

Stamper November 3 4-H Virtual Learning Experience Transcript

[Music]

00:11

hello

00:12

and welcome to the november sessions of

00:14

the kentucky 4-h

00:16

virtual learning experiences my name

00:19

is chuck stamper and i am the extension

00:22

special projects coordinator

00:24

for the university of kentucky

00:25

cooperative extension

00:27

4-h youth development program

00:30

i'm really excited to be here with you

00:33

again

00:34

i really enjoyed earlier presentations

00:38

that we have been able

00:40

to do and so i hope that you will

00:44

enjoy the november sessions as well

00:48

in today's sessions we are going to be

00:50

dealing with

00:52

the election process in the united

00:55

states

00:57

so i have some objectives that i want to

00:59

go over with you

01:01

that will help us as we begin our

01:05

discussion

01:06

first of all i want to cover basic

01:08

definitions that deal with elections

01:11

so throughout the program you're going

01:12

to hear

01:14

some basic terms that you might not know

01:17

or that you may know already we're going

01:21

to

01:22

discuss elections um from

01:25

a historical perspective and see how

01:28

that that process

01:29

has changed over the millennia

01:33

i'm going to introduce the functions of

01:36

elections to

01:37

you and and hopefully you'll understand

01:40

how an election process

01:43

works and then we want to review the

01:46

voting rights and responsibilities

01:49

of u.s citizens as well as

01:52

citizens of the state of kentucky and

01:54

then we want to look at
01:56
who may or may not vote in the united
01:59
states
02:00
and kentucky i want to show you a sample
02:03
valid
02:04
ballot and then also we're going to
02:08
to end with a little activity that i
02:10
think that you will enjoy
02:12
now to be able to do uh the activity
02:16
at home you will need to have some sort
02:20
of container
02:22
that will have a lid that will close
02:25
that that you can't see
02:27
into it would be best you could use a
02:30
paper bag you could put
02:32
a box like i have
02:36
then you need something to write with um
02:38
i chose this
02:39
purple uh because um i think it's really
02:43
neat
02:44
um because in the united states
02:47
um you know one of our political parties
02:50

is red the other one was blue i hope
02:54
that you
02:54
think purple and that you research
02:57
the candidate that fits your value set
03:02
and uh you choose to vote for
03:05
that candidate uh and and not
03:08
vote just for party party is important
03:12
yes to some people but make sure that
03:14
you
03:15
vote for the person that you have
03:17
researched
03:18
and you feel is the best candidate to
03:21
suit the position
03:22
that's why i chose purple as a mixture
03:25
of red
03:26
and blue and then i also think that it
03:29
would be easier for you to have some
03:30
sort
03:31
of paper to
03:34
to write on so i i chose these little
03:38
really neat colored index cards
03:44
all right let's begin our discussion
03:47

so first of all let's think about what
03:50
actually an election
03:51
is so the britannica online encyclopedia
03:56
defines an election as the formal
03:59
process
04:00
of selecting a person for public office
04:04
or accepting or rejecting
04:07
a political proposition all right so
04:11
so that's something that we want to make
04:13
sure that we understand
04:15
so an election does not just cover
04:19
filling a person into
04:22
an elected position or seat all right
04:25
so an election can also be
04:29
by accepting or rejecting
04:33
a proposition now that rings true for us
04:36
here in the state of kentucky this year
04:38
because we have two constitutional event
04:42
amendments that are being voted on and
04:44
we'll discuss
04:45
more about that later so let's now
04:48
think about uh elections uh
04:51

