



Sept.
29,
2020

days til Nov. 3!

35

Countdown to Election Day

ENGAGING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN ELECTIONS

WEEK 3: KNOW THE BALLOT!

Countdown to Election Day 2020 is an interactive guide designed to prepare you and your family for this year's election. We have 5 different sections that you can work on each weeknight (about 15 minutes) or you can tackle it all at once!

Why is it so important to vote and involve the whole family?

Elections ensure that a government is chosen by the people, for the people. Research shows that when families are involved in election together kids are much more likely to vote as adults and parents are more likely to show up to the polls. AND Durham benefits by having more engaged citizens now and in the future.

This week we cover:

Know Your Ballot

P.S. Don't forget to share this info with your friends and family.



Share



Share

Did You Know?

Local elections can have a even bigger effect on your life than the presidential election.

Lots of people know who the presidential candidates are and who they will be voting for to be the president. But there is a LOT more than President on the ballot this year, and not a lot of people know who they are voting for down ballot. *But first, what is a down ballot??*

Down ballot elections typically refer to local politicians who are normally overshadowed by the national candidates. But local candidates are typically those that can have a greater effect on your every day life -- your schools, parks, streets,

Visit the KVD 2020
ELECTION PAGE

Sign up to get
Countdown in
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- [Durham County Ballot](#)

#YouthInAction

Any Age, Any Day, Making Change Happen!

Hannah Zimmerman

The youngest elected official in NY history, she got the rules changed so she could be elected at 17. Hannah is also the director at [The Institute for Civic Organizing](#) (TICO), which is a youth driven think tank with the objective of providing political educational resources and creating change through organized civic solutions.

Hannah also had no political background or interest in politics until she attended a summer camp at the University of Michigan. Proving that you don't have to be a political guru to get involved and make a change!

Learn more about Hannah and the work she is doing.

- Read Hannah's interview with Teen Vogue [here!](#)
- Listen to Hannah on [#PassTheMicYouth](#) podcast episode "Mic Drop: Civic Engagement for the Future" on [Spotify](#) and [ApplePodcast](#)

You Can Take Action Too!

Look at your local community or even on the national level, think of things that you would change for the better.

Talk to your parents about your idea and brainstorm what you can do to make the change and how you can do it.



Mark Your Calendar!

Dates You Probabaly Didn't Know About.

libraries, even garbage collection. You might even see some of these people walking around the grocery store!

919.560.7321

EDITOR

Allison Hansen

Hot Tips to Rock the Ballot Booth



Chat Attack

Let's Talk About It.

Make some time during dinner, car rides, or at special family time to slow down and discuss the following points below.

1. Can you think of at least one way that local government affects your life? Now can you do this for state and national as well?
2. Think back through your day and what you did, how did government affect this and at what level? *Example:* woke up & brushed teeth (local provided water); drove out of your city (local & state provided roads), went to school (local provided teachers, materials, state & county provided funding)
3. Which type of government has a larger impact on your life, local, state, or national?

BONUS! Let's Talk About It Pt 2

The video below shows how to have conversations about voting and with adults.

Watch the video and answer the questions below. If you prefer to read the article you can click [here](#) or check it out at tolerance.org.



First Presidential Debate

Presidential debates originated as a chance for Americans to get to know their presidential candidates by listening to their policies, politics, and to understand candidate's personalities. A lot of families wonder if this combination makes for good family-friendly tv.

We have selected some articles below on how to watch the debates as a family and come away from them with positive insights by creating an environment that is conducive to constructive criticism of candidate behavior, and creating impactful conversations on issues discussed during the debates.

Advice on Watching the Debates with the Family

- [OurWhiteHouse.Org](https://www.whitehouse.gov/)
- [GoodHouseKeeping.com](https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/)

Learn More about the History of Presidential Debates

- [Forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com/)
- [pbs.org](https://www.pbs.org/)
- [BillofRightsInstitue.org](https://www.billofrights.org/)

Lots of US Presidents have birthdays in October including Jimmy Carter (Oct. 1), Rutherford B. Hayes (Oct. 4) and Chester A. Arthur (Oct. 5). Learn more about these and other former Presidents at the [Obama White House Archives](https://www.obamawhitehousearchives.gov/)



Cooperative Extension

Kids Voting Durham is a program of the Durham County Cooperative Extension.



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Having the Talk | Story Corner | Classroom Video



Follow up Questions

1. Why did Jeremiah feel like he couldn't ask his parents for help with his special homework?
2. Why is it important for Noelle's grandma to vote?
3. Why does Jeremiah's mom feel like her vote doesn't matter?
4. What facts do I know about voting?

So...What Can We Do?

Take Action!

While not everyone in your family may be old enough to cast a vote that determines who gets elected, everyone can have an impact on elections no matter their age.

Small Things You Can Do This Week That Make A Difference:

Look Up Your Ballot

Check out the Kids Voting Ballot for the younger members of your family and Check out [Vote411](#) to see what candidates are on your ballot, then discuss the candidates and their policies together as a family. Don't forget to scroll all the way down and check out the local candidates.

To make it easy use the [KVD Candidate Evaluation](#) form to rank the candidates on the issues and qualities you decided were most important to you last week.

Other Resources

- [KVD Candidate Guide](#)
- [KVD Ballot](#)