



Future Voters Activity Book



SEDGWICK COUNTY
Election Office



About the Election Office

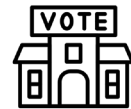
The Sedgwick County Election Office works hard to help people vote. They make sure elections are safe, fair and accurate for everyone in the community.



Sedgwick County has more than 342,073 registered voters.



The Election Office hires between 600-1,000 workers to help with elections.



There are over 105 polling places in Sedgwick County.

What is Voting?

We vote to help make important decisions. You might even vote without realizing it! Does your family ever “vote” on which restaurant to eat at or what TV Show to watch? Just like your family votes to decide things, our country believes that people should have a say in what happens in their city, county, state or country. And we do this by voting!

Do we vote on **EVERYTHING**?

That would be a lot of voting! Instead, we vote for people to represent us and make decisions based on what they think we would want. These people include elected officials such as mayors, commissioners, senators, governors, and even the president.



Stops on the Voting Path

- 1. REGISTER TO VOTE:** In Kansas, you need to fill out a form to register before you can vote. This form asks for basic information like your name, address, and date of birth.

Once you are registered, you stay registered. But if you move or need to change any information, you have to tell the Election Office.

- 2. KNOW THE ISSUES AND CANDIDATES:**

It's important to learn about the questions and candidates on your ballot. The Election Office makes that easy by posting sample ballots prior to every election. Looking at your sample ballot before you go vote allows you to do your research and determine who should earn your vote!

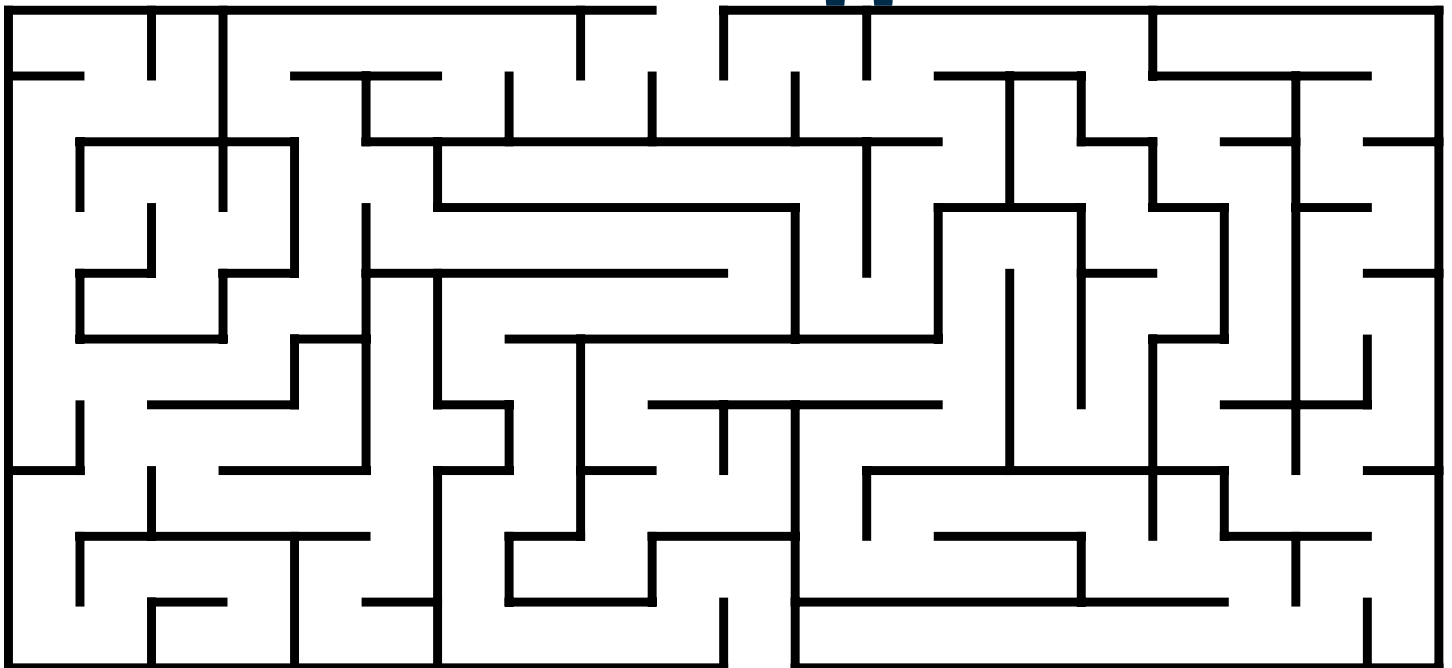
- 3. CHOOSE YOUR VOTING METHOD:** As a Sedgwick County voter, you will have three ways to vote! You can ask for a ballot to be mailed to you, vote at an early voting location before Election Day or vote at your assigned polling place on Election Day.