in in history now now

04:55

as we look back through historical

04:57

writings

04:59

we uh we find that elections are not

05:02

just an american theme

05:04

you know or a north american ideology

05:08

actually elections have been used for

05:10

centuries

05:12

we can find them in ancient athens

05:16

in ancient rome and um

05:19

and you know that's really awesome that

05:21

we can look

05:23

uh and and see

05:27

over history uh how our election process

05:30

has

05:31

have changed and so um

05:34

you know what we would consider the

05:37

the modern uh idea of elections

05:40

actually started happening happening uh

05:43

in the 17th and 18th century

05:46

in what we would consider the modern

05:49

world

05:51

what i thought was really interesting is
05:53
when i did the research for this
05:56
uh we found that the first uh recorded
06:00
election process uh could be traced
06:03
back to 754 bc
06:07
in sparta isn't that interesting
06:10
all the way back uh to 754
06:13
bc so the the office that they were
06:16
electing was called an
06:18
e4 e-p-h-o-r
06:21
which was basically what we would
06:25
consider
06:25
consider a magistrate so it was a
06:29
spartan
06:30
matter magistrate and there were five of
06:33
those that were elected
06:34
annually to serve under the king
06:38
to be his advisers but also
06:41
to make sure that the uh that the king's
06:46
authority was was followed by the people
06:49
and so they were to make sure uh
06:52
to dispense authority uh you know there
06:55

were
06:55
they weren't police or they weren't
06:57
guards or anything like that
06:59
they were more of a administrators
07:03
and um it was really interesting though
07:06
that even back in
07:07
that time in sparta every adult male
07:10
citizen was
07:12
eligible uh to to vote
07:15
in the election but also to run
07:18
for election and that was held annually
07:21
and then the winners of those elections
07:24
for uh
07:24
e4 uh would actually have to swear
07:28
an oath to the king monthly so it's kind
07:31
of interesting
07:32
yes they were allowed to vote freely for
07:35
those that were eligible
07:37
but they still had to swear allegiance
07:39
to the king monthly
07:41
to make sure they were following his
07:43
authority
07:46

you know we take for granted and and we
07:48
think in the united states that
07:50
that we equate elections with uh
07:54
democracy and that's not really true
07:58
you know even in the modern world
08:02
we find that that most
08:05
countries and nations of the world
08:08
hold some sort of formal election
08:11
but the difference between what happens
08:13
in other parts of the world and in the
08:15
united states
08:16
is that we actually uh
08:20
allow for competition and that
08:23
in our elections you know people can can
08:26
uh or candidates can run against each
08:30
other
08:31
and the electorate or those people who
08:35
are
08:35
eligible to vote are the ones who
08:38
elect so you know we we had that
08:41
historical
08:42
um uh thought about even back
08:45

in in the spartan times uh that
08:48
uh that elections were being held
08:53
you know we really did not see a thought
08:56
about free elections up until the 18th
09:00
century
09:01
when you see across the world there was
09:04
this desire for freedom
09:06
and and people including the united
09:10
states
09:10
rolls up against those ruling uh
09:13
kingdoms and monarchies or oligarchies
09:16
and and uh wanted to create
09:20
self-rule or self-government
09:23
and and this idea of
09:26
one person one vote you know
09:29
came up during this transitional period
09:32
in the 18th century and
09:36
um you know and and and people
09:39
were using a term that we call now
09:43
suffrage s-u-f-f-r-a-g-e
09:47
and uh suffrage meant uh
09:50
you know the process of getting the
09:52

right
09:54
to vote in elections
09:57
so now let's quickly think about what
10:00
are the functions of elections because
10:02
we really don't think about that
10:04
about how important uh participation in
10:06
elections are
10:08
elections allow us
10:11
the fundamental fundamental contribution
10:14
to participate
10:15
in what we consider
10:19
a republic with democratic principles
10:23
and that's what the united states
10:24
actually
10:25
is under now you know
10:29
before there was this population boom in
10:32
modern society
10:34
direct democracy where one you know each
10:37
person's individual vote were counted
10:41
and and went to decide uh local
10:43
elections
10:44
you know that that was important that is
10:47

very
10:48
hard to do and and practic for
10:50
practicality purposes
10:52
now and so we have what we call a
10:54
representative democracy
10:56
and so we in the united states represent
11:00
or uh you know vote for and elect
11:04
those people that we want to represent
11:07
us
11:07
either at local state and national
11:10
levels
11:10
and then they will vote
11:13
take part on on the rule-making process
11:18
and so elections also enable voters
11:21
to select these leaders and hold
11:24
them a candle accountable for their
11:26
actions if they don't
11:28
like what they do they vote them out you
11:31
know that that's what our
11:33
our process is in the united in the
11:36
united states
11:37
elections also reinforce
11:41

