure you're on the agenda
- Arrive early
- Dress well
- Stay within the set time limits
- Have support present
- In uniform? Make sure it's squared away!
- Learn about the board – who they are and who supports/opposes your position



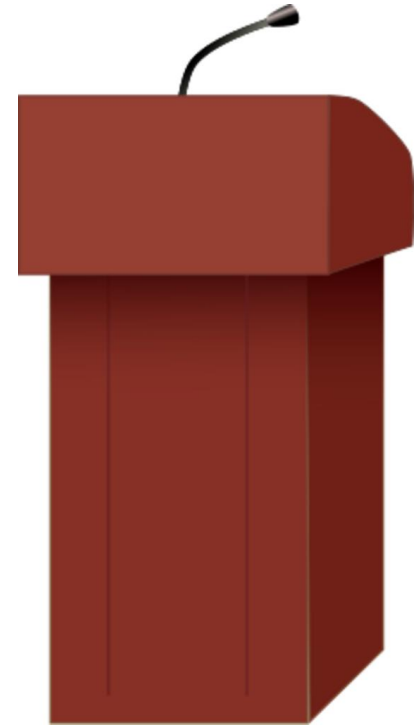
Basic Guidelines

- If it's about the Cadet Corps, consider involving some cadets
- Be organized, have data, supporting documents, etc.
- Be courteous
- Tell your story (briefly)
- Don't waste their time telling them what they already know



Basic Guidelines

- Provide copies of written testimony to members (all board members should receive a copy)
- Don't read your written testimony
- Put key points in priority order
- Be brief!
- Make eye contact
- Answer questions honestly
- Be polite and professional
- Speak from the heart





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Participate in Government!

- Be a part of your community!
- Offer to have your Color Guard open school board meetings or events
- Offer your Color Guard for civic functions
- Get to know local elected officials – make them supporters of the Cadet Corps before you need anything from them





Check on Learning

1. Arrange these guidelines in order of importance:

Be brief

Provide copies to every board member

Be passionate & sincere

Be professional

2. True or False: It's best to not get personal – don't relate your own experience regarding the subject you're speaking about.



INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

B3. Select an individual community service project and spend a minimum of three hours in support of it; ensure your CACC unit logs your hours.



Individual Community Service

OBJECTIVES

Cadets will have a better concept of how they may better serve their community, and will actively seek to do so.

Plan of Action

- Select an individual community service project and spend a minimum of three hours in support of it; ensure your CACC unit logs your hours.

Essential Question: How can I contribute to my community by my actions?



Community Service

- What are the Cadet Corps Core Values?



Community Service

- That's right –
 - Selfless Service
 - Integrity
 - Respect



Community Service - Why

- Our community is “us”
- Be a part – make a difference
- Improve your community
- It makes you a better person
- Other people appreciate & value your service
- It looks good on your resume
- It helps us pass the Annual General Inspection



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Some Ideas for Community Service

- Collect & donate slightly used items – toys, books, clothes, etc.
- Pick up trash – clean up a beach or park
- Volunteer with a community organization
- Send packages to deployed or wounded soldiers
- Assist a neighbor
- Read to children at the library



More Ideas for Community Service

- Volunteer at the SPCA or Animal Shelter
- Tutor kids in a subject you're good at
- Participate in a community event for charity
- Help at non-profit fundraising events
- Help serve or clean up at a local shelter
- Be a mentor to a younger student
- Volunteer at the local library



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More Ideas for Community Service

- Work with special needs kids
- Visit people at elder care facilities
- Volunteer to usher at a local performing arts venue
- Join an organization that helps out in the community – Civil Air Patrol, Police Athletic League, Scouts, etc.



Check on Learning

1. Name three reasons for doing community service
2. How do you benefit from doing community service?
3. Name four ideas for community service



UNIT COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

B4. Participate in a unit community service project with cadets from your CACC battalion



Unit Community Service

OBJECTIVES

Cadets will have a better concept of how they may better serve their community, and will actively seek to do so.

Plan of Action

- Participate in a unit community service project with cadets from your CACC battalion

Essential Question: How can my Cadet Corps unit contribute to our community by our actions?



Unit Community Service

- Encouraged by the California Cadet Corps
 - Makes us as an organization a bigger part of our communities
 - People learn more about CACC & who we are
 - Helps our communities
 - Being integrated into the community makes it less likely the program will be cut from the schools
 - It's a great learning event for our cadets





Unit Community Service Project Ideas



- Similar to individual community service
- Add a larger group of volunteers to a community project – make a difference
- Great planning opportunity for cadet staff
- Good for cadet retention & motivation
- Encourages all community service
- Develops cadets into caring, engaged citizens



Check on Learning

1. Why does the CACC want us to do unit community service projects?
2. Name three local projects your unit could participate in.