You can find more information about these options at sedgwickcounty.org/elections

- 4. WAIT FOR ELECTION RESULTS:** After the polls close on Election Day, you can see unofficial results from the election. Those results remain unofficial until certified a couple of weeks after Election Day.



START



You did it! Collect your
"I Voted" sticker!

The Constitution

The United States Constitution is an important document that explains how our country works, what our government does, and the rights of the people. It was first adopted on September 17, 1787, and it is still used today!



SETS THE FOUNDATION: The Constitution is the most important law in the country. All other laws must follow what it says and protect the rights it gives to people.



MAKING CHANGES: The Constitution is called a “living document” because it has changed to meet the needs of the people. A change to the constitution is called an amendment. So far, there have been 27 amendments. To make a change, it must be approved by 3/4 of the states. It was last changed in 1992!



OUTLINES INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS: Individual rights of citizens are identified in the Bill of Rights and later amendments to the Constitution. The Bill of Rights was adopted in 1791 and has the first 10 amendments to the constitution. These rights are many of the foundational rights we enjoy today!



DEFINES OUR GOVERNING STRUCTURE: The constitution set up our government, which has three parts: the Executive, the Legislative and the Judicial branches. These branches work together and keep each other in check. Each branch has unique powers and duties.

Voting-Related Amendments

12th | June 15, 1804:

Changed how Presidents and Vice Presidents are elected in the United States.

15th | February 3, 1870:

Was the first of several passed to allow more people to vote. Before this amendment, some laws kept certain groups from voting. This amendment made it illegal to stop someone from voting because of their race or color.

17th | April 8, 1913:

Changed how U.S. senators are elected. Before this, senators were chosen by their state’s legislature. Now, people in each state vote directly for their senators.

19th | August 18, 1920:

Gave women the right to vote. Women in Kansas could vote earlier, but this amendment made it happen for the whole country.

20th | January 23, 1933:

Changed when federal officials start their terms. Instead of starting in March, they now start in January.

22nd | February 27, 1951:

Limits Presidents to two terms in office.

23rd | March 29, 1961:

Allowed people in Washington, D.C., to vote in presidential elections.

24th | January 23, 1964:

Made it illegal to charge a poll tax. Poll taxes were fees that some states charged people to vote. It was used to keep people from voting.

26th | July 1, 1971:

Lowered the voting age from 21 to 18.

Did You Know?

The seventeenth amendment was drafted by US Senator from Kansas. Senator Joseph Bristow, who served in the Senate from 1909 to 1915, proposed this amendment in 1911.



The Electoral College

The Electoral College might sound like a school, but it's actually how we pick our President every four years!

When someone votes for a President, they are really voting for that candidate's electors. Electors are people chosen by a political party to vote in the Electoral College if their candidate wins.

Each state gets a certain number of Electoral College votes based on how many representatives it has in Congress. For example, Kansas has six votes: two for its U.S. Senators and four for its U.S. Representatives. A big state like California has 54 votes while a smaller state, like North Dakota, has just three votes.

After each state's election is certified, the candidate who gets the most votes in that state will get to have their electors participate in the Electoral College. Those electors will proudly cast their votes for that candidate.

