

How the Law Regulates Who May Vote

Handout 1

Who Votes for Student Council President?

Imagine that your school is going to elect a president of the student council. You are a member of the school's election committee. Your job is to make sure that only those who are qualified get to vote. The following people want to vote. Decide whether you will let them vote. Tell why or why not.

1. Shanika attends your school. She is a B student and wants to vote.
 Yes
 No
2. Sean attends another high school, but he knows someone running for president and wants to vote.
 Yes
 No
3. Elizabeth attends your school. She is really different: her hair is green. Elizabeth wants to vote.
 Yes
 No
4. Today is Peter's first day at this school. He hasn't met anyone and doesn't know who is running in the election. Peter wants to vote.
 Yes
 No
5. Margaret attends your school. She is blind and can't see the ballot, but she wants to vote.
 Yes
 No
6. Louis attends your school. He can't read, but he wants to vote.
 Yes
 No
7. Kim attends your school but is at home sick. Kim won't be well before the election, but she wants to vote.
 Yes
 No

8. Jon attends your school, but he has been suspended. He wants to vote.

Yes

No

9. Joby has just returned to your school from the State Training School for Boys, where he spent one year for armed robbery. He wants to vote.

Yes

No

Adapted from an article by Mary C. Larkin, associate director of the National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law (NICEL) in Washington, D.C. The article first appeared in Update on Law-Related Education, published by the American Bar Association.