

How to Use the KVD Election Guide

Group Leader Notes and Guide



KVD MISSION

Kids Voting Durham helps youth under 18 understand and believe in the power they have as engaged civic participants and informed voters. Through a combination of classroom supports, youth voice activities, family engagement, and an authentic voting experience, Kids Voting Durham is helping to grow a generation rich in civic knowledge, skills, and agency.

NONPARTISAN APPROACH

These activities and discussions should be led from a nonpartisan approach. Below are some reminders and tips. For further information on leading from a nonpartisan approach, visit our [Guide to Remaining Nonpartisan](#).

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW + PURPOSE

This activity allows youth to engage with the [KVD Election guide](#). Seasonally, the KVD election guide is updated to reflect upcoming elections. Kids Voting Durham has various forms of the election guide so that it can easily fit your needs. Upon completion of this activity, youth should be able to:

- Understand the purpose of an election guide.
- Use an election guide to access information about candidates.

TIME

There are three versions of this activity available to you depending on the amount of time you have (15 minutes, 30 minutes, and 45 minutes).

MATERIALS

Listed below are provided resources that can be printed and used in these activities. *Note: Not all materials will be used in every version of the lesson due to time constraints. Please look at the details for the activity length you chose.*

1. [KVD Election Guide](#) (This link directs you to the website of options- you can pick the guide you wish to use.) or a print version of a local election guide
2. [Election Guide Newspaper Activity](#) for ages 5-11 OR [Election Guide Campaign Buttons Activity](#) for ages 5-11 (access to either printed versions of the election guide OR Internet access is necessary)
3. [Election Guide Scavenger Hunt Bingo for ages 12-18](#) (access to either printed versions of the election guide OR Internet access is necessary)
4. [Blank Candidate Scorecard](#)

onal activities found outside of website by a Google Search of “Kids Voting USA activities”)

IF YOU HAVE 15 MINUTES

- Tell youth that today they get to explore an election guide. An election guide is a tool that shares information about issues, candidates, and voting. Youth who partner with Kids Voting Durham create a guide for youth. This guide simply shares information and facts fairly so that youth can decide who to vote for themselves. Then, break youth into these two activities based on their ages.

Activity for Younger youth (Ages 5-11)

Activity for Older youth (Ages 12-18)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● youth will need access to the current or most recent KVD election guide for elementary youth (either digitally via the Internet or printed out copies). ● youth can work in small groups, pairs, or on their own to complete either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ this newspaper template that tells people about the upcoming election <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ these campaign buttons that tell people about individual candidates' promises and beliefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● youth will need access to the current or most recent KVD election guide (either digitally via the Internet or printed out copies). ● youth can work in small groups, pairs, or on their own to complete this election guide scavenger hunt bingo game by exploring the guide in more detail.
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IF YOU HAVE 30 MINUTES

Part One (5 minutes)

- Have youth fill in this sentence on a sticky note, scrap piece of paper, or notecard.
 - I **think** that an election guide will tell me _____.
- Allow time for youth to think, draw, and write their answers.

Part Two (20 minutes)

- Tell youth that today they get to explore an election guide. An election guide is a tool that shares information about issues, candidates, and voting. Youth who partner with Kids Voting Durham create a guide for youth. This guide simply shares information and facts fairly so that youth can decide who to vote for themselves. Then, break youth into these two activities based on their ages.

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Part Three (5 minutes):

- Have youth fill in this sentence on a sticky note, scrap piece of paper, or notecard.
 - Now, I **know** that an election guide will tell me _____.
- Allow time for youth to think, draw, and write their answers. Ask if what they thought about election guides changed. Ask for volunteers to share their final responses.

IF YOU HAVE 45 MINUTES

Part One (20 minutes)

- Tell youth that today they get to explore an election guide. An election guide is a tool that shares information about issues, candidates, and voting. Youth who partner with Kids Voting Durham create a guide for youth. This guide simply shares information and facts fairly so that youth can decide who to vote for themselves. Then, break youth into these two activities based on their ages.

Activity for Younger youth (Ages 5-11)	Activity for Older youth (Ages 12-18)
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Part Two (25 minutes)

- Finish today's activity by placing youth into partners or trios. Tell them that they will be transferring the knowledge they learned from the election guide to work together to make a [candidate guide](#) of their own. youth can be creative, however, with how they do this. Here are some options:
 - youth make a candidate guide using fictional characters (think Marvel, Sesame Street, Cars, etc.) to evaluate. This activity is especially suitable for younger learners, but all kids would enjoy this activity.
 - youth make a candidate guide using historical figures (George Washington, Martin Luther King Jr., Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, etc.) to evaluate. This activity is better suited for older learners who have a wider range of historical knowledge.
 - youth make a candidate guide for the upcoming midterms using real candidates to evaluate. This activity is better suited for older youth and would require Internet access for research on candidates.
 - youth make a futuristic candidate guide using fictional characters of their own creation to evaluate. This candidate guide should project what kinds of leadership, ideas, etc. they wish to see in the future.

ADDITIONAL NONPARTISAN VOTER GUIDES + CANDIDATE INFORMATION:

- Vote411.org (League of Women Voters)
- Ballotpedia.org
- VoteSmart.org
- <https://www.icivics.org/> (group leaders will need to make a free account first)
- <https://www.kidsvotingusa.org/> (additi