1 Electors chosen for each candidate before the election



2 Election results are certified at state level in early December

For Electors for Favorite Color of the United States	
Orange	153,072
Green	187,415
Purple	29,951
Yellow	18,728

CERTIFIED

3 Winning electors cast votes at meeting of Electoral College



We proudly cast our votes for **green**

4 Electoral college votes from every state are sent to Congress



The office of President is unique in elections because it's the only office that uses the Electoral College. All other contests are elected by the popular vote, where a candidate gets credit for every individual voter's vote.

Elected State Offices

Kansas has three branches of government, just like the federal government! These branches are modeled after the branches of government found in the U.S. Constitution.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

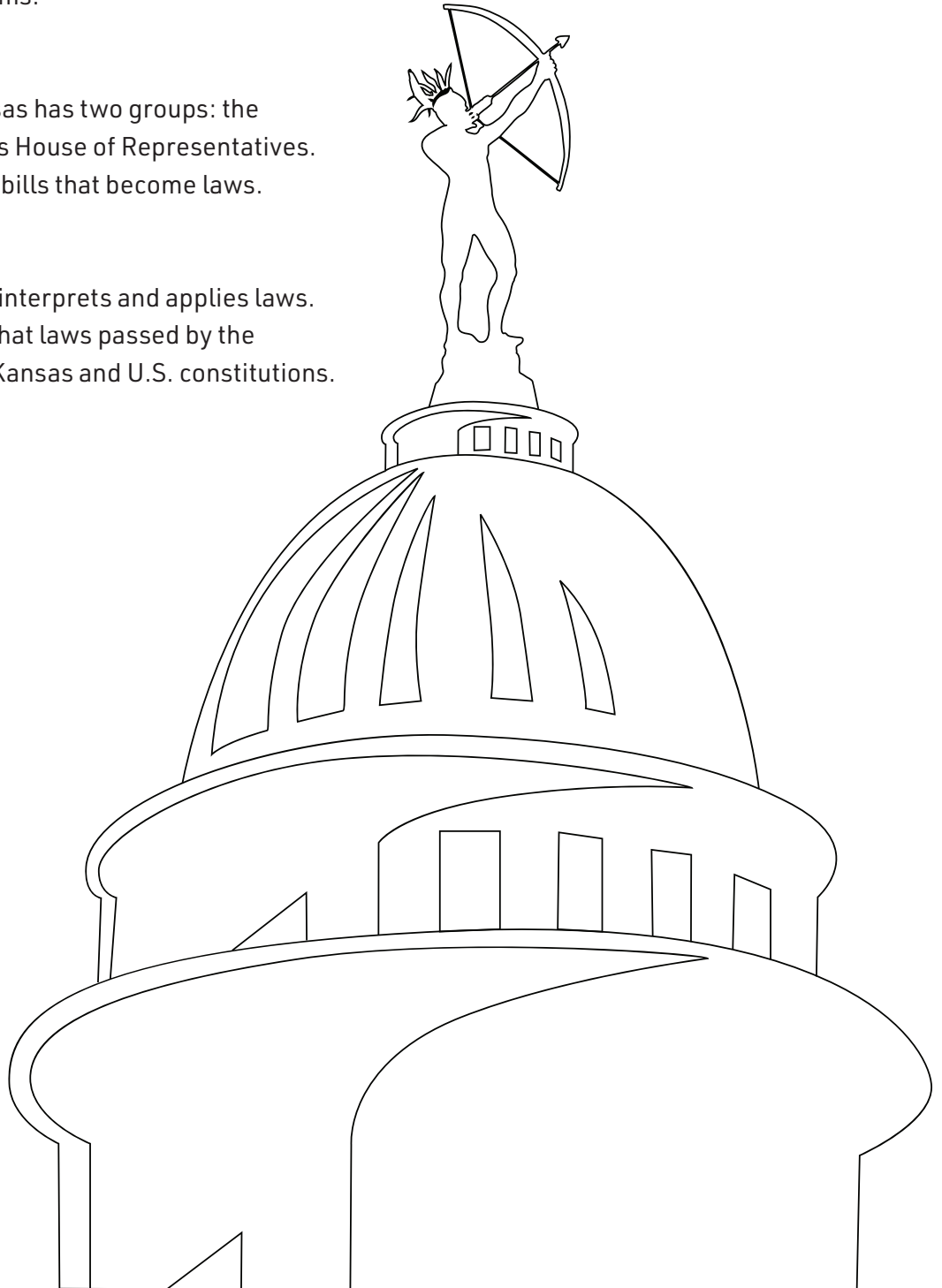
The executive branch in Kansas includes the Governor and other statewide elected officials like the Secretary of State. These officials run different parts of the state government. They are elected to 4-year terms.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The legislative branch in Kansas has two groups: the Kansas Senate and the Kansas House of Representatives. Together, they write and pass bills that become laws.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