a political integration so what that
11:43
means
11:44
is that that you know we have sort of
11:47
common experiences in the united states
11:50
for instance a lot of us on here
11:53
have common experiences in 4-h so that
11:56
ties us together
11:57
because there are certain norms that go
12:00
along with the 4-h program
12:02
so elections do the same thing
12:05
elections help facilitate a social
12:08
and political integration of of folks
12:12
who
12:12
are like-minded in their belief center
12:16
belief systems and that's really
12:18
important when you look at it
12:20
and also elections serve by
12:24
giving self-worth and dignity
12:28
to individual citizens because look at
12:31
it
12:31
hey i have the right to elect the
12:34
persons who are going to lead my
12:36

community
12:37
lead my state and lead my nation and so
12:40
that
12:40
helps to to build that self-respect
12:44
and so uh you know that's really
12:46
important for us to have that
12:48
sense of belonging and that's what we
12:51
try to do uh in
12:52
in our 4-h program also is develop that
12:56
sense of decision-making
12:58
leadership and sense of belonging as
13:00
well
13:02
now let's look really quick at uh some
13:05
the the
13:06
voting rights i get asked that a lot is
13:09
you know how long has um the voting
13:13
um voting process or election process
13:16
been happening
13:16
in the united states well ever since the
13:19
constitution was ratified
13:22
that's when uh the the voting process
13:26
was started um you know um
13:29

it even it dates back to article one
13:33
section 2 of the constitution which
13:36
gave rights give the states the
13:39
responsibilities
13:41
of overseeing federal elections
13:45
now if you look at article 1 and section
13:48
2
13:49
you know it it really is awesome because
13:53
you know at that time we were called the
13:54
american experiment
13:56
because no other modern nation had
14:00
set tried to set up self-government
14:03
and self-rule by the people
14:06
and and that is something that we should
14:08
be very proud of
14:10
article 1 section 2 states that
14:15
that there should be a house of
14:18
representatives
14:19
that are uh elected uh by direct
14:23
election by the people of the several
14:26
states
14:28
now when that was ratified we still
14:31

did not allow everyone to vote
14:34
there were only certain qualifications
14:37
uh
14:37
for people to vote you know it was
14:41
um white males who were landowners
14:44
of a certain age there were people who
14:47
were excluded
14:48
at that time particularly women
14:54
african-american men native of american
14:57
men
14:58
and women uh both but there were some
15:01
white men that were also um
15:04
that were also excluded as well um
15:07
if they did not own property or a
15:10
certain amount of property then certain
15:12
local elections would not allow them
15:15
to vote you know there was a
15:18
benjamin franklin is attributed to
15:22
to saying in in public hey
15:25
don't make that decision that that
15:27
people have to
15:29
own land or a certain amount of land
15:31

