The Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office, in partnership with Mississippi Public Broadcasting’s Education arm (MPB), is excited to announce the 2020 theme for our Promote the Vote Program:

**MPB SOCIAL MEDIA CONTEST**

- Statewide Mock Election for President
- “The Future of My Vote” Art Contest for Grades K - 12
- “The Future of My Vote” Essay Contest for Grades 6 - 12

For more information, visit www.sos.ms.gov/PTV.

This year’s “The Future of My Vote” theme will encourage students to “think outside of the [ballot] box” and imagine how the voting process may change over the next 40 years.

Promote the Vote (PTV) is the Secretary of State’s comprehensive K-12 voter education program. There are three components to the program:

- **OCTOBER 29 – MOCK ELECTION DAY**
  BALLOT AVAILABLE AT SOS.MS.GOV/PTV
  TALLY SHEETS DUE TO SOS BY 5 P.M.

- **DECEMBER 4 – ART AND ESSAY ENTRIES DUE**
  ALL MAIL-IN ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY THIS DATE

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2020 PTV Mock Election Guide

The Promote the Vote (PTV) Mock Election is designed to increase awareness and understanding of the elections and governmental process, encourage students to get involved in the process, and, ultimately, create a generation of informed voting citizens.

This year, students will have the opportunity to vote for the President of the United States during a statewide mock election on Thursday, October 29, 2020. The PTV Mock Election is open to all students who attend a Mississippi school or program registered for Promote the Vote. Mock election ballots will be available on our website at www.sos.ms.gov/PTV.

Rules:

1. Teachers must total mock election results on the tally sheet provided on the Secretary of State’s website.
2. To be included in the statewide mock election results, your tally sheets must be emailed to PTV@sos.ms.gov no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, 2020.
3. Polls for the mock election should be open at a time convenient to students and the school’s schedule.
4. The mock election must be conducted strictly for educational purposes.
5. No student may be charged to participate.
6. No student may be denied the opportunity to vote.
7. The mock election may never be used for political purposes.

Ideas for having a successful mock election:

• Let the Secretary of State’s Office know about your mock election. Email PTV@sos.ms.gov or call (601) 359-6344. And do not forget to post two photos and tag @MPBOnline!
• Get your local elected officials involved (Election Commissioners, etc.).
• Engage students in role playing to make casting a vote in the mock election as realistic as possible. Assign roles or tasks to students to conduct the mock election.
• Set up a mock polling place and have it staffed like an actual precinct. Elected officials or experienced poll workers may volunteer to serve as poll workers alongside your students.

Mississippi law states every U.S. citizen who possesses the following qualifications is eligible to register to vote in Mississippi:

• A resident of Mississippi and the county, city, or town for 30 days prior to the election; at least 18 years old (or will be 18 by the date of the next General Election) who is:
  • Not declared mentally incompetent by a court
  • Not convicted of a disenfranchising crime as defined by Section 241 of the Mississippi Constitution or by Attorney General Opinion, unless pardoned, rights of citizenship restored by the Governor or suffrage rights restored by the Legislature.

Once you are registered, you remain registered until you no longer meet one of the qualifications to vote. Although the 2020 General Election’s voter registration deadline has passed, please keep in mind there is never a deadline to register to vote. If you are a teacher with students who are 18 years old or older, please pass out voter registration applications to your class. You may download voter registration applications from our Y’All Vote website (yallvote.ms) or retrieve a stack of applications from your local Circuit Clerk’s Office.

Voter registration forms can be mailed to your local Circuit Clerk’s Office to complete the registration. Registrants should receive a Voter Registration Card at the address listed on their application. Remind students that the registration card only provides information on where a person goes to cast their ballot and does not count as an acceptable form of photo identification on Election Day.

Voter Registration for the Mock Election

Explain to students that everyone is required to register to vote before being eligible to cast a ballot on Election Day. Review the requirements below with your students.

Voter Registration Activity

Idea: If your school is going to participate school-wide in the PTV mock election, have students host a mock voter registration drive during homeroom, lunch, or break time.