The judicial branch in Kansas interprets and applies laws. This branch also makes sure that laws passed by the legislative branch follow the Kansas and U.S. constitutions.



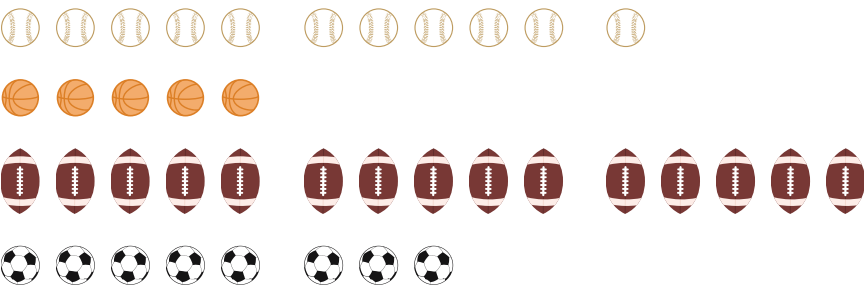
Color in the top of the
Kansas State Capital!

Election Audit Activity

A hand-count audit is done after every major election in Sedgwick County. You can practice your auditing skills with the activity below.

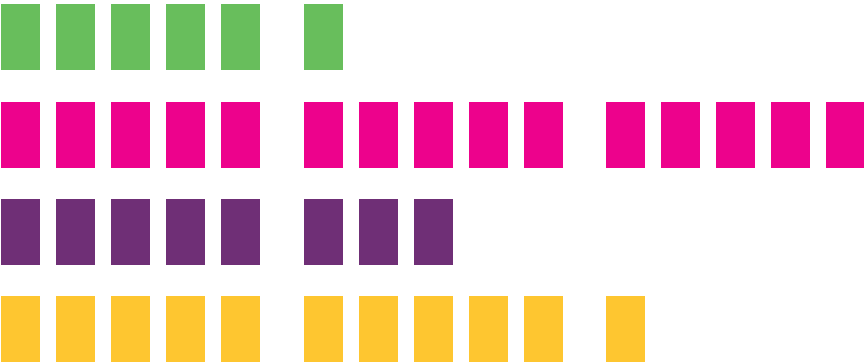
Find a friend to count with you and write your results in the "Audit Count" column. Then give it to an adult to check the results and make sure they match! Take your time and count carefully!

Favorite sport



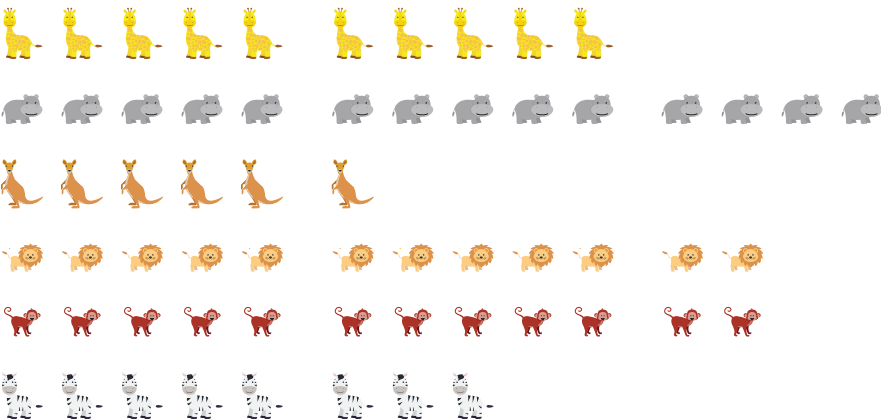
	Audit Count	Original Count
Baseball		11
Basketball		5
Football		15
Soccer		8

