



ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

What offices are up for election, and what candidates are running? What other questions are on the ballot?

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Students will be able to explore Committee of 70's Voter Guide in order to identify the offices, candidates, and questions on the ballot in the next election.

STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

- PA 5.2.C.D. Evaluate and demonstrate what makes competent and responsible citizens.
- PA 5.3.C.B. Analyze the roles of local, state, and national governments in policy-making.

LESSON DURATION:

50-60 minutes

TYPE OF ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Researching offices, candidates, and questions using the C70 Voter Guide
- ✓ Developing informed opinions of candidates based on research
- ✓ Discussing key takeaways and process observations

MATERIALS:

- Student handout (pp. 2-4)
- Student laptops or desktops with Internet access

Lesson 3: Researching the Local Election

HOOK/DO-NOW (5 MINUTES)

Give students 3 minutes to complete the Do-Now question in their handout: "Would you ever want to run for public office? Why or why not? If so, what position would you run for, and what issues would you campaign on?"

Call on a few students to share their responses.

Introduce today's essential question and lesson objectives.

BALLOT EXPLORATION (30 MINUTES)

Tell students that now that they've learned more about the importance of voting, they're going to learn about how to become an informed voter. They will be researching the offices, candidates, and questions on the ballot in the next upcoming election.

Direct students to the Committee of Seventy's [Voter Guide](https://bit.ly/70guide) at bit.ly/70guide. Tell them that they can use this guide to answer the questions on their handout and research more about their local election. They will be asked to enter their home address to see the candidates running for office within their districts.

Circulate as students work individually or in pairs to answer the ballot exploration questions. Recommended time per section is as follows:

- Offices & candidates exploration: 12 min.
- Ballot questions exploration: 5 min.
- Individual candidate research: 13 min.

If students finish early, they can complete a sample ballot with their preferred candidates.

DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Ask students to share out in response to the following questions with a partner or whole class:

- How was this process? What surprised you?
- Who is a candidate you learned about that excited you?
- What was an office you learned more about today?
- Why is a tool like the Voter Guide useful?

EXIT TICKET (5 MINUTES)

Give students a few minutes to respond to the exit ticket prompt: "Based on the activity today, how can voters prepare before Election Day to be informed voters?" If time allows, ask volunteers to share their responses.



Name _____

Date _____

Period _____

Day 3: Researching the Local Election

Do-Now

Would you ever want to run for public office? Why or why not? If so, what position would you run for, and what issues would you campaign on?

Ballot Exploration

Go to the Committee of Seventy's [Voter Guide](http://bit.ly/70guide) at bit.ly/70guide. Enter your address to find information for your local election.

Which state office is up for election? Which candidates are running in your preferred party?

Office/Position	Candidate(s)

Which county offices are up for election? Which candidates are running in your preferred party?

Office/Position	Candidate(s)



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Which city offices are up for election? Which candidates are running in your preferred party?

Office/Position	Candidate(s)

What other questions are on the ballot in this election?

Question	



Choose three candidates to research who are running in your district. Fill in the candidate profiles based on information you learn about them in the Voter Guide and/or on their websites.

Candidate Name	Office They're Running For	Three Facts/Details About Them	Would you vote for them? Why? Why not?

If time remains, create a sample ballot with the candidates you would vote for!

Exit Ticket

Based on the activity today, how can voters prepare before Election Day to be informed voters?