Teaching Students about citizen participation in a ....

Melanie Kellam
Georgia Center for Civic Education (GCCE)
8th Grade Georgia Studies Content Specialist
melanie.kellam@henry.k12.ga.us

Why is civic education necessary in school?

Civic engagement is very important. We all live here together and we need to look out for one another.

"Our ultimate objective in learning about anything is to try to create and develop a more just society than we have seen."

Yuri Kochiyama, Activist

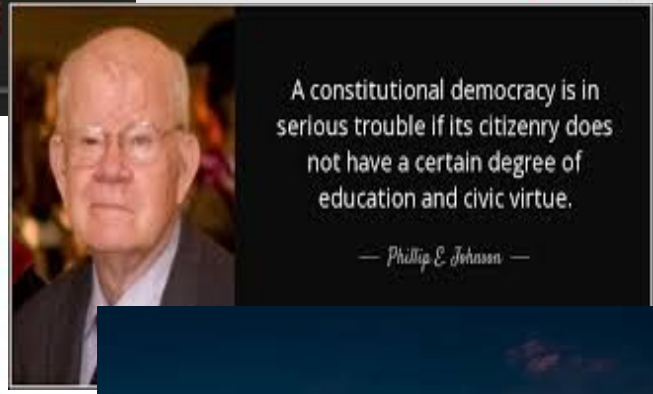
"We have to ask ourselves, what does democracy mean if we're going to incorporate a wide range of civic participation, not just voting? And what are we talking about when we talk about an active citizen?"

Helen Haste
Harvard Graduate School of Education

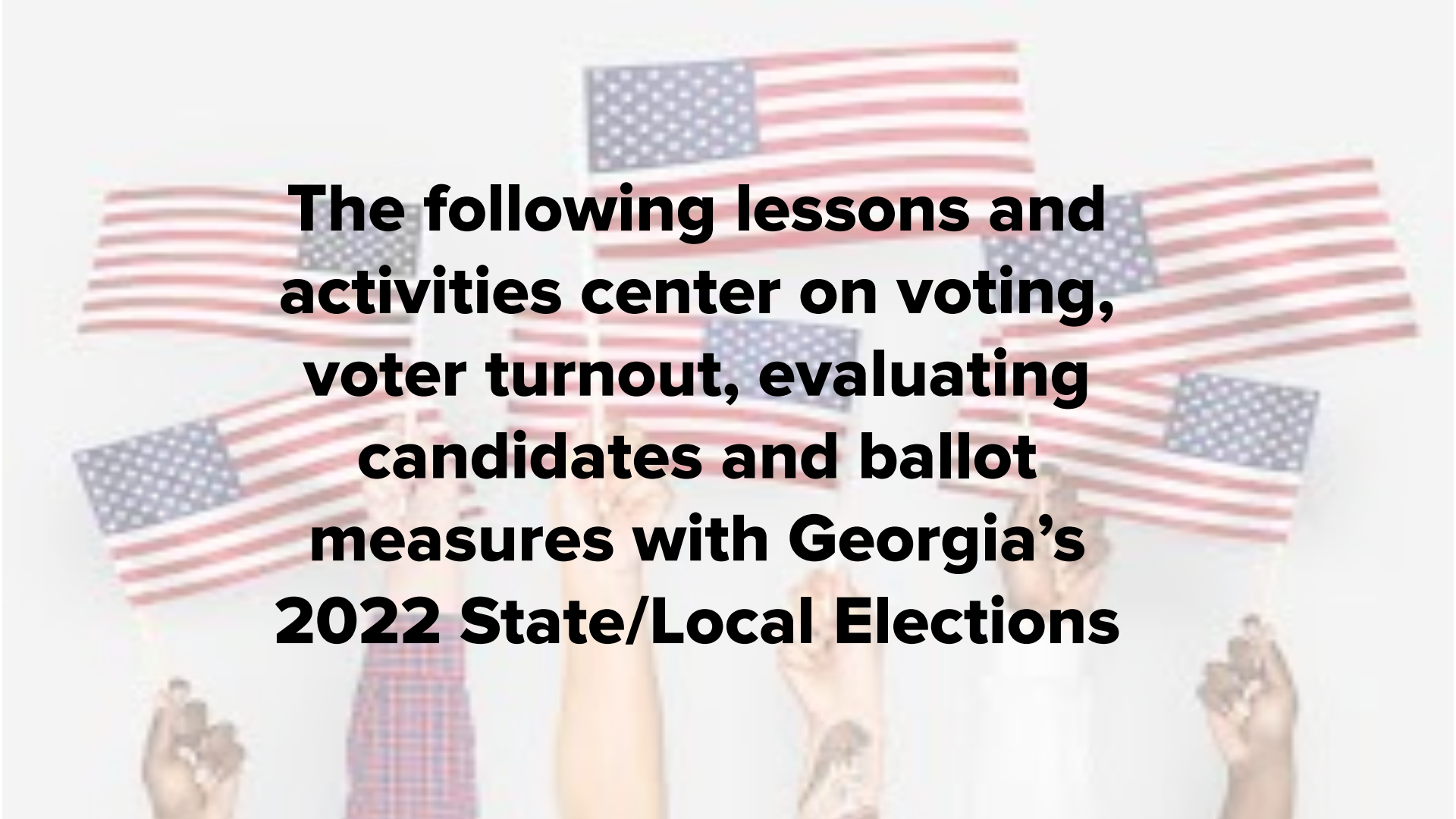
Center for Civic Education
Quotations about Democracy

"RIGHTS THAT DO NOT FLOW FROM DUTY WELL PERFORMED ARE NOT WORTH HAVING."