Favorite color



	Audit Count	Original Count
Green		6
Pink		15
Purple		8
Yellow		11

Favorite zoo animal



	Audit Count	Original Count
Giraffe		10
Hippo		14
Kangaroo		6
Lion		12
Monkey		12
Zebra		8

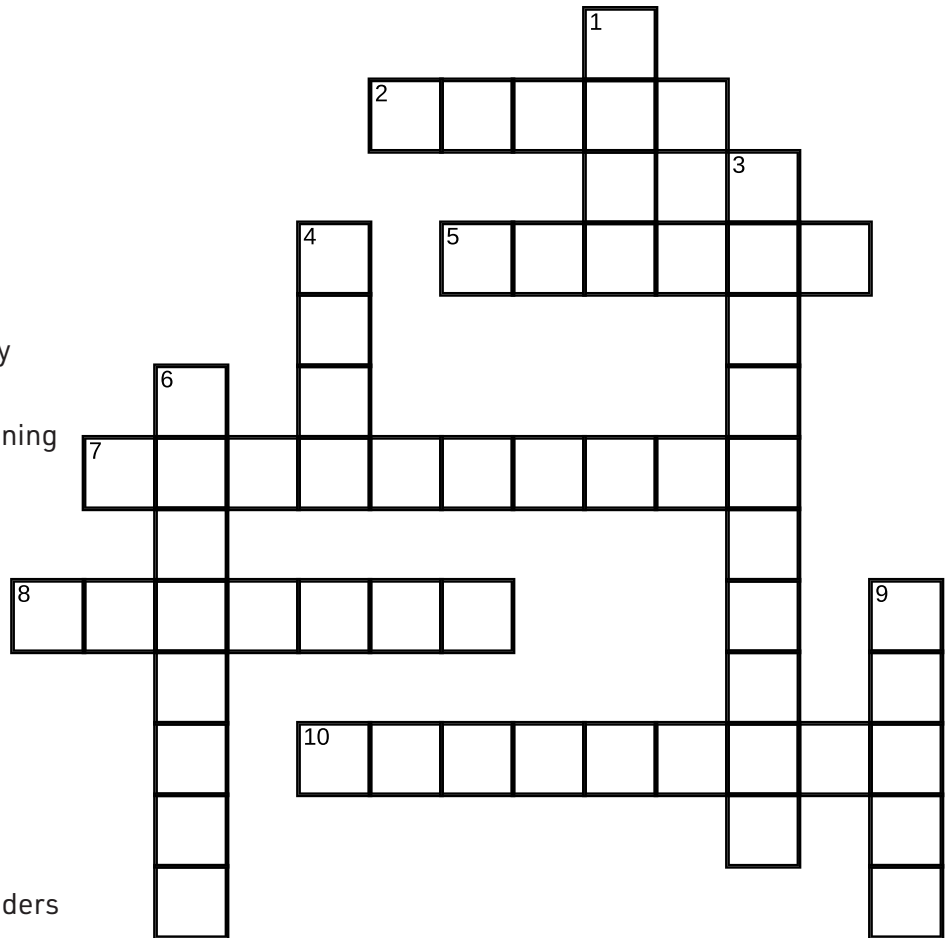
Election Crossword

Across

- 2** The person in charge of a town or city
5 The paper that a person votes on
7 The different people in charge of running our town, state, and country
8 Day of the week of Election Day
10 A person running for office

Down

- 1** A survey of voters
3 A person whose job is serving as an elected member of government
4 What we do on Election Day
6 The month of Election Day
9 On Election Day we _____ new leaders



