

# Chapter Four: Activities High School



## Chapter Four: Vocabulary

**Political**—relating to the balance of power in relationships, especially in a group or organization

**Registrar**—somebody who keeps official records

**Election**—the process of choosing somebody or being chosen by vote

**Candidate**—somebody who is being considered for a political office or an official position

**Platform**—the publicly announced policies and promises of a party seeking election, understood as the basis of its actions should it come to power

**Primary**—an election to choose delegates who will represent each political party in the general election

**Runoff**—an election, race or other contest held after an earlier one that produced no clear winner

**General**—an election in which voters pick the office holders

**Write in**—a person who has other voters write his or her name on the ballot for a particular office

**Majority**—the number of votes by which the winning party or group beats the opposition

**Plurality**—receiving more votes than any other candidate

**Amendments**—additions or alterations to the Constitution

**Vacancy**—an office, position or tenancy that is unfilled or unoccupied

**Term**—the length of time that something lasts, with a fixed beginning and end, often a period during which a person holds an appointment or office

**Ballot**—a sheet of paper or computer device used in voting, usually in an electoral system that allows the voter to make choices secretly

## Chapter Four: Notes and Review

1. Citizens of the United States have the right to \_\_\_\_\_ and to hold \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A citizen must be \_\_\_\_\_ years old to be eligible to vote.
3. The person responsible for processing voter registration applications for most counties in Texas is the County \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The way you join a political party is by \_\_\_\_\_ in the particular party's primary election.
5. The four types of elections in Texas are the
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
6. A majority vote is more than \_\_\_\_\_ of the total votes cast for all candidates.
7. A person who intends to run for county office by participating in the primary election must file an application with the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. All ballots in Texas are printed in both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. A voter can determine his or her polling place by \_\_\_\_\_.

## Chapter Four: Notes and Review Key

1. Citizens of the United States have the right to **vote** and to hold **office**.
2. A citizen must be **18** years old to be eligible to vote.
3. The person responsible for processing voter registration applications for most counties in Texas is the County **Voter Registrar**.
4. The way you join a political party is by **voting** in the particular party's primary election.
5. The four types of elections in Texas are the
  - a. **primary**
  - b. **run-off**
  - c. **general**
  - d. **special**
6. A majority vote is more than **half** of the total votes cast for all candidates.
7. A person who intends to run for county office by participating in the primary election must file an application with the **county party chairman**.
8. All ballots in Texas are printed in both **English** and **Spanish**.
9. A voter can determine his or her polling place by **looking on the voter registration card**.

## Chapter Four: Activity One

**Supplies:** four posters, each labeled in large letters with one of the following: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree; writing paper and pencils

**Directions:** Place a poster in each corner of the room. Then read one of the following statements and have students go to the corner that best describes how they feel about that statement. Encourage students to voice their opinions from their respective corners. Then have each group gathered in response to a statement work together to write a clear statement explaining their position. Continue with the other statements.

*All Americans should be required to vote.*

*You should have to pay a fine if you don't vote.*

*The people who are involved in politics are not honest.*

*Most people are concerned about what the government does.*

*People should be allowed to vote on the Internet.*

*Candidates should spend the same amount of money on campaigns.*

*The two-party system in the United States does not allow third parties to gain a foothold in the Electoral College system.*

*The power of special-interest groups in American politics is too great.*

*Our county encourages local citizens to become involved in county government.*

*I know where to go for information about county government.*

*I am familiar with my elected representatives.*

*I can find what I need at the county courthouse.*

## Chapter Four: Activity Two

**Supplies:** copies of *Voter Interview* for each student, pens or pencils, extra copy of *Voter Interview* for compiling results

**Directions:** Conduct a local survey to determine the number of registered voters who actually voted in the last primary and general elections. Each student should interview 10 adults using the attached form and report the results. Interviewees should not be high school students. The results can be used to motivate students to get more involved in elections.

# Chapter Four: Activity Two

## Voter Interview

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Interview at least 10 adults using the following questions. Make tally marks to record answers.

