

The Mini Page®

Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
Veteran's Day

What Are Midterm Elections?



photo by John

Mini Fact:
This year's elections are called "midterms" because they fall in the middle of a president's term.

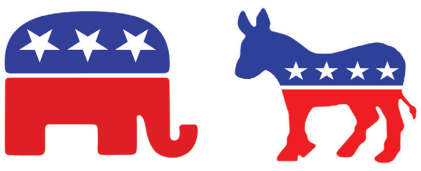
Citizens of the United States elected a new president in 2024, Republican Donald Trump. Our next presidential election will be in 2028.

But two years after a presidential election, there are **midterm elections** to select members of the House of Representatives and some senators.

Midterms are important because they can change the balance of power in Congress. Right now, the Republican Party has a majority of members in the House: 219-212 and in the Senate: 53-47.

Whichever party gains the majority on Nov. 3, they may have specific ideas about what is important and try to change the laws to reflect that.

The Mini Page learns more about midterm elections this week.



Who's on the ballot?

You've probably been seeing a lot of television ads for politicians running for office. Some of them are state or local offices, such as governor or county commissioner. Others are hoping to go to Washington, D.C., to represent their state in Congress.

U.S. representatives are elected to two-year terms, so every two years, all 435 seats are part of the election. We will vote for House members in 2028, too.

U.S. senators are elected to six-year terms. This year, we'll vote on 35 Senate seats.

Midterms matter

Many more people usually vote in **general elections**, when presidential candidates are on the ballot, than do for midterms. In fact, as many as 20% more people may vote when the president's office is at stake.

When midterms roll around, members of the minority party hope voters who are unhappy with the president's policies will cast their ballots for their party's candidates.


photo courtesy of jeffries.house.gov

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries — House Minority Leader


photo courtesy of schumer.senate.gov

Sen. Chuck Schumer — Senate Minority Leader

If the Democratic Party should win a majority in the U.S. Senate or House, they will work against some of the policies of President Donald Trump. When a president's party controls the majority in the House and Senate, it's much easier for them to get their ideas and goals enacted.

Who can vote?

American citizens who are 18 years old or older and who have not been convicted of a **felony**, or serious crime, can vote in elections in the United States.

Election security



Imagine you have an election in your classroom, say, to decide on a class mascot. After the voting, it's important that every ballot gets counted so that every student has a voice in the choice.

After the 2020 general election, some people thought that the ballot boxes and computer systems used to vote weren't secure enough. They believed that some votes had been "tampered with" — stolen or changed so they wouldn't count.

But after investigating cases where voter **fraud**, or dishonesty, was suspected, government agencies decided that the election had been secure.



The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) all agreed that the 2020 election was "the most secure in American history."

Why is election security so important? If people don't believe their votes will be counted, they may not vote at all.

Resources



On the Web:
- bit.ly/4wJq4Cd

At the library:
- "What's the Big Deal About Elections" by Ruby Shamir

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Try 'n' Find



Words that remind us of midterm elections are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

BALANCE, BALLOT, DEMOCRAT, ELECTIONS, GOALS, HOUSE, IDEAS, LEADER, MEMBERS, MIDTERM, PRESIDENT, POWER, REPRESENTATIVE, REPUBLICAN, SENATE, VOTE.

H	K	G	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	S	F	A	P
O	T	D	T	T	A	R	C	O	M	E	D	K	G	O
U	M	I	Y	L	E	C	N	A	L	A	B	L	E	W
S	R	E	D	A	E	L	O	R	I	D	E	A	S	E
E	V	I	T	A	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	E	R	R
B	A	L	L	O	T	M	E	M	B	E	R	S	B	E
N	A	C	I	L	B	U	P	E	R	S	L	A	O	G
A	J	V	O	T	E	B	M	R	E	T	D	I	M	V
M	B	K	B	S	E	N	A	T	E	T	H	F	V	J
A	B	P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	J	R	H	I

Cook's Corner

Roasted Sweet Potatoes



You'll need:
- 3 medium sweet potatoes, peeled
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- pinch of cayenne pepper
- juice of 1/2 lime

What to do:
1. Cut peeled sweet potatoes into 1-inch chunks.
2. Heat oil in 9-by-13-inch baking dish in a preheated 375-degree oven for 5 minutes.
3. Place cut sweet potatoes in heated oil and bake for 20 minutes, stirring halfway through.
4. Meanwhile, mix together brown sugar and spices.
5. After 20 minutes are up, stir to coat potatoes with brown sugar mixture.
6. Roast for another 10 minutes until potatoes are light brown.
7. Drain potatoes on paper towels; transfer to a serving dish and sprinkle with lime juice. Serves 6.

** You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.*

ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook

1. The exchanges of information in writing and speaking (8-letter plural noun) ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
2. To select after careful thinking; to determine what to do (6-letter verb) ☐☐☐☐☐☐
3. Statements that a person will or will not do something (8-letter plural noun) ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
4. The result of making a choice after attentive thought (8-letter noun) ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐



1. The short _____ in the speech earned loud applause.
2. In elections, voters will _____ between candidates.
3. Many citizens make _____ to vote in each election.
4. A voter made her _____ to vote for one party.

Study the definition, when you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Messages, Choose, Promises, Decision

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Mini Jokes



Maeve: What is the capital of Washington?
Mars: W!

Min: Where do polar bears vote?
Miguel: The North Pole!

Eco Note



A U.S. company has received federal approval to test a satellite designed to redirect sunlight onto part of Earth after dark. Reflect Orbital's Eärendil-1 would unfold a roughly 59-square-foot steerable mirror, creating an illuminated area roughly 3 miles wide on the surface. The company says reflected sunlight could extend solar-power production and provide lighting during emergencies. Scientists and environmental groups warn that the technology could interfere with astronomy, distract pilots and drivers, and disrupt the natural light-and-dark cycles of humans, wildlife and plants.

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For later:

Look in your local newspaper for information about midterm elections.

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