MY GOVERNOR ELECTION WORKBOOK

MVPCS • Grades 1–2 • October–November 2026

Name: _____ Date: _____

Our Big Question

How do people choose leaders, and what makes a leader good at serving a community?

1. What Makes a Good Leader?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Draw or write three qualities you think a good leader should have.

1. _____

Why?

_____

2. _____

Why?

_____

3. _____

Why?

_____

A good leader helps the group by…

_____

_____

2. Leadership Scenarios

1. Mia listens to everyone, then helps the group choose a plan.

☐ Helpful leadership ☐ Needs a better choice

My reason:

_____

2. Noah tells everyone, “Only my idea matters.”

☐ Helpful leadership ☐ Needs a better choice

My reason:

_____

3. Lena gives jobs to group members and thanks them for helping.

☐ Helpful leadership ☐ Needs a better choice

My reason:

_____

4. Kai changes the rules so only friends can win.

☐ Helpful leadership ☐ Needs a better choice

My reason:

_____

3. Election Words

GOVERNMENT	the people and systems that make and carry out rules and laws for a community, state, or country
GOVERNOR	the elected leader of a state’s executive branch
LEADER	a person who helps a group organize, decide, and work toward a goal
CITIZEN	a member of a country with rights and responsibilities
DEMOCRACY	a system in which people have a voice in government, including by voting
ELECTION	a vote used to choose a leader or decide an issue
VOTE	to make a choice in an election or group decision
BALLOT	the paper or screen used to record a vote
CANDIDATE	a person seeking to be chosen for an office
CAMPAIGN	organized work to help people learn about and support a candidate or idea

4. More Election Words

PLATFORM	a candidate's set of ideas and plans about important issues
ISSUE	a topic or problem people care about and may disagree about
EXECUTIVE BRANCH	the part of government that carries out laws
BUDGET	a plan for how money will be raised and spent
VETO	when a governor rejects a bill rather than signing it
APPOINT	to choose someone for a government job or position
PERSUADE	to give reasons that may convince someone
FACT	a statement that can be checked and shown to be true or false
OPINION	a belief, preference, or judgment
RESPONSIBILITY	a job or duty a person is expected to do

5. What Does the Governor Do?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Massachusetts is a state. The elected leader of the executive branch is called the Governor.

The Governor helps carry out state laws and leads many state agencies. The Governor also proposes a state budget, appoints leaders for many state departments, and may sign or veto bills that the Legislature passes.

During an emergency, the Governor helps organize the state response. The Governor also represents Massachusetts when working with the federal government.

The Governor does not make every decision alone. State legislators make laws, courts decide legal questions, and cities, towns, schools, and other public organizations have their own responsibilities too.

Circle the jobs a Massachusetts Governor really does:

☐ helps carry out state laws

☐ proposes a state budget

☐ chooses your classroom snack

☐ may sign or veto bills

☐ helps coordinate state emergencies

☐ decides every town rule alone

6. Who Is the Governor of Massachusetts?

Today's fact

As of September 2026, Maura Healey is the Governor of Massachusetts. The Governor works in the Massachusetts State House in Boston. Boston is the capital city of Massachusetts.

Write or trace:

Governor Maura Healey

_____

The capital of Massachusetts is _____.

One job of the Governor is _____.

7. Can the Governor Do That?

Write G if the Governor has a state-government role. Write L if this is mostly a local/school decision. Write M if many parts of government must work together.

___ Propose a state budget.

___ Decide what your class has for snack tomorrow.

___ Sign or veto a bill passed by the state Legislature.

___ Help coordinate a statewide emergency response.

___ Decide one town’s classroom recess schedule.

___ Work with lawmakers and communities on statewide housing programs.

___ Appoint leaders of many state departments.

___ Create a new state law completely alone.

8. Democracy at MVPCS

Democracy means people have a voice. In an election, people learn, think, choose, and vote. At MVPCS, our Pillar of Democracy can also mean listening to different ideas, making fair decisions, and respecting the result.

Finish the sentences:

I can listen respectfully when…

_____

_____

A fair vote should…

_____

_____

After an election, our community should…

_____

_____

9. Put an Election in Order

Number these 1–6.

___ Count the ballots.

___ Learn about the candidates and issues.

___ Mark one choice on the ballot.

___ Accept the fair result and keep working together.

___ Think about which ideas matter to you.

___ Put the ballot in the ballot box.

10. Meet Candidate Avery Shore

Avery Shore — “Listen. Protect. Connect.”

Avery Shore is a fictional Massachusetts community planner who grew up near the coast and likes solving problems by listening to many people before making a plan.

Coasts & Clean Water: Ask the state to invest more in beach, dune, pond, and coastal-restoration projects that help communities prepare for storms.

