

# Lesson Plan – *General Election Process*

## Indiana Standards:

- **Standard 8 - Describe the primary and general election process for local, state, and national offices, including those used to select congressional and presidential office holders.**
- **Standard 17 - Explain ways that citizens can participate in the election process (political parties, campaigns, and elections) at the national, state, and local levels.**

## Time:

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of this lesson, will be able to understand how primary and general elections work at all levels.

## Materials:

- Reading: Indiana Primary and General Election Process
- Cornell Notes – Standard 8 and 17 – Indiana Primary and General Election Process
- Reading: “Running a successful local election campaign”
- 2020 General Election PDF
- 2020 Primary Election PDF
- 2022 General Election PDF
- 2022 Primary Election PDF
- 2023 Municipal Primary Election PDF

## Procedure:

### Introduction (10 minutes)

- Ask your students “How would you campaign to run for a local office if you did not have a lot of money to spend?”
- Collect responses on the board, but only collect the ideas without much discuss.

### Lesson (6 class days)

- Have students read the document titled “Indiana Primary and General Election Process” and complete the Cornell Notes titled “Cornell Notes – Standard 8 and 17 – Indiana Primary and General Elections”
- **Election Turnout Rate Analysis.** Information can be found at [Secretary of State: Voter Information: Voter Registration and Turnout Statistics](#)
  - Have students collect the information for their county on voter turnout rates for the following elections:
    - 2020 Primary Election (Presidential Election)
    - 2020 General Election
    - 2022 Primary Election (National and State)
    - 2022 General Election
    - 2023 Municipal Primary Election (Local)
  - Have students write a summary of their analysis of the turnout rates. In their analysis, have them speculate on the why of the trends they find in their analysis.

- **Running a Successful Local Election Campaign.**
  - Put students into small groups
  - Tell the kids that they are going to create a strategy to win local office
  - Handout the reading “Running a successful local election campaign”
  - Have the students create a slideshow (PowerPoint, Canva, Google, etc.) that explains how their campaign will win.