• Have students create a voter registration form. As a class, decide what should be included on it. Why are these things important in upholding the eligibility guidelines?
• Have each set of forms organized in alphabetical order by homeroom.
• After each student has created the classroom registration form, ask them to complete the voter registration form (for security purposes, please make sure students do not list their entire social security number or birth date on the form) and turn it in.
• Ask your local Election Commissioner to come speak to your class about the importance of registering to vote and being involved in government.
Voter ID

Explain that Mississippi voters must present an acceptable form of photo ID when voting at the polls. If anyone does not have an acceptable form of ID (listed below), he or she may contact their local Circuit Clerk’s Office and, if they are a registered voter, apply for a free voter identification card. Go over the list of acceptable forms of photo ID. Explain that in an actual election, if someone does not have an acceptable form of photo ID, they can visit the county Circuit Clerk’s Office and have an ID made for free to use on Election Day.

In order to vote in the mock election, you can require students to show a photo ID (student photo ID card).

Mississippi law states all Mississippi voters casting a ballot in person at the polls or casting an absentee ballot in the Circuit or Municipal Clerk’s office must present one of the following forms of acceptable photo ID:

- A driver’s license;
- A photo ID card issued by a branch, department, or entity of the State of Mississippi;
- A United States passport;
- A firearms license;
- A student photo ID issued by an accredited Mississippi university, college, or community/junior college;
- A firearms license;
- A tribal photo ID;
- A United States military photo ID;
- A photo ID card issued by a branch, department, or entity of the State of Mississippi;
- Any other photo ID issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the United States government or any State government; or
- A Mississippi Voter Identification Card.

For more information about Voter ID, visit www.msvoterid.ms.gov.

Mock Election

Idea: Set up a mock check-in table for students to verify registered voters (students participating in the mock election) in the mock poll book. Have students sign a mock receipt book in order to cast a ballot in the mock election.

- Organize poll books (class or school roster) by grade/homeroom and in alphabetical order so names are easy to find. Separate the poll books so several people can be checked in at a time on Election Day.
- Ask students to use spiral notebooks and create receipt books similar to what you would see in an actual precinct. After the student is verified in the poll book (class or school roster), have the student sign the receipt book before voting.
- The school’s art department, student government, drama group, or industrial shop could construct a realistic polling place to be used during the mock election. While actual polling locations are much less festive, encourage students to create a patriotic and exciting environment.
- For mock election purposes, students may use student photo ID cards issued by their respective school or county school district.

SCHOOLWIDE PARTICIPATION

- Just as increased voter participation is needed in regular elections, all students should be encouraged to participate in the mock election. In doing so, educators will be able to emphasize the importance for all citizens to exercise their right to vote.
- Encourage students to represent all candidates for the election in a mock debate.
- Talk to students about turnout in recent years, especially among millennial voters. Host a discussion about why voter turnout has been low.

Mock Election Ballot

This year, students will have the opportunity to vote for the President of the United States during a statewide mock election on Thursday, October 29, 2020. The PTV mock election ballot will be available on our website at www.sos.ms.gov/PTV the morning of Thursday, October 29, 2020. See example below.
ART CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS

• Students’ names and schools will be kept secret from the judges.
• Submissions not conforming to the Art Contest Official Rules will be ineligible for competition.
• Submissions will be judged for content, originality, and artistic merit.
• A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State’s Office.
• First, second, and third place winners will be selected for each grade-bracket.

ART CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES

1. All entries must be delivered to the Secretary of State’s Office or postmarked by Friday, December 4, 2020.
2. Entries may be mailed to Secretary of State’s Office, Promote the Vote Art Contest, 401 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Please tape the entry form to the back of each artwork submission. Please title and describe each piece of artwork on the entry form.
3. Contestants must be enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 12. Designate grade level on entry form.
4. All entries must be original artwork by the student.
5. Artwork must be submitted on 11” x 17” art paper (maximum size; no canvas board, please). Our intent is to preserve the integrity of the student’s artwork.
6. The contestant’s name must NOT appear on the front of the artwork.
7. Only one entry per contest is allowed per contestant. Students may enter multiple contests.
8. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class or school registered for Promote the Vote 2020.
9. Each piece of artwork must be accompanied by the art entry form.

