

2021 PTV MOCK ELECTION GUIDE

The Promote the Vote (PTV) Mock Election is designed to increase awareness and understanding of the elections and governmental process, encourage students to get involved in the process, and, ultimately, create a generation of informed voting citizens.

This year, students in grades K-5 will have the opportunity to vote for fictional candidates while students in grades 6-12 will cast votes for their classmates during a statewide mock election on Wednesday, October 27, 2021. The PTV Mock Election is open to all students who are enrolled in a Mississippi school or program registered for Promote the Vote. Mock election ballots will be available on our website at www.sos.ms.gov/PTV, beginning Wednesday, October 20th.

Grades K-5: Students are encouraged to learn about local (fictional) candidates running for Mayor of their community. Candidates include “Mr. Catfish” and “Mrs. Magnolia.”

- Students will vote for either candidate, which will appear on the Mock Election Day ballot.

Grades 6-12: Teachers and students are encouraged to organize a “local election” for their grade level. Students are encouraged to create campaigns for one of the following offices: Sheriff, Mayor, Circuit Clerk or Election Commissioner. Students will vote for the candidate of their choice on PTV Mock Election Day.

- The local races should include at least two but no more than five candidates per position.
- If there is an overwhelming number of students hoping to run for office, the teacher is encouraged to organize a “Primary Election” to help determine the final list of candidates that will appear on the PTV Mock Election Day ballot.

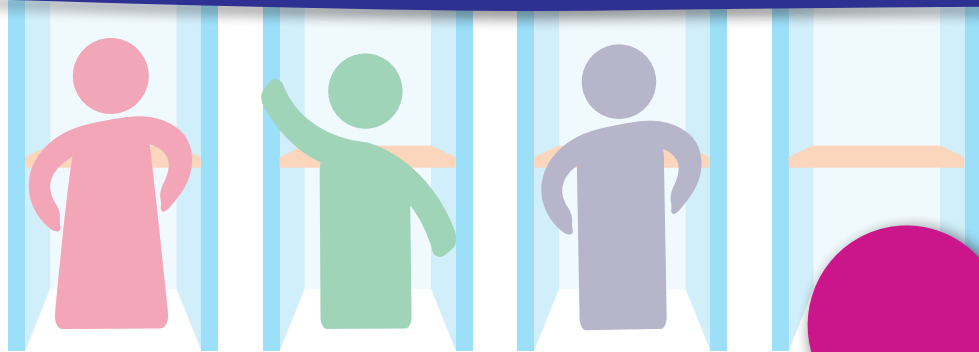


MOCK ELECTION RULES:

1. Polls for the mock election should be open at a time convenient to students and the school's schedule.
2. The mock election must be conducted strictly for educational purposes.
3. No student may be charged to participate.
4. No student may be denied the opportunity to vote.
5. The mock election may never be used for political purposes.

Ideas for having a successful mock election:

- Post photos on social media and tag the Secretary of State's Office and MPB Education.
- Get your local elected officials involved (Election Commissioners, etc.)
- Engage students in role playing to make casting a vote in the mock election as realistic as possible. Assign roles or tasks to students to conduct the mock election.
- Set up a mock polling place and have it staffed like an actual precinct.

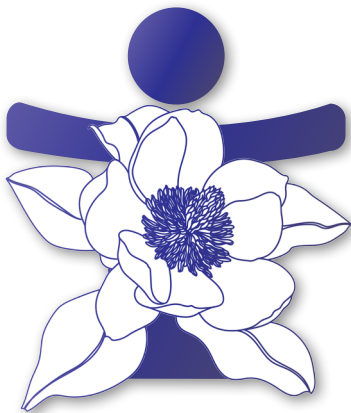


CANDIDATES FOR K-5 MOCK ELECTION:

This year, students in grades K-5 will have the opportunity to vote for fictional candidates during a statewide mock election on Wednesday, October 27, 2021. Below is a description of Mrs. Magnolia and Mr. Catfish – the two candidates running for Mayor. Students should study each candidate thoroughly before casting a vote during the statewide mock election. Mock election ballots will be available on our website at www.sos.ms.gov/PTV, beginning Wednesday, October 20th.

