

## Make a Choice by Voting

**DIRECTIONS** Read the information about voting. Think about the importance of voting. Then apply what you learn.

### Why It Matters

The United States has a form of government called a democracy. In a democracy, citizens have the right to vote for the men and women who will lead the country and pass laws. This means that citizens have a role in how the country is run. Citizens vote for leaders of their community, state, and country.

On Election Day, citizens vote for the candidate they like best. A candidate is a person who wants to be elected. The candidate who gets the most votes wins. Voters might also vote on issues, such as whether to build a new school in a community.

### What You Need to Know

Groups planning an election or vote need to take four steps to prepare:

**Step 1:** Prepare a ballot that lists the candidates or issues people will vote on.

**Step 2:** Have people vote. People should have privacy when they vote. This allows them to vote as they like without worrying about how other voters feel.

**Step 3:** Count the ballots.

**Step 4:** Announce the winners.

Before you vote, it is important to find out as much as you can about the candidates and issues that you will vote on. Read or listen to what the candidates say or what people say about an issue. Ask questions about things that are important to you.

## Make a Choice by Voting (continued)

### Practice the Skill

1. What are the four steps people take to prepare for an election?
2. Explain why each step is important to the voting process.

### Apply What You Learned

Your school may elect students to be leaders. Or perhaps you belong to a club or other group that elects leaders. This gives you a chance to practice voting.

Hold an election for a student to be president of your class for a day or a week. Ask for volunteers to be candidates. Have each candidate make a speech about what he or she will do as class president. Then follow the steps listed on the previous page to hold an election.