before they can vote

15:32

because it was the common man

15:36

who vote for freedom of this nation

15:39

and um and that was really neat to learn

15:42

as well so

15:46

there have been and what is really

15:48

awesome about

15:49

our the united states uh constitution

15:52

is that it is viable now a viable

15:55

constitution means that it can be

15:57

ratified or it can be amended

15:59

based on the needs of the people at the

16:01

time

16:02

so there have been some constitutional

16:04

amendments that affect the voting rights

16:07

of american citizens for instance the 15

16:10

amendments

16:12

15 amendment was ratified in 1870

16:16

which gave african-american men the

16:18

right to vote

16:20

the 19th amendment ratified in 1920

16:24

gave american women the right to vote

16:27

the 24th amendment

16:29

ratified in 1964 eliminated

16:32

poll taxes and poll taxes have become a

16:35

burden

16:36

for um poor people and also

16:40

uh uneducated people or

16:43

people that did not make a certain

16:45

amount of money because they were

16:47

um they were taxed before they could

16:49

vote and it

16:50

it was is really sad that that was used

16:53

to keep people from voting

16:55

and then the 26 amendment which was

16:58

ratified

16:58

in 1971 lowered

17:02

the voting age nationally for all

17:05

elections

17:06

to 18 because before then it was

17:09

inconsistent based on state

17:13

now some of the most important acts

17:16

that i think that have been created to

17:18

protect our voting

17:20

rights have been the civil rights acts

17:24

the first of these were passed in 1870

17:28

along with the the amendment to allow

17:31

african americans the right to vote

17:34

and then there were other changes like

17:37

in 1957

17:39

1960 1964

17:42

but a big one that was monumental

17:46

was the voting rights act of 1965

17:50

which prohibited voter discrimination

17:53

based on race

17:55

color membership in the language

17:58

minority group and it also required

18:01

uh places to offer election materials

18:06

in language other than english

18:10

and so there are some voter uh

18:14

voter rules and regulations in kentucky

18:18

as well and so i wanted to go over

18:21

uh those with you uh really quick

18:26

so in kentucky and this is a new rule

18:29

this was the senate bill 2 uh

18:32

that was passed uh last year it went

18:35

into effect on july

18:37

15 2020. any person who votes in the

18:42

state of kentucky

18:43

at local or state or national elections

18:47

in the state of kentucky must have a

18:50

valid

18:50

foldal id now what does

18:54

valid mean that means that it must be

18:57

issued by a reputable organization

19:00

and it must have the nate name of the

19:03

individual

19:04

and a photograph of that individual

19:07

now some of these that are used are can

19:10

be a

19:11

state issue driver's license military

19:14

ids

19:15

college ids or a kentucky government id

19:19

card

19:20

which can be gotten if you choose not to

19:23

have a driver's license

19:26

so now is voting mandatory in the united

19:29

states

19:30

no it's not no law has ever been
19:34
passed that required or made
19:37
voting mandatory all right there have
19:40
been
19:41
uh propositions there have been uh
19:43
ballots
19:44
that that would make uh voting mandatory
19:47
in some states
19:48
but that has never been passed for u.s
19:50
citizens
19:52
and so that's something to remember as
19:54
well
19:55
so who can vote in elections in the
19:58
united states
19:59
first of all if you are a us citizen
20:03
you can vote if you um meet your state's
20:07
residency requirements if you are
20:10
18 years old um on or before
20:14
the election day and if you are
20:16
registered to vote
20:17
in that state now there are some states
20:20
like north dakota
20:21

that does not require voter registration
20:25
but you still have to be a citizen and
20:28
vote
20:30
so now who does that mean can't vote
20:33
non-citizens can't vote and that
20:36
includes permanent legal residence
20:40
some people with certain level uh or
20:42
categories of
20:44
felony convict convictions cannot vote
20:48
some people who are and the term is cons
20:52
called mentally incapacitated um
20:55
and and some people who are mentally
20:58
incapacitated
20:59
are not allowed to vote and that varies
21:02
per state as well and then this is
21:05
interesting and some people may not know
21:07
this
21:08
but u.s citizens who reside in u.s
21:11
territories are still not allowed to
21:14
vote for president
21:15
in the general election
21:19
so if you are interested in in learning
21:23

more about who can vote where to vote

21:26

and how to vote please check with the

21:30

kentucky

21:31

state board of elections if you go

21:35

to www.ky.gov

21:40

you will be able to click on a link

21:43

to kentucky state board of elections

21:46

and you will be able to access more

21:50

of our election rules and also

21:54

during this time of a pandemic

21:57

the changes that have been allowed

22:00

for this voting rotation only

22:04

so now let's look at a sample ballot

22:09

so let's say that that i went to a

22:13

voting precinct

22:14

all right and and and um followed the

22:18

directions and

22:19

were uh signed in all right

22:22

and so i was found to be an eligible

22:25

voter all right so the first thing it

22:28

will show me

22:29

it will ask me if i want to vote

22:31

straight

22:32

party well in the united states we have

22:35

a primary

22:36

two party system republican

22:40

and democrat now there have been

22:44

enough people who wanted to and are

22:47

registered as libertarians and

22:50

in certain states and federally and

22:54

so they uh have added that

22:57

as well okay especially uh like in this

23:00

sentence uh

23:01

in in the united states all right

23:05

so if you wanted to vote straight party

23:08

that meant that if i clicked on

23:10

republican

23:11

that means that only people who are

23:14

registered

23:15

uh or running as on the republican

23:18

ticket would get my vote

23:20

the same as if i picked democrat or

23:24

libertarian and so i i can't tell you

23:28

what to do

23:29

and you may want to vote straight party
23:31
that's up to you
23:32
but what i ask that you do is research
23:35
each
23:36
candidate make sure that the candidate
23:39
that you
23:40
vote for follows your
23:43
value set remember that person is going
23:47
to be
23:48
representing you on some very important
23:51
decisions now um
23:55
this is what a sample ballot for
23:57
president
23:58
looks like okay all right so it has
24:02
the major um the major candidate
24:05
political parties
24:07
all right and so it has um democrat
24:10
it has republican it has independent
24:13
and it has libertarian all right and and
24:16
so
24:17
you are able to choose
24:20
uh in this instance whomever you want
24:23

