

Our Mock Governor Election

October 1 to November 3

Leadership, state government, campaigns, and the MVPCS pillar of Democracy

Our learning journey

1

LEADERS

What qualities help a group?

2

GOVERNOR

What can a state governor do?

3

PLATFORMS

What problems will each candidate address?

4

CAMPAIGNS

How do facts and reasons persuade?

5

VOTE

How does a fair election work?

MVPCS PILLAR

Democracy gives people a voice

A voice

People share ideas and explain what matters to them.

A fair choice

Voters hear the same information and receive one private ballot.

Respect

People may choose differently and still belong to one community.

Turn and talk

When has our class made a decision together? What made the decision fair?

Leadership means responsibility

LISTENS

hears people before deciding

HONEST

uses facts and admits mistakes

FAIR

uses the same rules for everyone

CARING

thinks about who may need help

BRAVE

makes a hard choice for the common good

COOPERATES

works with other people

Which quality would be hardest for a leader? Explain your thinking.

Election words we will use

candidate	a person asking voters to choose them
campaign	organized work to help a candidate
platform	the plans and ideas a candidate supports
ballot	the paper or form used to record a vote
voter	a person who casts a vote
election	voting to choose a leader



A fair election follows clear steps

1

LEARN

Study each candidate's platform.

2

LISTEN

Hear speeches and ask questions.

3

THINK

Compare ideas with your priorities.

4

VOTE

Mark one choice in private.

5

COUNT

Check every ballot carefully.

Fairness check: one voter, one ballot, one private choice

Massachusetts is our state





State capital

Boston

Our island county

Dukes County

Our community

Martha’s Vineyard

State leaders make choices that affect communities across Massachusetts.

CURRENT OFFICEHOLDER

Governor Maura Healey



73rd Governor of Massachusetts

GOVERNOR'S SEAL

Governor Healey took office in January 2023.

Executive branch

She leads the part of state government that carries out laws.

Lieutenant governor

Kim Driscoll serves as Lieutenant Governor and works with the governor.

Three branches share power

LEGISLATIVE

The House and Senate discuss bills and vote on laws.

EXECUTIVE

The governor and state agencies carry out laws.

JUDICIAL

Courts explain laws and decide cases.

No branch controls every decision. They have different jobs.

The governor’s main responsibilities



LEADS AGENCIES

Helps state departments carry out laws and serve people.

PROPOSES A BUDGET

Recommends how Massachusetts should collect and spend money.

ACTS ON BILLS

Signs a bill into law or returns it with a veto.

APPOINTS OFFICIALS

Chooses certain judges and agency leaders, often with approval.

RESPONDS TO EMERGENCIES

Coordinates state help during storms and other emergencies.

REPRESENTS THE STATE

Works with local, tribal, regional, and federal leaders.

A state budget is a plan for money



The governor proposes

a spending plan

The Legislature studies it

and makes decisions

State agencies use appro

to provide services

Island example

A governor could propose money for clean-water testing, school programs, housing, or safer transportation. The Legislature must approve state spending.

The governor signs or vetoes bills



1

BILL

A legislator proposes an idea.

›

2

VOTE

The House and Senate discuss and vote.

›

3

GOVERNOR

The governor may sign or veto the bill.

›

4

LAW OR RETURN

A signed bill becomes law. A veto returns it.

State agencies turn laws into services



Transportation

roads, buses, safety grants

Education

state guidance and school funding

Environment

water, air, habitats, waste

Public health

health programs and emergency planning

The governor leads the executive branch. Agency workers do much of the daily work.

Emergency leadership requires teamwork



Coastal storm example

Governor	coordinates state action
Emergency agencies	move supplies and share warnings
Towns and tribal government	open shelters and identify local needs
Utility and transportation teams	restore connections and essential services

One leader coordinates. Many people carry out the response.

INTERACTIVE SORT

What can a governor do?

CAN	CANNOT DO ALONE
propose a state budget	decide a court case
sign or veto a bill	make every school rule
lead state agencies	spend money without approval
coordinate state emergency help	choose how people vote

Point left or right. Then explain your reason.