Safe Transportation: Prioritize state grants for safer roads, crosswalks, sidewalks, bike routes, and emergency transportation planning, including island communities.

Schools & Libraries: Propose state budget support for school libraries, science materials, arts programs, and field-learning opportunities.

Year-Round Housing: Use state housing partnerships to support homes for teachers, nurses, firefighters, and other year-round workers in high-cost communities.

Star the issue you most want to ask Avery’s campaign about.

11. Meet Candidate Jordan Fields

Jordan Fields — “Strong Communities. Bright Futures.”

Jordan Fields is a fictional Massachusetts small-business owner and youth-sports volunteer who believes communities are strongest when families have useful services and safe places to live, learn, and play.

Energy & Preparedness: Expand state help for energy-saving improvements in homes, schools, and public buildings, and improve storm and power-outage preparedness.

Community Transportation: Support state investments in safer roads, public transportation connections, and cleaner vehicles that help people travel around Massachusetts.

After-School & Recreation: Propose state support for after-school learning, music, sports, parks, and safe community recreation programs.

Homes & Local Jobs: Help communities repair or reuse existing buildings for year-round housing and support programs for local jobs and small businesses.

Star the issue you most want to ask Jordan’s campaign about.

12. Compare the Candidates

Issue	Avery Shore	Jordan Fields
Environment / preparedness	Write or draw one plan.	Write or draw one plan.
Transportation	Write or draw one plan.	Write or draw one plan.
Schools / youth	Write or draw one plan.	Write or draw one plan.
Housing / community	Write or draw one plan.	Write or draw one plan.

One way the candidates are similar:

_____

One way they are different:

_____

13. Fact or Opinion?

Avery’s platform includes coastal-restoration projects.

☐ FACT ☐ OPINION

Jordan’s platform includes after-school and recreation programs.

☐ FACT ☐ OPINION

Transportation is the most important issue.

☐ FACT ☐ OPINION

Avery is definitely the better leader.

☐ FACT ☐ OPINION

Jordan’s platform includes energy-saving improvements.

☐ FACT ☐ OPINION

Every voter should care most about beaches.

☐ FACT ☐ OPINION

14. My Campaign Team Plan

Name: _____ Date: _____

Our candidate: ☐ Avery Shore ☐ Jordan Fields

Our campaign job: ☐ Research/fact-check ☐ Artist ☐ Speaker ☐ Materials helper

The issue we will explain:

_____

_____

The exact platform fact we will use:

_____

_____

Why we think this matters:

_____

_____

A respectful message for voters:

_____

_____

15. Poster Planner

Candidate name: _____

Slogan: _____

One accurate platform fact:

_____

_____

My reason this issue matters:

_____

_____

Sketch your poster below:

16. Flyer Planner

Headline:

_____

_____

Candidate:

_____

_____

Issue:

_____

_____

What the platform says:

_____

_____

Why it matters to our community:

_____

_____

Respectful closing:

_____

_____

17. Grade 1 Speech Builder

Hello! I am speaking for _____.

_____
_____

One issue we care about is _____.

_____
_____

Our platform says _____.

_____
_____

I think this matters because _____.

_____
_____

Please learn about both candidates and vote for the ideas that matter to you. Thank you!

_____
_____

18. Grade 2 Speech Builder

Greeting and candidate name

_____

_____

_____

_____

Issue and accurate platform plan

_____

_____

_____

_____

Reason #1: Why this matters

_____

_____

_____

_____

Reason #2: How it could help Massachusetts / Martha’s Vineyard

_____

_____

_____

_____

Respectful closing that reminds voters to learn about both candidates

_____

_____

_____

_____

19. Practice Ballot

OFFICIAL PRACTICE BALLOT

Choose ONE fictional candidate. Mark one box.

☐ Avery Shore — “Listen. Protect. Connect.”

☐ Jordan Fields — “Strong Communities. Bright Futures.”

A secret ballot means you do not have to tell anyone which choice you marked.

20. Election Day Reflection

Name: _____ Date: _____

One thing that made our election fair was…

_____

_____

_____

_____

One thing I learned about the Governor’s job was…

_____

_____

_____

_____

One thing I learned about democracy was…

_____

_____

_____

_____

I heard an idea I disagreed with. I showed respect by…

_____

_____

_____

_____

After an election, a community should…

_____

_____

_____

_____

21. What I Know Now

1. Who is the Governor of Massachusetts?

_____

2. Write or tell two jobs of the Governor.

_____

_____

_____

3. An election is

_____

4. A platform is

_____

_

5. Two qualities of a good leader are

_____

6. Voting connects to Democracy because

_____

7. Grade 2 challenge: One decision a Governor cannot make alone is

_____