—Mohandas K. Gandhi



Learning civic participation in an authentic way increases the chances that those students will become active civic participants as adults.



The following lessons and activities center on voting, voter turnout, evaluating candidates and ballot measures with Georgia's 2022 State/Local Elections

Georgia Standards of Excellence:

SS8CG1 Describe the foundations of Georgia's government.
c. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens according to the Georgia Constitution.
d. List voting qualifications for elections in Georgia.

SS8CG3 Analyze the role of the executive branch in Georgia state government.
a. Explain the qualifications for the governor and lieutenant governor and their role in the executive branch of state government.

SS8CG6 Analyze the role of local governments in the state of Georgia.
a. Explain the origins and purposes, of city, county, and special-purpose governments in Georgia.

Day 1: Students need to understand Citizen Rights and Responsibilities

- Introduce the concept of citizenship and responsibility with this video:

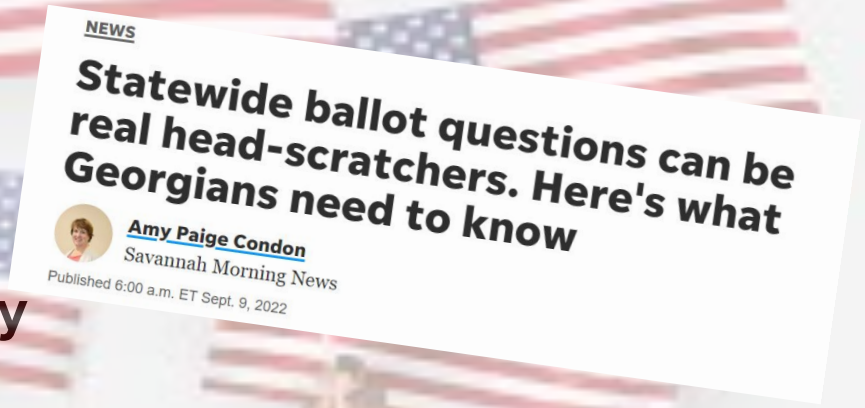
  - Ask students to reflect on what it means to be a citizen of the United States
    - What does citizenship mean? What does citizenship look like?

Day 1 Continued...

- Connect video discussion to voting in state and local elections
- Complete the “Responsible Citizens Vote” and the “In a Democracy, the Majority Rules...Or Does It?” activity
- Reflection Questions: What is an issue that is important to you in your community? Why is it important? Do you think it is important to others?

Day 2: Students need to understand the Importance of Voting

- Read Article
- Complete “How Responsible Citizens Prepare to Vote” Activity
- Which ballot issue do you think is the most important, why? Which ballot issue do you think is the least important, why?



NEWS

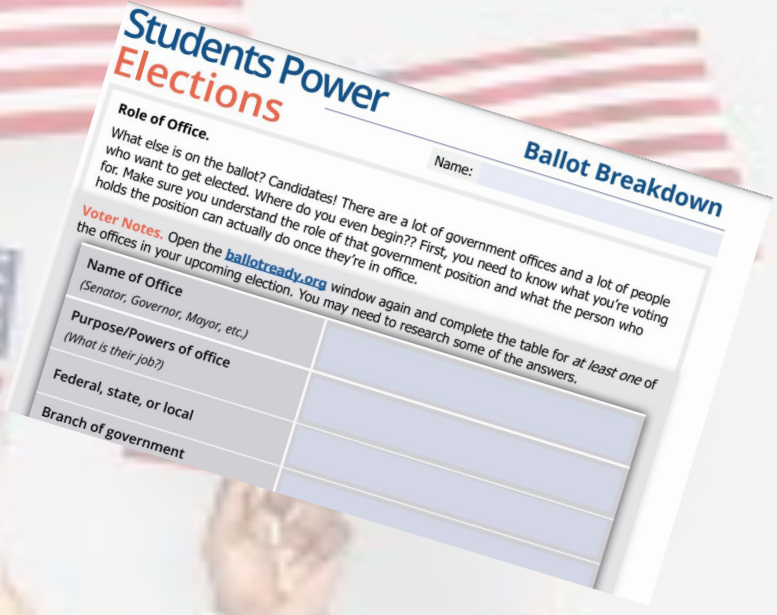
Statewide ballot questions can be real head-scratchers. Here's what Georgians need to know

Amy Paige Condon
Savannah Morning News

Published 6:00 a.m. ET Sept. 9, 2022

Day 3: Ballot Breakdown of Georgia's Race for Governor

- Review Ballot measures
- Complete the breakdown with the governor's race information.
- Create a 5-step process to evaluate candidates before voting
- Reflect on Activity



Students Power Elections

Ballot Breakdown

Name:

Role of Office.

What else is on the ballot? Candidates! There are a lot of government offices and a lot of people who want to get elected. Where do you even begin?? First, you need to know what you're voting for. Make sure you understand the role of that government position and what the person who holds the position can actually do once they're in office.

Voter Notes. Open the ballotready.org window again and complete the table for *at least one* of the offices in your upcoming election. You may need to research some of the answers.

Name of Office *(Senator, Governor, Mayor, etc.)*	
Purpose/Powers of office *(What is their job?)*	
Federal, state, or local	
Branch of government	

Other Election Resources and Games from ICivics

YOUTH VOTE GEORGIA

Youth Vote Georgia is a state wide mock election. The initiative has three components: 1) the mock election for K-12 students, 2) voter registration for eligible high school students, and 3) poll worker recruitment in partnership with the Georgia Secretary of State's Office.

Click Here to Register Your School

2022 Mock Election Flyer

Register your school to

Grades 6-12 will vote for US Senate, Constitutional Officers, and State Legislature