Two fictional candidates



No parties. Equal time. Different priorities.

Avery Harbor’s platform



Protect island life and prepare for the future

- Clean ocean and ponds
- Storm preparation
- Safer walking and biking
- Outdoor classrooms

Avery’s plans use governor language

PROBLEM	PLAN	WHO HELPS
Polluted ponds	Propose state help for water testing	Environmental agencies and towns
Coastal storms	Coordinate supplies and shelter support	Emergency agencies and local leaders
Unsafe routes	Propose transportation safety grants	State transportation staff and towns
Need for outdoor learning	Propose school habitat grants	Education and conservation agencies

Jordan Woods's platform

Help island communities stay strong all year

- Schools and libraries
- Homes for workers
- Local food and school meals
- Reliable island connections



Jordan’s plans use governor language

PROBLEM	PLAN	WHO HELPS
Schools need resources	Propose funds for books, arts, and support	Education agency, Legislature, schools
Workers need homes	Propose housing programs	Housing agency, Legislature, towns
Local farms need support	Propose farm and school-meal grants	Agriculture and education agencies
Island travel can be difficult	Support transportation planning and funds	State, regional, and local authorities

Comparing priorities

AVERY HARBOR

Environmental preparation

water quality, storms, routes, outdoor learning

JORDAN WOODS

Year-round community

schools, homes, food, island connections

Neither platform is the “correct” answer.

A voter decides which priorities and plans best match what matters to that voter.

Facts can be checked

FACT

Maura Healey is the Governor of Massachusetts.

A governor may sign or veto a bill.

Avery and Jordan are fictional.

OPINION

Clean water should come first.

School funding matters most.

One candidate has the better platform.

Campaigns may use opinions, but they must not disguise opinions as facts.

A truthful campaign message

NAME	PLAN	REASON	PICTURE	CHECK
Make the candidate easy to identify.	Choose one accurate platform idea.	Explain why the plan matters.	Match the image to the message.	Use respectful words and verify every claim.
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Fact checker question: Could a governor really propose, support, or coordinate this?

Campaign speech builder

OPENING

We support ___ because...

PROBLEM

We notice that...

PLAN

Our candidate would propose...

REASON

This matters because...

PARTNERS

The governor would work with...

