

## TEACHER CRITICAL CONTENT NOTES

### BENCHMARK

**SS.3.CG.2.2** *Describe the importance of voting in elections.*

### BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS

- Students will recognize that it is every citizen's responsibility to vote.
- Students will explain the importance of voting in a republic.

### WHERE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN

2nd Grade

SS.2.CG.2.2 Describe the characteristics of responsible citizenship at the local and state level.

- Students will identify characteristics of responsible citizenship (e.g., peaceable assembly, obeying the law, community involvement).
- Students will identify characteristics of irresponsible citizenship (e.g., disorderly assembly, breaking the law).
- Students will describe the contributions of the diverse individuals and groups that contribute to civic life in the United States and Florida.

### WHERE STUDENTS ARE GOING

4th Grade

SS.4.CG.2.2 Explain the importance of voting, public service, and volunteerism to the state and nation.

- Students will explain how voting, public service, and volunteerism contribute to the preservation of the republic.
- Students will discuss different types of public service and volunteerism.

### TIMING/PACING NOTES

- This benchmark may be addressed during any part of the school year.
  - It is important to note if it is an election year as that may impact the timing in which the teacher chooses to address this benchmark.
- This benchmark may be taught alongside SS.3.CG.2.1 which addresses civic virtues.
- This benchmark may be taught alongside SS.3.CG.1.2 which addresses how the government gains its power from the people.
- There will be numerous times throughout the school year when a teacher can demonstrate responsible citizenship through class votes.

### UNDERSTANDING THE BENCHMARK

→ What to know:

- ◆ Describe can mean: write, tell, explain, or justify
- ◆ A constitutional republic is a form of government in which there is democratic voting, but governmental power is limited by the existence of a constitution that protects the rights of citizens
- ◆ The terms democracy and constitutional republic are not interchangeable
- ◆ To be eligible to vote in local, state, and federal elections one must meet eligibility criteria such as: citizenship requirements, residency requirements, age requirements, and registration requirements
- ◆ Voting is not mandatory
- ◆ Voting is a civic duty and a responsibility of citizens
- ◆ A right is given to every citizen; it does not have to be earned
- ◆ Responsibilities are good actions that citizens take in order to benefit their community
- ◆ Being an informed voter is also a responsibility of citizens
- ◆ Voting rights for Americans are addressed in the 15th, 17th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Amendments as well as the Enforcement Act of 1870 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965

→ Main concepts to teach:

- ◆ The concept/definition of voting
- ◆ American citizens vote in local, state, and federal elections
- ◆ Every citizen has the responsibility to vote
- ◆ Voting is important to a republic

→ Examples:

- ◆ Important reasons to vote:
  - Civic duty, every vote makes a difference, elected officials represent the people, opportunity to have voices heard, many people fought for the right to vote, etc.
- ◆ Voting is important to a republic:
  - “We the People”

## CONTENT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

More information on voting and legislation:

1. [National Geographic: Voting](#)
2. [The Whitehouse: Elections & Voting](#)
3. [U.S. Constitution: Amendments.](#)
4. [USAGov: Who Can & Can't Vote](#)
5. [United States Election Project](#)
6. [Library of Congress: The Founders and the Vote](#)
7. [Florida Supervisors of Elections: Voter's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities](#)