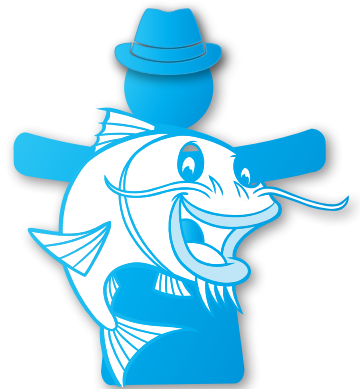
MRS. MAGNOLIA

Mrs. Magnolia is a proud resident of Lucedale, MS. She cares deeply about the environment and protecting Mississippi's natural resources. Mrs. Magnolia spends her free time recycling, planting trees, and encouraging Mississippians to spend more time outdoors. She's been a business owner for more than 15 years – opening at least 10 “Marvelous Magnolia” flower shops across the state. If elected Mayor, Mrs. Magnolia plans to extend recess times for all Mississippi schools and build more walkways and bike trails across the state.



MR. CATFISH

Mr. Catfish was born and raised in Indianola, MS. He's a hardworking farmer who encourages a farm-to-table lifestyle for all Mississippians. Mr. Catfish won the “Most Fantastic Farmer of the Year” award seven times in a row! He believes everyone should eat healthier to live a longer life. He loves animals, and in his spare time, he travels to different parts of the state, educating residents on the best way to protect our wildlife (in the sea, land, and sky). If elected Mayor, Mr. Catfish plans to improve school lunch menus and open new restaurants across the state.



Who will **YOU** vote for?

VOTER REGISTRATION FOR THE MOCK ELECTION:

Explain to students that everyone is required to register to vote before being eligible to cast a ballot on Election Day. Review the requirements below with your students.

Mississippi law states every U.S. citizen who possesses the following qualifications is eligible to register to vote in Mississippi:

- A resident of Mississippi and the county, city, or town for 30 days prior to the election; at least 18 years old (or will be 18 by the date of the next General Election) who is:
 1. Not declared mentally incompetent by a court.
 2. Not convicted of a disenfranchising crime as defined by Section 241 of the Mississippi Constitution or by Attorney General Opinion, unless pardoned, rights of citizenship restored by the Governor or suffrage rights restored by the Legislature.

Once you are registered, you remain registered until you no longer meet one of the qualifications to vote. Although the 2021 General Election's voter registration deadline has passed, please keep in mind there is never a deadline to register to vote. If you are a teacher with students who are 18 years old or older, please pass out voter registration applications to your class. You may download voter registration applications from our Y'all Vote website (yallvote.ms) or retrieve a stack of applications from your local Circuit Clerk's Office.

Voter registration forms can be mailed to your local Circuit Clerk's Office to complete the registration. Registrants should receive a Voter Registration Card at the address listed on their application. Remind students that the registration card only provides information on where a person goes to cast their ballot and does not count as an acceptable form of photo identification on Election Day.

Voter Registration Activity:

Idea: If your school or class is going to participate in the PTV mock election, have students host a mock voter registration drive during homeroom, lunch, or break time.

- Have students create a voter registration form. As a class, decide what should be included on it. Why are these things important in upholding the eligibility guidelines?
- Have each set of forms organized alphabetically.
- After each student has created the classroom registration form, ask them to complete the voter registration form (for security purposes, please make sure students do not list their entire social security number or birth date on the form) and turn it in.
- Ask your local Election Commissioner to come speak to your class about the importance of registering to vote and being involved in government.



VOTER ID:

Explain that Mississippi voters must present an acceptable form of photo ID when voting at the polls. If anyone does not have an acceptable form of ID (listed below), he or she may contact their local Circuit Clerk's Office and, if they are a registered voter, apply for a free voter identification card. Go over the list of acceptable forms of photo ID. Explain that in an actual election, if someone does not have an acceptable form of photo ID, they can visit the county Circuit Clerk's Office and have an ID made for free to use on Election Day.

In order to vote in the mock election, you can require students to show a photo ID (student photo ID card).