The Secretary of State’s Office will only return submitted entries upon request of the teacher once the PTV program is complete.

2020 PTVMock Election Tally Sheet

Results from your school’s Mock Election must be marked on the Promote the Vote tally sheet below. In order for vote totals to be included in the statewide results, please email your completed tally sheets to the Secretary of State’s Office no later than Thursday, October 29, 2020.

Return Tally Sheets to:
Email: ptv@sos.ms.gov

School Name:______________________________________________________________
Teacher/School Contact:________________________________________________________
Teacher’s Email:________________________________________________________________
Contact Phone Number: ___________________________Grades included:_____________________

Presidential Candidates:

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR. DEMOCRAT
DONALD J. TRUMP REPUBLICAN
DON BLANKENSHIP AMERICAN CONSTITUTION
BRIAN CARROLL AMERICAN SOLIDARITY
PHIL COLLINS INDEPENDENT
HOWIE HAWKINS GREEN
JO JORGENSEN LIBERTARIAN
BROCK PIERCE INDEPENDENT
KANYE WEST INDEPENDENT
ESSAY CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS

• Students’ names and schools will be kept secret from the judges.
• Entries not conforming to the Essay Contest Official Rules will be ineligible for competition.
• Entries will be judged for content, original thought, power of expression, writing style, and grammar.
• A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State’s Office.
• First, second, and third place winners will be announced in each grade-bracket.

ESSAY CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES

1. All entries must be submitted to the Secretary of State’s Office via email by Friday, December 4, 2020.
2. Entries should be emailed to PTV@sos.ms.gov.
3. Entries must be typed, single-spaced, on 8.5” x 11” (letter size) paper.
4. Contestants must be in Grades 6 through 12 in a class or school registered for Promote the Vote 2020.
5. The entry must be the original thought and composition of the contestant alone.
6. Direct quotations from sources must be properly attributed.
7. Only one entry per contest may be submitted by each contestant. Students may enter multiple contests.
8. Each essay must be accompanied by the entry form.
9. Failure to comply with any rule will result in disqualification.

The Promote the Vote essay contest provides students with a chance to express their views on important election-related issues. The 2020 Election Cycle has been extraordinary, prompting several changes to election laws and election procedures. This year’s “The Future of My Vote” theme will encourage students to “think outside of the [ballot] box” and write about how our state’s voting process may change over the next 40 years. All entries must be submitted to the Secretary of State’s Office via email by Friday, December 4, 2020.

ESSAY CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS

• Students’ names and schools will be kept secret from the judges.
• Entries not conforming to the Essay Contest Official Rules will be ineligible for competition.
• Entries will be judged for content, original thought, power of expression, writing style, and grammar.
• A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State’s Office.
• First, second, and third place winners will be announced in each grade-bracket.
2020 PTV ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Check one:

____ Grades 6–8

____ Grades 9–10

____ Grades 11-12

This form needs to be emailed along with the essay entry.

STUDENT NAME: _________________________________________________________

AGE: ___________________ GRADE:_____________________________________

SCHOOL: _______________________________________________________________

TEACHER (Full Name of Student’s Teacher): ____________________________________

TEACHER EMAIL: _________________________________________________________

TEACHER TELEPHONE: _____________________________________________________

SCHOOL DISTRICT: ________________________________________________________

TITLE OF SUBJECT:  ___________________________________________________________________________________

DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT: ____________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________

All signatures are required for submission. Failure to provide all required signatures will result in disqualification.

I hereby certify this entry can be displayed publicly and published via the MS SOS Promote the Vote website or other media.

School/Program Coordinator Signature      Parent/Guardian Signature

I hereby certify this contest entry is original and was completed by myself.