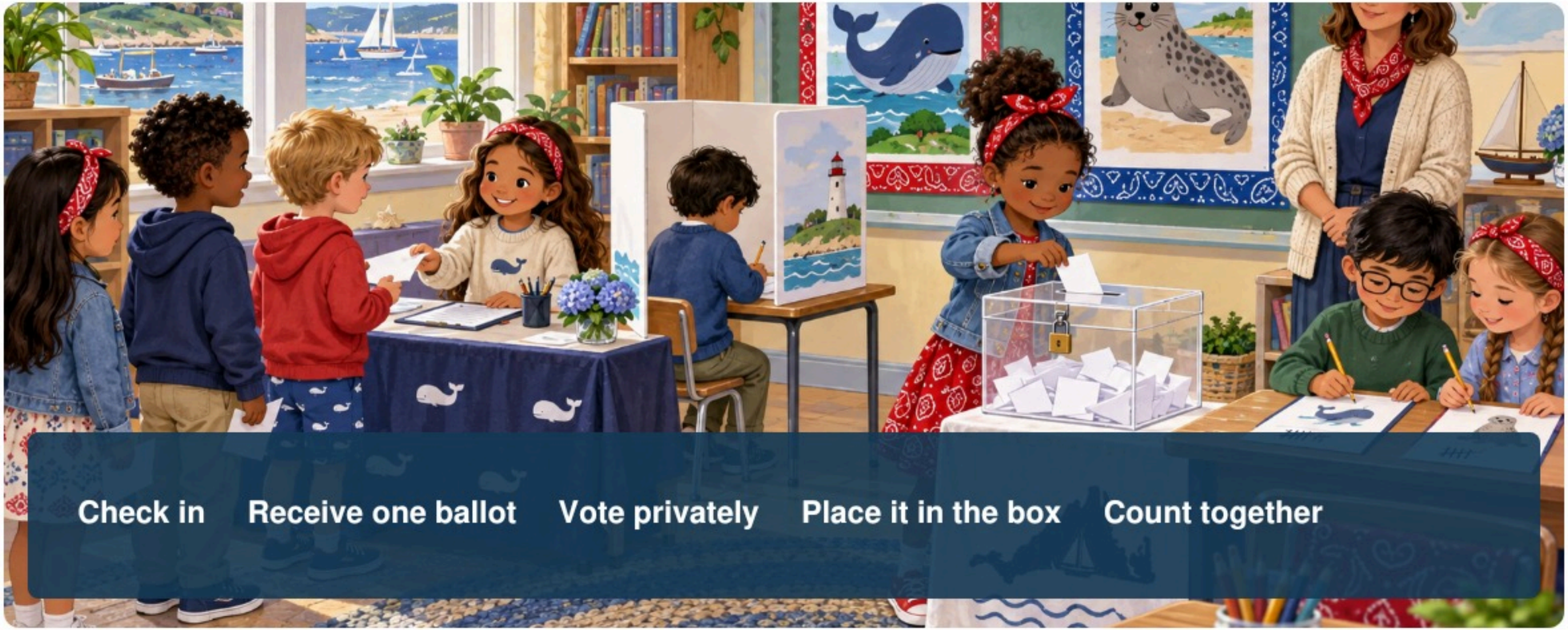
CLOSING

Please consider ___ if you also care about...

Questions for both candidates

1. What problem would you work on first?
2. Why does it matter to children and families?
3. What can a governor actually do?
4. Who would need to work with the governor?
5. How would you listen to people who disagree?
6. Which leadership quality would guide you?

Election Day at MVPCS



One ballot, one private choice

OFFICIAL FICTIONAL BALLOT

Choose one

- ◯ **Avery Harbor**
- ◯ **Jordan Woods**

Election workers

Protect privacy.

Count every valid ballot with a partner.

Check that totals match the number of ballots cast.

A blank or unclear ballot is recorded separately. Never guess a voter's choice.

REFLECTION

Democracy continues after the vote

WINNING TEAM

Thank every voter. Remember that the governor serves everyone, including people who chose differently.

OTHER TEAM

Respect the result. Be proud that your campaign helped people understand an issue.

How did we use facts, fairness, privacy, and respect?
How can both teams help our school tomorrow?

Symbols of the Commonwealth



STATE FLAG

White field with the coat of arms. The present form dates to 1971.



GREAT SEAL

An official emblem used on government documents and buildings.



GOLDEN DOME

The State House dome is a familiar symbol of Massachusetts government.

Official state colors: blue, green, and cranberry. This deck also uses gold to represent the State House dome.

The Massachusetts motto



Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem

> **"By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty."**

The arrow on the current coat of arms points downward as a sign of peace. The star marks Massachusetts as one of the original states.

People are also discussing how the seal and motto represent Indigenous people. State symbols can be studied, questioned, and changed through government.

Video stop: voting in a neighborhood



▶ WATCH THE PBS VOTING CLIP

Before watching

What choice will the voters make?

During the clip

Notice the ballot, the choices, and how the vote stays fair.

After watching

How is their vote like our mock election?

Video stop: how a Massachusetts bill becomes law



▶ WATCH THE MASSACHUSETTS PROCESS VIDEO

Teacher preview

The full video uses vocabulary above the Grade 1-2 level. Use a short selected section.

Listening focus

Who discusses and votes on a bill? What choice does the governor make?

LEGISLATURE VOTES + GOVERNOR ACTS

Explore the Massachusetts State House



Look for

- ★ the golden dome
- ★ the House chamber
- ★ the Senate chamber
- ★ the governor's office
- ★ Massachusetts symbols

▶ OPEN THE OFFICIAL VIRTUAL TOUR