Mississippi law states all Mississippi voters casting a ballot in person at the polls or casting an absentee ballot in the Circuit or Municipal Clerk's Office must present one of the following forms of acceptable photo ID:

- A driver's license;
- A photo ID card issued by a branch, department, or entity of the State of Mississippi;
- A United States passport;
- A government employee photo ID card;
- A firearms license;
- A student photo ID issued by an accredited Mississippi university, college, or community/junior college;
- A United States military photo ID;
- A tribal photo ID;
- Any other photo ID issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the United States government or any State government; or
- A Mississippi Voter Identification Card.

DID YOU KNOW: More than 8,690 voter IDs have been issued since the inception of the Mississippi Voter ID law?

Visit the Mississippi Voter ID website to learn more about voter ID requirements.

The screenshot shows the Mississippi Voter ID website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo, "MISSISSIPPI Voter ID", and links for "Y'all Business", "Y'all Vote", "About Us", and "Contact Us". A search icon is also present. Below the navigation bar, a large banner features a quote from the Secretary of State: "Voter ID remains an integral part of clean and fair elections. As Secretary of State, it is my goal to educate every eligible Mississippian on the impact of this essential requirement at the ballot box. Together, we can help ensure every vote cast is free of fraud or error." To the right of the quote is a photo of the Secretary of State. Below the banner, there is a row of five icons with corresponding text: "ABOUT VOTER ID" (with a question mark icon), "GET A VOTER ID" (with a checkmark icon), "REGISTER TO VOTE" (with a list icon), "FAQS" (with a question mark icon), and "CONTACT US" (with a speech bubble icon).

2021 PTV GRADES K-5 MOCK ELECTION BALLOT

This year, students in grades K-5 will have the opportunity to vote for fictional candidates during a statewide mock election on Wednesday, October 27, 2021. The PTV Mock Election is open to all students who are enrolled in a Mississippi school or program registered for Promote the Vote. Mock election ballots will be available on our website at www.sos.ms.gov/PTV, beginning Wednesday, October 20th. See example below:

Official Promote the Vote Mock Election Ballot

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PROMOTE THE VOTE K-5 BALLOT


2021 MOCK GENERAL ELECTION


TO VOTE: YOU MUST DARKEN THE OVAL (●) COMPLETELY USING A BLACK OR BLUE PEN.

Do not use a red pen, felt tip pen or any type of pencil.

Do not cross out or erase - If you make a mistake, you may request a new ballot.

Vote for ONE

MRS. MAGNOLIA 

MR. CATFISH 

WRITE IN:

2021 PTV GRADES 6-12 MOCK ELECTION BALLOT

This year, students grades in 6-12 will have the opportunity to vote for local races during a statewide mock election on Wednesday, October 27, 2021. The PTV Mock Election is open to all students who are enrolled in a Mississippi school or program registered for Promote the Vote. Mock election ballots will be available on our website at www.sos.ms.gov/PTV, beginning Wednesday, October 20th. See example below:

Official Promote the Vote Mock Election Ballot

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PROMOTE THE VOTE 6th - 12th BALLOT

2021 MOCK GENERAL ELECTION

TO VOTE: YOU MUST DARKEN THE OVAL (●) COMPLETELY USING A BLACK OR BLUE PEN.

Do not use a red pen, felt tip pen or any type of pencil.

Do not cross out or erase - If you make a mistake, you may request a new ballot.

Vote for ONE



2021 PTV MOCK ELECTION TALLY SHEET

(Grades K-5)

School Name: _____

Teacher/School Contact: _____

Grades Included: _____

Fill in the total votes cast for each candidate below.

CANDIDATES:

NUMBER OF VOTES:

MRS. MAGNOLIA



MR. CATFISH



WRITE IN:



2021 PTV MOCK ELECTION TALLY SHEET

(Grades 6-12)

School Name: _____

Teacher/School Contact: _____

Grades Included: _____

Please fill in blanks with candidate names for the corresponding race. Then, fill in the total votes cast for each candidate.

CANDIDATES:

OFFICE:

NUMBER OF VOTES:

_____	_____	_____
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