



# Educator Resources

Wisconsin Vote is a service of Wisconsin Public Television and Wisconsin Public Radio.



Wisconsin Public Television

## Identifying Elected Leaders

• GRADES K-4

• SOCIAL STUDIES, INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY LITERACY

### OBJECTIVES

Students will identify the president and vice president of the United States, the state’s governor, and the community’s mayor or local leader.

Students will understand that some national, state, and community leaders are elected officials.

### STANDARDS ADDRESSED

Wisconsin’s Model Academic Standards for Social Studies

#### Standard C: Political Science and Citizenship

**C.4.4** Explain the basic purpose of government in American society, recognizing the three levels of government

**C.4.5** Explain how various forms of civic action such as running for political office, voting, signing an initiative, and speaking at hearings, can contribute to the well-being of the community

Wisconsin’s Model Academic Standards for Information and Technology Literacy

#### Standard A: Media and Technology

**A.4.4** Use a computer and communications software to access and transmit information

- Identify and use simple search engines and directories

### MATERIALS

- Device (computer, tablet, etc.) with internet access (one for each student group)
- Piece of writing paper (one for each student)

### PROCEDURE

To activate students’ prior knowledge, ask students, “Who is the president of the United States?” Have students discuss in a small group who they believe is the president, and have each group share their response with the class. Write the president’s name and their job title so all students can see it, such as on a large piece of paper. Repeat this step, but ask for the name of the vice president.

Next ask students, “If you did not know who the president or vice president is, how could you find out?” Responses may include: ask parents or caregivers, ask the teacher, look in a book, or conduct internet research.

Demonstrate for students how to research the names of the president and vice president of the United States using the internet. Remind students to use websites that end in .edu or .gov as they are the most reputable.

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Discuss with students how the president is the top government leader in the United States. Ask students, “Who is the top government leader of our state?” Students should conclude the governor is the top state leader. Ask students, “Who is our governor?” Have students formulate a response with their small group, and then share their group’s response with the class. Write the governor’s name and title in the list with the president and vice president’s name and title, and instruct students to work with their small group to conduct an internet search to find the governor’s name. Have students share which website they used and why they decided it was a reputable source.

Instruct students to work with their small group and research the name of the community’s top leader (e.g. mayor, town chairman, etc.) Have each group share with the class their response and the source they used.

Next, explain to students that it’s the responsibility of our national, state, and community leaders to work to keep us safe and help our country, state, and community become successful. Instruct students to work with their group members to conduct research online to find one job responsibility each for: the United States president, state governor, and community leader. Students should record their answers and sources on a piece of paper.

After students have completed their research, have groups share their responses with the class, creating a list of their responses.

Finally, instruct students that the president of the United States, the state governor, and the community leader are all elected officials, which means the people do not apply for a job like a teacher applies for a job; the public votes for who they want to be their leader. Inform students that when people vote, they are voting to decide who will be the best leader to complete all the jobs the students listed.