Crossword Answers on Page 9

Cities in Sedgwick County Word Search

Z H Y T D T C S I H K R S Z E G
M V M S T S L F V X C P E O C A
H W O G V N E U Y G O A D A B R
M I U O P W A B A O L R G N E D
A C N D J N R M L M W K W D N E
I H T D E E W H D B I C I A T N
Z I H A D Q A R O L C I C L L P
E T O R L N T W J N H T K E E L
Y A P D N M E X H U M Y Z L Y A
A I E X V W R A C C W T S N F I
C Z P E A S T B O R O U G H S N
H I M Q V Q P H A Y S V I L L E
E O B D Y U C B E L A I R E W C
N G G K E C H I N X F O L K K L
E F W V A L L E Y C E N T E R U
Y W H M U L V A N E V I O L A X

Andale	Haysville
Bel Aire	Kechi
Bentley	Maize
Cheney	Mount Hope
Clearwater	Mulvane
Colwich	Park City
Derby	Sedgwick
Eastborough	Valley Center
Garden Plain	Viola
Goddard	Wichita

Election Timeline

June 1

Preparation Begins:

Ballot preparation begins after immediately after the candidate filing deadline.

45 days before election day

Military ballots sent:

Military and citizens outside the U.S. are allowed to vote through a federal program.

6 weeks before election day

Begin testing equipment:

The Election Office tests every piece of voting equipment prior to it being used in an election.

20 days before election day

Begin mailing ballots:

State law allows the mailing of ballots to voters with an active request beginning 20 days before the election.

15 days before election day

Begin early voting:

The Election Office generally opens 15 days before the election in big elections and 8 days prior for smaller elections.

1 day before election day

Early voting ends:

State law closes early voting at noon the day before the election. This allows the Election Office to focus on final preparations for the big day!

Election Day!

Election Day is the last day for voting in an election. Polling places are open for at least 12 hours to provide ample opportunity for voters.

1 day after election day

Select audit precincts: State law requires precincts to be randomly selected for an audit after Election Day. This is done by drawing them from a bowl!

Friday after election day

Handcount audit:

Ballots in the audit are hand counted by bipartisan teams. These totals are used to check that the voting machines counted the votes correctly!

6-10 days after election day

Election certification:

The election is certified at a meeting called a canvass. This process is overseen by county leaders.

After election certification

Election post-test:

One final test of the election is completed after certification to ensure equipment continues to operate correctly.

Election Lingo for Kids

Elections and voting have a lot of language that you might not use every day. Next time you're watching the news, see if you hear these election-related terms!