for the president
24:25
and also the vice president now that has
24:28
changed in the united states at one
24:31
point
24:32
in the united states whoever got um
24:35
the uh who in the in the early years
24:38
whoever got the most votes
24:42
was president and then whoever got
24:44
second most
24:45
votes was uh was vice president
24:49
in today's voting uh each
24:53
political party has a platform
24:56
and they usually will have a
24:58
presidential candidate
25:00
and a vice presidential candidate and
25:02
they run together
25:03
and and so you are able to choose that
25:06
now i wanted to also go and so that's at
25:10
the federal level
25:11
uh like in kentucky we have a
25:17
people who are elected at the state but
25:20
we will
25:20

elect us or represent us also at the
25:23
federal election
25:24
and uh for instance one of our senators
25:27
is running this year
25:29
uh for or one of the seats for senator
25:32
is running and so uh so one of the
25:35
things that people may vote for
25:38
uh is our u.s
25:41
us state senator
25:46
another thing that that you may
25:50
vote for is is the representative
25:53
who will represent us as well in
25:56
kentucky
25:58
and then of course there are local
26:01
ballots so this is actually
26:03
um a local ballot for uh for johnson
26:07
county
26:07
and so if you don't live in johnson
26:09
county or
26:11
in this district then you would not have
26:14
these names appear on your ballot
26:18
now one of the things i talked about
26:20

earlier is
26:21
that in addition to voting for people
26:25
but sometimes there are amendments to
26:28
the constitution
26:30
or propositions that that you will be
26:34
able to vote for
26:35
and so like in kentucky we have two
26:38
amendments to our constitution that are
26:41
being voted for
26:42
and instead of voting for a person you
26:44
would vote yes you agree with that
26:47
or no you do not agree with that
26:52
as we conclude today i wanted to give an
26:55
activity that you and your family can do
26:57
at home
26:59
why not have a home election
27:03
work with your family look up the the
27:05
sample
27:06
ballot choose the ballots uh the the
27:09
elections
27:10
that uh deal with your family uh whether
27:14
you live
27:14

locally you know what's going to be
27:16
elected state at the state level
27:18
and also our federal election you know
27:22
research the candidates look over them
27:25
find the person that suits you and
27:28
follows
27:29
your value set and then have a family
27:33
election or a home
27:34
election remember when i told you about
27:37
getting a
27:38
a box so we could do it the way that you
27:41
know
27:42
the way that it was done in a direct
27:45
democracy
27:46
and see who gets the most votes so
27:50
take a card like this and write down
27:54
who that you would vote for in a certain
27:57
election so if i wanted to vote for
28:00
president i could vote for this person
28:06
and since our voting pers process
28:09
is is really a privilege and no one
28:13
has to know who you vote for then i've
28:16

just scribbled this
28:18
to represent a name and then you can
28:21
fold it so that no one can see it even
28:23
by accident
28:25
and place it in the box
28:28
after every person has had the
28:30
opportunity in your family
28:32
or household to vote then
28:36
together you can open up the box
28:40
take out each of the uh choices
28:44
or the the the votes and count them
28:47
and see who would win the election
28:51
in your home if you were the electorate
28:56
i hope that you have had a good day uh
28:59
watching this i hope that you can come
29:02
back to it
29:02
if you need to please feel free to
29:05
contact us
29:07
at the kentucky state 4-h youth
29:09
development office
29:10
for more information on civic education
29:13
and civic engagement programs this has
29:16

been chuck stamper

29:17

with the university of kentucky

29:19

cooperative extension 4-h program

29:22

and we hope that you have a blessed

29:24

november

29:29

[Music]

English (auto-generated)