1. Did you vote in the most recent election?
2. If you did not vote, why not?
  - a) Did not know where to vote
  - b) Not registered
  - c) Didn't care
  - d) Other
3. Do you vote in the primary elections?
4. Do you consider yourself a member of a specific political party?
5. Are you concerned about the way our county government is run?
6. Do you feel your vote is important in determining the way our county government is run?
7. Do you know anyone who has run for a political office?
8. Do you vote in every election?
9. Would you agree with a law that would make voting mandatory?

| Yes                       | No |
|---------------------------|----|
| 1                         |    |
| 2<br>a)<br>b)<br>c)<br>d) |    |
| 3                         |    |
| 4                         |    |
| 5                         |    |
| 6                         |    |
| 7                         |    |
| 8                         |    |
| 9                         |    |

## Chapter Four: Activity Three

**Supplies:** voter registration applications

**Directions:** Obtain voter registration applications for all students. Give each student an application and discuss the information required. Note that the applicant must give a permanent address and not a post office box number. This is to ensure that the applicant actually resides in the county. It also assists the voter registrar in determining the applicant's election precinct.

Conduct a voter registration drive in your school. Distribute voter registration applications and literature on voting to all eligible students.



## Chapter Four: Activity Four

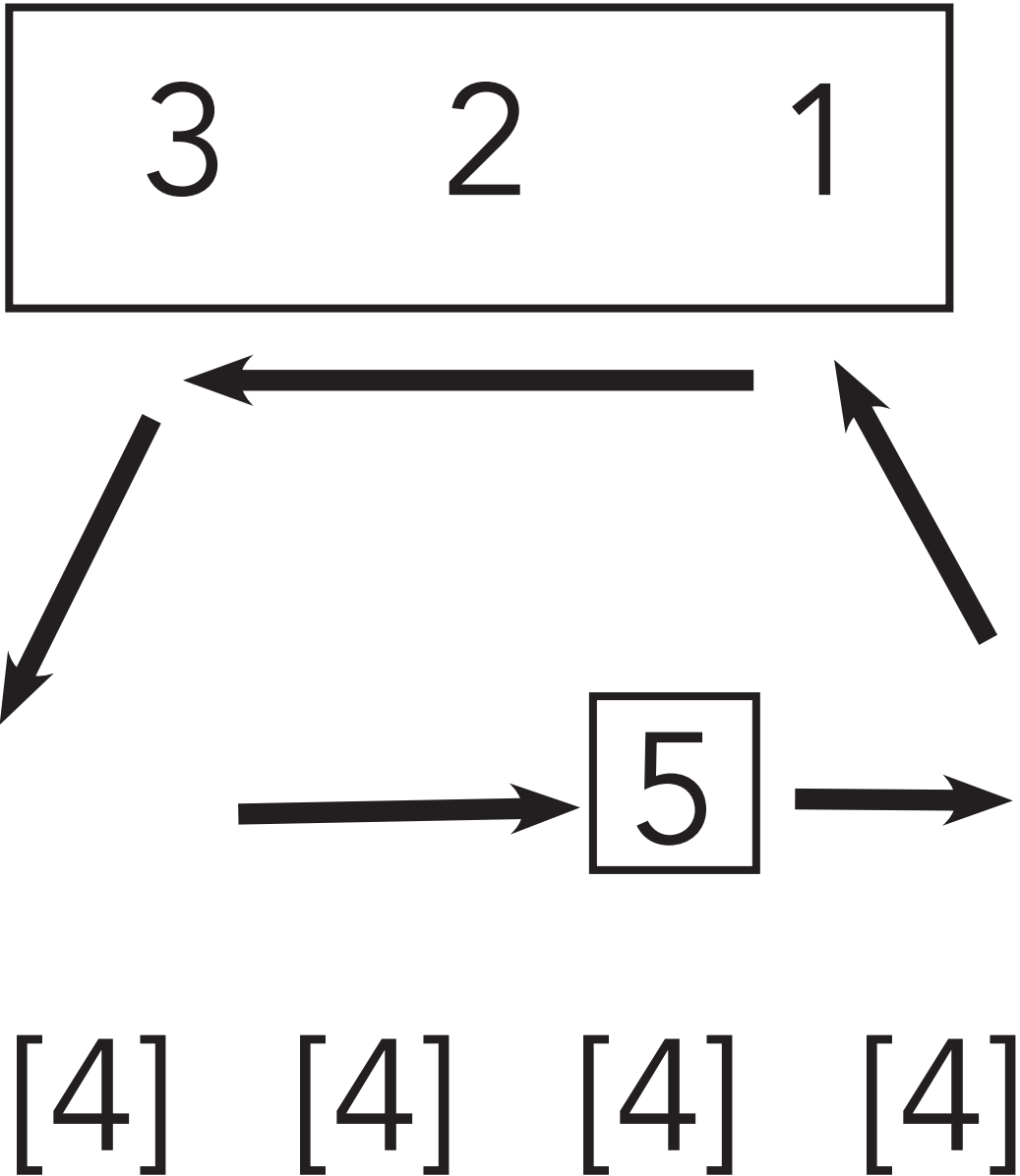
**Supplies:** ballot box, voting booth, sample ballots ( Insert sample ballot scanned), voter registration cards