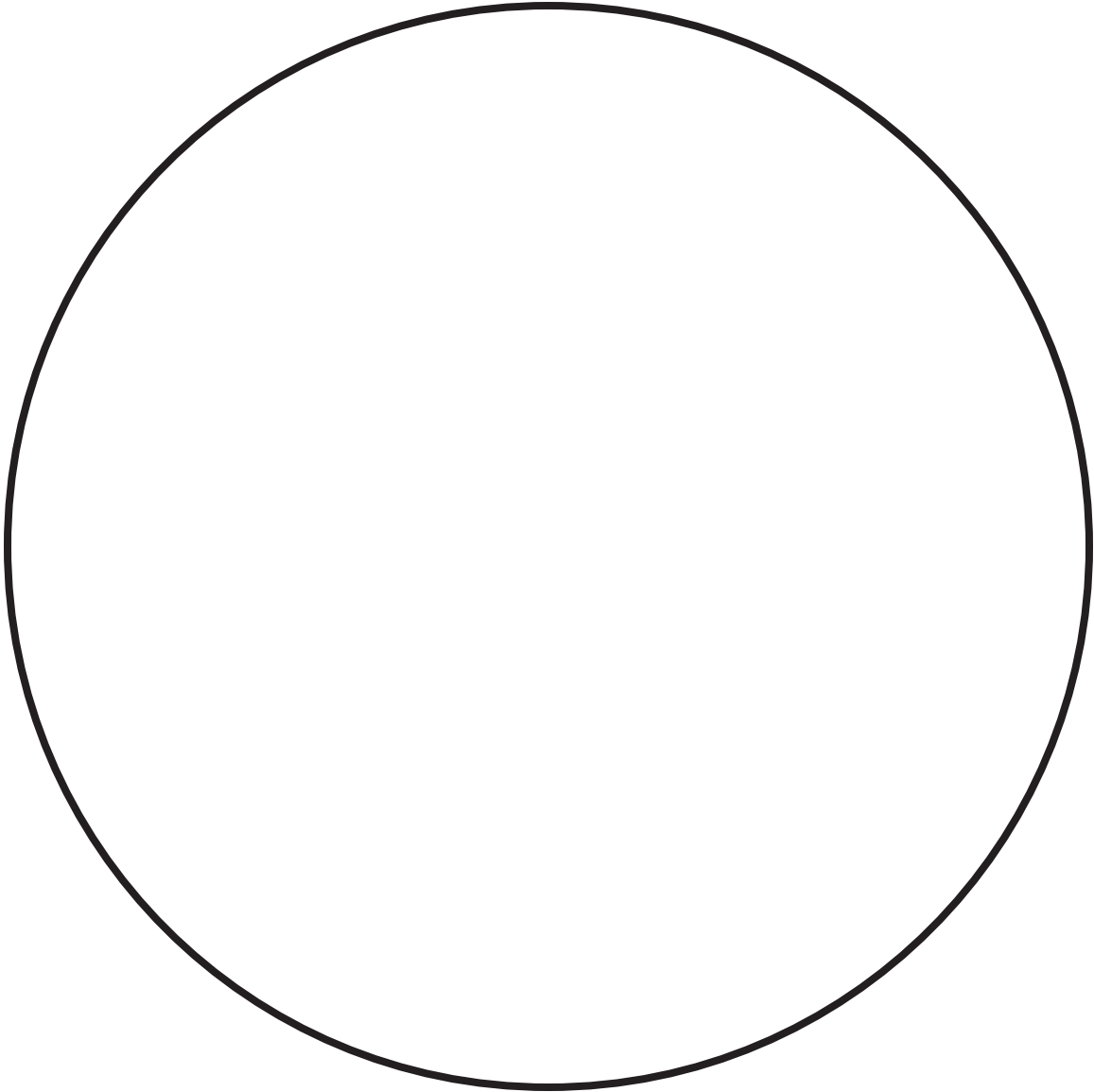
Ballot	A paper that contains all the contests, candidates and questions that a person is allowed to vote on.
Candidate	A person running for an elected office.
Early voting	Voting that takes place at special voting locations that are open before Election Day. In Kansas, counties are allowed to open early voting up to 20 days before the election.
Election worker	A person who works at a polling place to support the voting process. You can sign up to be an election worker when you turn 16!
Electoral College	A group of electors who cast votes on behalf of the citizens of a particular state to select the President and Vice President.
General Election	An election where voters choose who they want to elect to a public office. The winner of the General Election gets the job.
Incumbent	A person who is currently in office and is running to stay in that office for another term.
Mail ballot	A ballot that is mailed to a voter so they can mark it at home and return before the election is over. In Kansas, any registered voter is allowed to request a mail ballot.
Photo ID	A card, like a driver's license, that a voter shows to prove who they are when checking in to vote.
Polling place	A building, often a church or community building, that is set up with equipment and workers to allow people to vote.
Primary Election	A special type of election used to narrow down the number of candidates in a contest. The winner(s) of the Primary Election will move forward to the General Election.
Voter registration	The process by which eligible citizens sign up to vote.

Crossword Answers

Across: 2) Mayor 5) Ballot 7) Government 8) Tuesday 10) Candidate | Down: 1) Poll 3) Politician 4) Vote 6) November 9) Elect

Did you know?

The "I Voted" stickers given out to Sedgwick County voters were designed by kids just like you! Think about what voting means to you and create your own sticker!



Are you a Sedgwick County student in grades 6-12?

You can submit your artwork in the "I Voted" sticker contest! Visit sedgwickcounty.org/elections to find out more information about the contest and to view past winners.



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