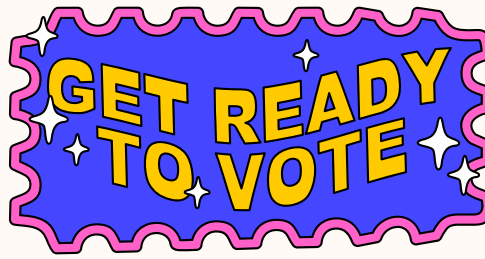


WHY VOTING?




By learning about elections early, students develop critical thinking skills and the confidence to participate in decision making


Teaching kids about voting is important because it helps them understand the democratic process and their role in shaping the future. Practice elections and classroom discussions make voting feel relevant and exciting, encouraging lifelong engagement. When schools prioritize civic education, they help create informed, active citizens who will contribute positively to their communities.




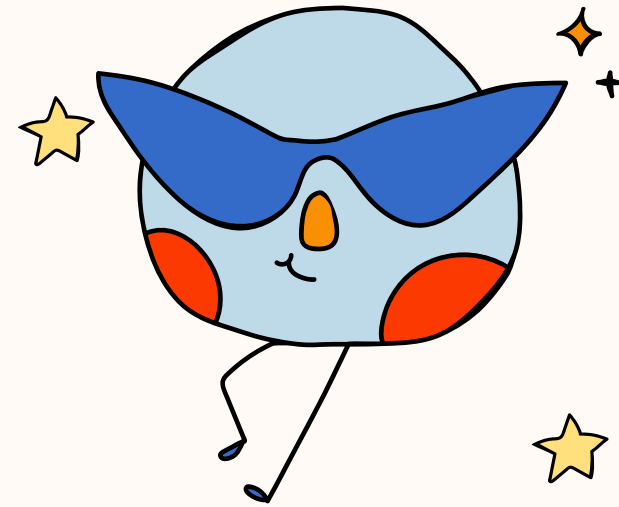
We are excited to offer year-round community outreach opportunities for your classroom and school! We would love to work with you to bring educational experiences about voting to your students. If you're interested in setting up a meeting to explore next steps, contact us using the info below. We look forward to connecting with you!

Contact Election Commissioner Ashley Torres & John Quigley today to schedule your classroom or school's practice election:

 elections@co.ulster.ny.us

 845-334-5470

 www.voteulster.com



Ulster Co. Board
of Elections

PRACTICE ELECTION FOR KIDS!

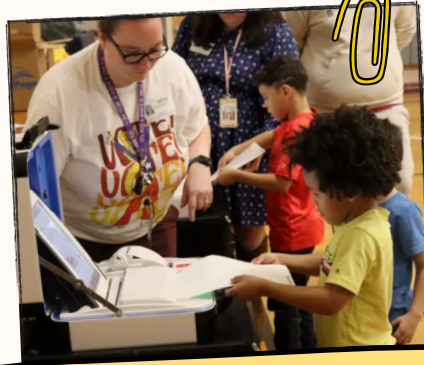


WHAT IS A PRACTICE ELECTION?



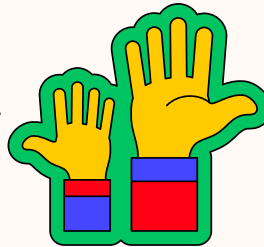
A practice, or mock election is an educational simulation where students participate in a voting process that mirrors real life elections. This hands-on activity introduces young learners to democratic principles, the significance of voting, and the responsibilities of citizenship. By engaging in practice elections, students gain practical experience in evaluating candidates and issues, making informed decisions, and understanding the impact of their choices.

Such exercises aim to foster a sense of civic duty and prepare students for future participation!



Students at Crosby Elementary School casting their ballot

MYTHS & REALITIES



✗ An election needs to be political

Myth: A practice election always has to be about voting for president or a government leader.

✓ An election can be about anything

A practice election can be about anything students care about, like choosing a school mascot, a new t-shirt design, or even their favorite book genre. The important part is learning how to make informed choices and express opinions through voting!

What to expect:

The Board of Elections will program and provide a real voting machine and official ballots for students to experience the voting process firsthand. We will also bring privacy booths so students can mark their ballots just like real voters do.

Our team will guide them on how to cast their completed ballot into the voting machine, ensuring they understand each step.

After voting, every student will receive an "I voted" sticker and a Voting for Kids coloring book

