



# The Mini Page

Issue 44, 2022

Founded by Betty Debnam

**Next Week:**  
Meet the  
U.S. Marines

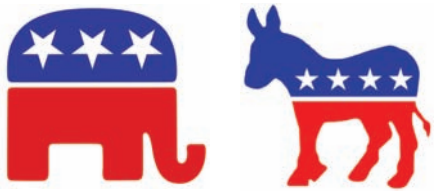
## What Are Midterms?



Citizens of the United States elected a new president in 2020, Democrat Joe Biden. Our next presidential election will be in 2024.

But two years after a presidential election, there are **midterm elections** to select members of the House of Representatives and some senators.

Midterms are important because they can change the balance of power in Congress. Right now, the Democratic Party has a **majority** of members in the House: 222-213. The Senate is equally divided — 50-50 — but as president of the Senate, Vice President Kamala Harris can cast a tie-breaking vote as a Democrat.



Whichever party gains the majority on Nov. 8, they may have specific ideas about what is important and try to change the laws to reflect that.

This week, The Mini Page learns more about midterm elections.

### Who's on the ballot?

You've probably been seeing a lot of television ads for politicians running for office. Some of them are state or local offices, such as governor or county commissioner. Others are hoping to go to Washington, D.C., to represent their state in Congress.

### Mini Fact:

This year's elections are called "midterms" because they fall in the middle of a president's term.

**U.S. representatives** are elected to two-year terms, so every two years, all 435 seats are part of the election. We will vote for House members in 2024, too.

**U.S. senators** are elected to six-year terms. This year, we'll vote on 35 Senate seats.

### Midterms matter!

Many more people usually vote in **general** elections, when presidential candidates are on the ballot, than do for midterms. In fact, as many as 20% more people may vote when the president's office is at stake.

When midterms roll around, members of the **minority** party hope voters who are unhappy with the president's policies will cast their ballots for their party's candidates.



Rep. Kevin McCarthy  
—  
House Minority Leader



Sen. Mitch McConnell  
—  
Senate Minority Leader

If the Republican Party should win a majority in the U.S. Senate or House, they will work against some of the policies of President Joe Biden. When a president's party controls the majority in the House and Senate, it's much easier for them to get their ideas and goals enacted.

### Who can vote?

American citizens who are 18 years old or older and who have not been convicted of a **felony**, or serious crime, can vote.

### Election security

Imagine you have an election in your classroom, say, to decide on a class mascot. After the voting, it's important that every ballot gets counted so that every student has a voice in the choice.

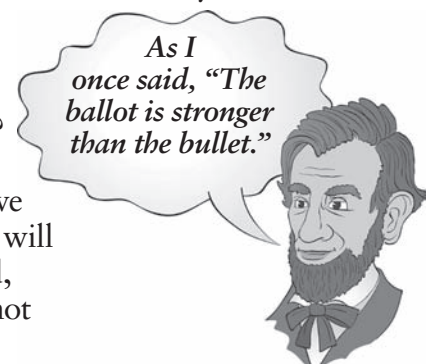
After the 2020 general election, some people thought that the ballot boxes and computer systems used to vote weren't secure enough. They believed that some votes had been "tampered with" — stolen or changed so they wouldn't count.

But after investigating cases where voter **fraud**, or dishonesty, was suspected, government agencies decided that the election had been secure.



The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) all agreed that the 2020 election was "the most secure in American history."

Why is election security so important? If people don't believe their votes will be counted, they may not vote at all.



### Resources



#### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/MPmidterms](https://bit.ly/MPmidterms)

#### At the library:

- "The Kids' Complete Guide to Elections" by Emma Carlson Berne, Cari Meister and Nel Yomtov

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of midterm elections are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



- BALLOT, CITIZEN,
- DEMOCRAT, ELECTION,
- FRAUD, GENERAL,
- GOVERNOR,
- HOUSE, MAJORITY,
- MIDTERM, MINORITY,
- REPUBLICAN, SEAT,
- SECURITY, SENATE,
- STATE, TERM, VOTE.

T T C O T E F R A U D A A K L  
 A M R E T D I M M R E T F N Y  
 E J N O I T C E L E M E S E Y  
 S S V A T W T N J N O T E Z F  
 T V T R E P U B L I C A N I L  
 O Y T I R O J A M D R T A T E  
 L E R O N R E V O G A S T I S  
 L L A R E N E G W V T T E C U  
 A W M I N O R I T Y M U O N O  
 B Y T I R U C E S N O L W K H

## Cook's Corner

### Quick 'n' Easy Baked Beans

#### You'll need:

- 1 (16-ounce) can baked beans
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

#### What to do:

1. Mix all ingredients in a medium-sized glass baking dish.
2. Microwave on high for 3 minutes.
3. Stir well to mix flavors. Makes 4 servings.



\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## Mini Jokes



- Mikey:** What happened when Ben Franklin told a joke to the Liberty Bell?  
**Mona:** It cracked up!

## Eco Note



Scientists have issued a "warning to humanity" over the prospect of losing about a third of the world's tree species. The warning says that more than 100 known tree species have already become extinct, with billions of individual trees being lost each year to pests, disease, invasive species, drought, climate change and industrial-scale deforestation. Forests provide homes to about 75% of all bird species, 68% of mammal species and as many as 10 million species of invertebrates.

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### For later:

Watch your newspaper for news about the midterm elections.

**Teachers:** Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



1. Communication that is spoken; a public talk (6-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □

2. A large number or big collection of people in one place (5-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □

3. Statements that a person will do something (8-letter plural noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. To select with careful thought; to decide (6-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □

1. Martha listened to a \_\_\_\_\_ and decided to vote today.
2. Daniel saw a very large \_\_\_\_\_ that was waiting to vote.
3. Two candidates made \_\_\_\_\_ to reduce grocery prices.
4. Todd will finally \_\_\_\_\_ after hearing the candidates' views.

**ROOTONYM®**  
by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Speech, Crowd, Promises, Choose.

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