

Elections in the United States

Vocabulary

Repeat each vocabulary word and definition after the teacher.

- **Elected** Won an election
- **Local** The level of government for cities and counties
- **County** The level of government between city and state/province
- **Federal** The level of government at the national level
- **Governor** Similar to the president of a state
- **Legislature** The branch of government which writes laws, such as Congress or Parliament
- **Villages** Very small cities, usually between 0-5000 people
- **Political scientist** A scientist who analyzes political activities, political thinking and political behaviors
- **Jurisdiction** Legal power or rights that an organization has to enforce its laws or authority over someone, a subject, or a territory
- **Citizen** A person belonging to a country by birth or by marriage; which passport someone has
- **Register to vote** To sign up officially with the government to be able to vote
- **Izzah** “Is a” (pronounced quickly)
- **t'vote** “To vote” (pronounced quickly)
- **t'make** “To make” (pronounced quickly)

Passage

Read the passage with the teacher, asking questions about content, and then answer the questions on the next page.

The United States **is a** republic, with a government of **elected** officials at the national, state and **local** levels. All members of the **federal legislature**, the Congress, are directly elected by the people of each state. There are many elected offices at state level, each state having at least an elected **Governor** and **legislature**. There are also elected offices at the local level, in **counties**, cities, and **villages**. According to a study by **political scientist** Jennifer Lawless, there were 519,682 elected officials in the United States in 2012. While the **federal** government has **jurisdiction** over **federal** elections, most elections are run at the state level. All U.S. states, except North Dakota, require that **citizens** who wish **to vote** be registered. Traditionally, voters had to **register** at state offices to vote, but in the mid-1990s efforts were made by the **federal** government **to make** registering easier, in an attempt to increase turnout.

Courtesy of Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elections_in_the_United_States

Checking Understanding

1. What type of government does the United States have?
2. How are members of Congress elected?
3. How many elected officials were in the United States in 2012?
4. Which level of government are most elections run by?
5. Which U.S. state doesn't require that citizens be registered to vote?
6. When were efforts made by the federal government to increase voter turnout?
7. How to pronounce "Is a" quickly?
8. How to pronounce "To vote" quickly?
9. How to pronounce "To make" quickly?

Conversation Questions

Take turns asking the questions with your teacher, and if there's any time left over you can free chat

- Are you interested about politics?
- Do you have elections in your country?
- Have you voted before? Who did you vote for?
- Is your country's government organized in the same way as the U.S. government?
- Does your country have county level government? Or maybe just local and state?
- Can you name some politicians from your country?
- Who is your president or prime minister?
- Who is the governor of your state or province?
- Do you follow the news about local politics?
- Do you follow national politics?
- What channels do you watch about world news? CNN? BBC?
- What are some political parties in your country? Which one do you belong to?