



HOW CAN YOU BE CIVICALLY ENGAGED?

Learn

Learn about your key issues, the candidates and the offices they are running for.

Analyze

Consider if you have enough information to make a decision. Where did you get your information?

Decide

Review what you have learned and make a decision on a candidate or issue that agrees with your beliefs.

Make Your Voice Heard

Consider contacting your representatives so they know the issues that matter to you.

Make sure you vote! This is the most basic duty of civic engagement.

Stay Engaged

It doesn't stop with the poll! Keep up with the winning candidates and issues after you vote. Get involved in your community groups who are affected by these candidates and the issues you care about.

HOW TO BE AN INFORMED VOTER

What does it mean to be an informed voter?

Being an informed voter means being knowledgeable about the issues and positions of candidates when voting. It also means you are able to make decisions without influence from outside factors intended to persuade those who may not fully understand a candidate's platform or ideas

WHAT CAN I DO?

BE AN ACTIVE LISTENER

Candidates will speak about the issues they care about, as well as their plans if elected. Listening actively to those candidates and the campaigns they lead will help you decide.

BE AN ACTIVE RESEARCHER

Researching the issues you care about takes time, but doing this for yourself will allow you to make a better decision on your candidate and the issues most important to you.

USE RELIABLE SOURCES

Don't forget to check your facts and the place where you got your information. Using non-partisan resources means you hear about the issues without an opinion attached.

HAVE A PLAN

Know your rights when it comes to voting and know where you should go to vote.

HIGHLIGHTS IN VOTING HISTORY

THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT UNDER WILSON

Suffragists wanted Wilson's presidency to begin with a message he couldn't ignore. On March 3, 1913, one day before Wilson's inauguration, thousands marched down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington to "march in a spirit of protest against the present political organization of society, from which women are excluded."

In a meeting with women in January, 1917, Wilson told the activists to "concert public opinion on behalf of women's suffrage."



They responded by organizing the Silent Sentinels, a group of woman who stood outside the White House picketing Wilson. Their vigil would continue for two and a half years, consisting of over 2,000 women who stood in silence, enduring harassment, abuse, and in some cases were arrested for "obstructing traffic."

They carried signs which often quoted Wilson directly, using a statement he had made about the war effort, "The time has come to conquer or submit, for us there can be but one choice," against him.

Wilson came to support a national amendment by late 1917, encouraging Democratic Representatives and Senators to vote for it in 1918 and 1919.

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES IN CIVICS

Primary Sources are immediate, first-hand accounts of a topic, from people who had a direct connection with it



When looking at a source (photograph, newspaper article, video, social media post) ask the following:

- Who is in the source?
- Where is the source from?
- What is happening in the source?
- Why is the source there
- How is the source being shared?

Why does this matter?

Understanding how to analyze a source establishes critical thinking skills about what the source is meant to teach, and whether it is a factual source from the moment.

UNDERSTANDING MEDIA IN CIVICS

There are many ways to get news today. Understanding your news source will help you make informed decisions.

Try these steps to consider the source:

Ask Questions: Where did the source come from?
What information could be missing?

Background Check: If the outlet that you are using is known for having complications, consider moving on to a new one.

Expand your horizons: consider checking your source against other sources-do they all say the same thing?

Origin Stories: Go as close to the primary source as humanly possible. You can draw conclusions based on the original experience



Adapted from Rutgers University Libraries "S.I.F.T."