

GRADE: 6-12, Intermediate (Lesson 2)

Who is Running for Public Office?

Objectives:

1. The student will identify individuals who are running for office.

Materials and Resources needed:

1. Pencil
2. "Who is Running for Public Office?" Worksheet

Suggested Teaching Time: (30 minutes)

1. (5 Minutes) Remind students that informed voters know who is running for public office.
2. (5 Minutes) Pass out "Who is Running for Public Office?" worksheet.
3. (10 minutes) Log on to www.leonvotes.org and/or <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/candidate/candidate-index.shtml> to show the students who is running for which public offices.
4. (10 minutes) Student activity.

Next Generation Standards for Social Studies:

1. Standard 1: Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law, and the American political system.
2. Standard 2: Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens, and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system.
3. Standard 3: Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, functions, and organization of government.

Optional Lesson Enhancement Resources:

<u>Websites</u>	<u>Web Address</u>	<u>Description</u>
1. Leon County Supervisor of Elections	www.leonvotes.org	Information on Leon County Elections
2. Florida Division of Elections	http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voting/voting-info.shtml or http://election.dos.state.fl.us/candidate/candidate-index.shtml	Information on Florida Elections



Activity

1. Ask the students if they know who will be elected this year.
 - a. Follow up with “Why not?” or “How do you know?”
 - b. Considering prompting the students with questions about the names and public offices they may have seen on campaign signs.
2. Explain to the students that elections are held every even numbered year and that not all public offices are up for election at the same time.
3. Discuss with the students that an informed voter knows which public offices are up for election, who is running for those public offices (the candidates) and the platform (beliefs, opinions, and position on the issues) of each of the candidates.
 - a. Guide the discussion so that the students understand that candidates are people who are running for public office and they are asking people to vote for them in the election.
 - b. A brief discussion about platforms may also be helpful.
4. Pass out the “Who is Running for Public Office?” worksheet. *It is important to be aware that there are many different offices in the federal/state/ and local elections. The worksheet that is provided includes only the most commonly discussed offices.*
5. Log on to the websites, www.leonvotes.org and/or <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/candidate/candidate-index.shtml>, so that the students are able to see who is running for public office. These sites also provide the years the election will be held for the various public offices.
6. As a class, complete the worksheet by checking off the public offices that will or will not be voted on during this election.
7. For the public office positions that are up for election this cycle, list the candidates’ names in the spaces provided.

Name _____

DATE _____

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FEDERAL

YES	NO	PUBLIC OFFICE	CANDIDATES
		President	
		U.S. Senate	
		U.S. Representative	

STATE

YES	NO	PUBLIC OFFICE	CANDIDATES
		Governor	
		State Representative	
		State Senate	
		State Supreme Court	

LOCAL

YES	NO	PUBLIC OFFICE	CANDIDATES
		County Commissioner	
		Superintendent	
		School Board	
		Mayor	
		City Commissioner	

