



Democracy 101

New Jersey Student/Parent Mock Election



This is the third of four campaign issues that will be on the 2008 national Mock Election ballot.

The content of this page offers teachers some ideas for student projects as they prepare to vote in the Mock Election in October.

Campaign Issue 3

The Energy Crisis

Explore

What is the position of each candidate for President of the United States? Go to www.njmockelection.org and examine the links in the right column of that web page. For example, www.ontheissues.org offers a comparison of Senator McCain's and Senator Obama's opinions. The editorials published in New Jersey's newspapers, as well as news articles on the Internet, offer timely information about the candidate's positions and statements they make every day.

Express

Students can prepare a list of ways their families have reduced their energy consumption. Examples could include buying a more fuel-efficient car, changing thermostats at home and efficiently organizing shopping trips. Read articles in the local newspaper for tips about saving energy.

Debate

This and other campaign issues offer great material for students to conduct debates in classes. The school's debate team coach (or any teacher) can organize and videotape a debate within the school or with a neighboring school. Clips of the debate can be sent to YouTube, which has already received numerous Mock Election videos produced by students. This is a great way to put N.J. schools on display.

Create

Students can draw maps for more efficient school bus routes or family shopping routes to save gasoline.

Question 3: The Energy Crisis

Which one of the following statements most closely reflects your beliefs about the energy crisis, especially fuel costs and resource conservation?

a) The government should heavily subsidize the research and development of alternative energy sources to reduce our demand of oil, as it is harmful for the environment and increasingly expensive to consume.

b) As oil companies collect record profits with the ever-increasing price of gasoline, the government should impose windfall profit taxes on the companies if they fail to increase their investment in greater oil production and/or new energy alternatives.

c) With the price of gasoline stretching many American's pocketbooks to near breaking point, the government should suspend the federal gas tax of 18.4 cents a gallon to lessen the burden of drivers at the pump.

d) The rise in oil prices is mainly due to an increase in world demand, without a corresponding expansion of supply. To increase supply, the government should remove the ban on off-shore drilling so that oil companies can remove more oil from the ground to meet the rising demand.

e) Uncertain, need to learn more about this issue.

Coming October 10: Healthcare Policy and Costs

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For past issues: www.njmockelection.org