GET INVOLVED!

How Our Government Works & How To Make Government Work For You

BOOK FOUR: WORDS TO KNOW

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Area 4 Board is a federally-funded state agency that protects and advocates for the rights of people who have developmental disabilities and their families in Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties.

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BOOK FOUR:
WORDS TO KNOW
Words to Know
Absente Ballot - This is what you use to vote if you do not want to or cannot go to a polling place to vote. You can mail in your absentee ballot or drop it off at a polling place.

Advocate -

Ballot - This is what you use to vote. The ballot lists all the candidates and propositions (proposed laws) that you can vote on in that election.

Ballot Pamphlet - A booklet that lists the things you can vote for in the next election, and gives some information to help you decide how to vote. If you are registered to vote, a ballot pamphlet will be mailed to you a few weeks before the next election.

Candidate - A person who wants to become a representative in government.

Election - Your chance to vote, or make choices, about who you want to be leaders in government and about some new laws.

General Election - The time to make a final choice among candidates who have been nominated by political parties or who are running as independents. Propositions (proposed laws) are also voted on in a general election.

Government - The people and the agencies that manage, or run, our country, states, counties, and cities.
Polling Place - The place where you go to vote. It's near your home. You can find out where your polling place is by looking on the back of your sample ballot.

Primary Election - A primary election is held before a general election. In a primary election, political parties nominate, or choose, the candidates from that party who will be voted on in the next general election.

Proposition - A proposed law. You vote for or against propositions in elections.

Representative - A person who is elected, or voted into their job, to stand up for the things that are important to you and the other people they represent.

Sample Ballot - This looks exactly like the real ballot that you use to vote. It lists all the things that you can vote for in the next election. If you are registered to vote, a sample ballot will be mailed to you a few weeks before the next election. You can write your choices on your sample ballot and you can use it as a guide to help you mark your real ballot.