

Remember!!

The U.S. Constitution gives the states primary responsibility for elections. Secondly, Congress has some authority to institute some laws that will help insure smooth functioning. [Article I, Section 4.] The president has no authority for the administration of elections [although Congress can authorize the Executive branch to assist in some ways.]

The Dept of Justice is responsible for seeing that federal laws are followed, which includes the Voting Rights Act. Unfortunately, DOJ has pretty much stripped itself of any initiative in this regard – in other words DOJ is largely not pursuing cases about the VRA. [substantiation for this claim will be included in my Extra Resource List for the voting workshop (soon to be up on my website) and is discussed in my Beyond Voting workshop.] Of course, the VRA, itself, has been decimated by multiple Supreme Court Rulings, starting with Shelby v Holder in 2013.

Upcoming!

Beyond Voting – What You Need to Know about the Midterms! So much going on! Election laws, suppression, changes to VRA, redistricting, etc. And, a ton of propaganda to sow doubt! How much should we worry? Actually, lots. [Look for an Extra addition of Resources for the Midterms on my website soon!]

Representation, our Federal Government and the Constitution. How has our federal government and the Constitution contributed to the widespread feeling of not being properly represented – and what can we do to change things!

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Beyond Voting – What You Need to Know about the Midterms!

Tuesday, September 1. VIRTUAL. 3:30 PST. 6:30 EST. *Note times!* Bloomfield [CT] Public Library.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/Beyond-Voting>

Thursday, October 8. 4-5:30 PST. In-person. No registration necessary.

West Slope Community Library. 3678 SW 78th Ave. Portland [OR].

Representation, our Federal Government and the Constitution

Sunday, September 13. 2-3:30 PST. In-person. No registration necessary. Everyone welcome.

Indivisible Polk County. Dallas, OR. Address tba. Check my website.

Thursday, September 17. 4-5:30 PST. In-person. No registration necessary.

West Slope Community Library. 3678 SW 78th Ave. Portland [OR].

Selected Civics for Adults Facebook posts:

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A useful resource, complete with its own list of references!

Voting by mail: What journalists covering the 2026 U.S. midterm elections need to know

A nonpartisan guide to help journalists recognize misinformation, avoid errors and find local story ideas, created with help from researchers who study U.S. elections.

Denise-Marie Ordway. Journalist's Resource. June 22, 2026

https://journalistsresource.org/politics-and-government/voting-by-mail/?fbclid=IwY2xjawTzA-FwZG9mAWV4dG4DYWVtAjEwAGJyaWQRMVBBbkp2eVZHeVVNdFBrQ1dzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeQiP2ZjAYGs-BrzF-HHwklAfeF1iuDyCoxP08qhAT0LSZud4s8SAquF84P2g_aem_yvkZsfYGlw_uKAx6ldriCw

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Only a fraction of House seats are competitive. Redistricting is driving that lower.

Feb 22, 2026. NPR.

Redistricting/gerrymandering was always one of the trickier topics to cover in the Voting workshop. This year is even trickier as there has been Supreme Court case affecting this - Louisiana v Callais. As well, of course, is the whole race-to-the-bottom, started by the Texas mid-decade redistricting effort.

Here's a good article explaining the situation - and its implications.

"So if you think dysfunction and division is bad right now in Washington," he said, "it's going to get worse in the next congressional session because of the lack of competition in this year's elections."

https://www.npr.org/2026/02/22/nx-s1-5707254/power-trump-congress-house-representatives-voters-control?fbclid=IwY2xjawTzBGNwZG9mAWV4dG4DYWVtAjEwAGJyaWQRMVBBbkp2eVZHeVVNdFBrQ1dzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjlwMzcxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEe-Xcaij4MYyNzkSA5kATGpo5rTYOdE_mNgUwzFGmjw4lZCOy72_Dq7YMGnNA_aem_-TdIYL7o3F0yZhyUZZrXZA

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An amazing video of parts of former Attorney General Bill Barr's deposition to the J6 Committee.

Trump seemed 'detached from reality' on false election claims, Barr said

PBS segment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLUwNwFuzGQ&t=99s>

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More on my Civics for Adults Facebook page!

More at <https://www.facebook.com/Civics-for-Adults-1490728887922036>

Ask your local library or community group to sponsor a workshop! Thanks.

Flyer describing workshops: https://files.cdn-files-a.com/uploads/2516289/normal_68015c18b94c1.pdf