Student Signature
# ACTIVITY – RESEARCHING CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT

**Instructions:**
1. Choose a candidate for President. (Teachers may want to randomly assign candidates to ensure all are equally represented.)
2. Attach any campaign literature or campaign advertisements you may have received or found on the candidate.
3. Research and fill out the information below on your candidate for President.

| Candidate's Full Name: ________________________________________________________________ |
| Website:____________________________________________________________________________ |
| Political Party: ______________________________________________________________________ |
| Age: __________ Place of birth: _________________________________________________________ |
| Education and degrees (high school, college, etc.): __________________________________________ |
| Current Occupation: __________________________________________________________________ |
| Has he/she ever been elected to another political office? Which one(s)?_________________________ |
| How does your candidate describe himself/herself? _________________________________________ |
| Why does your candidate say he/she should be the next President? ____________________________ |
| If your candidate ran in the 2020 Primary Election, how many votes did he/she receive? ____________ |
| If applicable, how many votes did your candidate receive in the 2020 Primary Runoff?______________ |
| What questions do you have for the candidate? ____________________________________________ |
| Add any other interesting information you found about your candidate. _________________________ |

## ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHEET

Fill in the names of the following state and county elected officials currently representing you.

### State Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt. Governor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of State</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorney General</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Auditor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Treasurer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioner of Insurance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Senator(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Representative(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### County Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chancery Clerk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circuit Clerk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Attorney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Coroner</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>County Supervisor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Surveyor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice Court Judge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheriff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Assessor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Collector</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RACE FOR PRESIDENT ACTIVITY – IDEAS FOR TEACHERS

Objective: To increase students’ knowledge of the candidates running for President of the United States and teach them the importance of making an informed decision.

Materials: Poster board, markers, pens

Activities:

1. Split the class into several groups, one for each candidate running for President in the General Election, and assign each candidate to a group.

2. Have students find articles in the newspaper or on the internet that mention their assigned candidate and make a list of reasons to vote for their candidate (issues, personal qualities, political party affiliation, background, etc.). Students should highlight the issues they feel most strongly about to help persuade their classmates on who to vote for.

3. Teachers can also have students give presentations, design pamphlets, make posters, etc., to persuade their classmates to vote for their given candidate.

4. Have each group write an introduction of the candidate based on what they learned in their research. Ask one or two students from each group present a three-minute overview in class. Encourage students to write/speak as if they are invited as a guest speaker for a school assembly.

ACTIVITY IDEA: Have students create charts and graphs to illustrate the percentage of votes each presidential candidate received in the Primary Election and, if applicable, the Primary Runoff Election.

ACTIVITY IDEA: Have students create charts and graphs to illustrate how much money each candidate has received and spent in their race for President.

ACTIVITY IDEA: Host a mock debate in which students research a candidate’s position on a list of topics and answer questions from a moderator as the actual candidate would.

Promote the Vote is a nonpartisan project by the Secretary of State’s Office. This activity should not be used by teachers or school personnel to persuade students to vote for one candidate over the other.

ELECTION DAY WORD SEARCH

B A L L O T

C O N S E R V A T I V E

D E M O C R A T

E L E C T I O N

I N D E P E N D E N T

P O L L

R E P U B L I C A N

U N I T E D S T A T E S

V O T E

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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
2. A politician running for public office
7. Leader of the United States
9. Body of electors who formally elect president/vice president (2 words)
11. Cast a vote for a name not on the ballot (2 words)
12. The younger of the 2 major parties
13. A race between candidates for office
14. Legal voting age

DOWN
1. Document listing alternatives that's used to vote
3. A ballot cast while absent (2 words)
4. To Express one's preference for candidate or measure
5. A document stating aims of a political party
6. Enroll to vote
8. The oldest of the 2 major political parties
9. A vote to select the winner of a position/office
10. Meet to select a candidate or promote a policy

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

ACROSS
2. CANDIDATE
7. PRESIDENT
9. ELECTORAL COLLEGE
11. VOTE
12. EIGHTEEN
14. WRITE-IN

DOWN
1. ELECTE
3. BALLOT
4. CAMPAIGN
5. REPUBLICAN
6. ELECTION
8. CAMPUS
9. ELECTION
10. MEET
Log on to our website for more information and to register your class or school:

www.sos.ms.gov/PTV

2020 PTV CONTACT INFORMATION

www.sos.ms.gov/PTV
401 Mississippi Street
Jackson, MS 39201

phone: (601) 359-6344
fax: (601) 576-2541
email: PTV@sos.ms.gov