**Directions:** Stage a mock election, using the following procedure.

1. Appoint an election judge and clerks.
2. Borrow a ballot box and voting booth from the county clerk or elections administrator. Or, make your own ballot box and voting booth.
3. Copy enough sample ballots that all members of the class can vote, or appoint a committee to prepare a class ballot.
4. Get voter registration cards from the county clerk or print copies from [www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/vr17.pdf](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/vr17.pdf).  
Let all students practice filling them out and then turning them in to the election judge.
5. Set up your room according to the attached diagram. The election judge and clerks are responsible for organizing the polling place, conducting the election, and certifying the votes.

### **Voting process:**

1. The voter enters and presents voter registration certificate to election judge.
2. Voter moves down to the election clerk and signs signature roster and clerk enters voter's name on poll list.
3. Voter receives ballot.
4. Voter enters polling booth.
5. Voter folds ballot and inserts in ballot box.
6. Voter departs polling place.
7. After everyone has voted, the election clerks count the votes.



Voter enters door at right and follows path indicated by arrows.

- 1-Election Judge
- 2-Clerk
- 3-Clerk
- 4-Voting Booths
- 5-Ballot Box

# SAMPLE BALLOT

(BOLETA DE MUESTRA)

## GENERAL ELECTION

(ELECCION GENERAL)

(CONDADO DE) **BRAZOS COUNTY,**

**TEXAS**

**NOVEMBER 4, 2008**

(4 DE NOVIEMBRE DE, 2008)

**INSTRUCTION NOTE:** You may cast a straight-party vote (that is, cast a vote for all the nominees of one party). If you cast a straight-party vote for all the nominees of one party and also cast a vote for an opponent of one of the party's nominees, your vote for the opponent will be counted as well as your vote for all the other nominees of the party for which the straight-party vote was cast.

**(NOTA DE INSTRUCCION:** Usted podrá votar por todos los candidatos de un solo partido político ("straight ticket"). Si usted vota por uno de los partidos políticos y también vota por el contrincante de uno de los candidatos de dicho partido político, se contará su voto por el contrincante tanto como su voto por todos los demás candidatos del partido político de su preferencia.)

### President/Vice-President

(Presidente y Vice-Presidente)

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>JOHN McCAIN / SARAH PALIN</b> | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>BARACK OBAMA / JOE BIDEN</b>  | <b>DEM</b> |
| <b>BOB BARR / WAYNE A. ROOT</b>  | <b>LIB</b> |
| <b>Write-In (Voto Escrito)</b>   |            |

### United States Senator

(Senador de los Estados Unidos)

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>JOHN CORNYN</b>               | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>RICHARD J. (RICK) NORIEGA</b> | <b>DEM</b> |
| <b>YVONNE ADAMS SCHICK</b>       | <b>LIB</b> |

### United States Representative, District 17

(Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Núm. 17)

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| <b>ROB CURNOCK</b>        | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>CHET EDWARDS</b>       | <b>DEM</b> |
| <b>GARDNER C. OSBORNE</b> | <b>LIB</b> |

### Railroad Commissioner

(Comisionado de Ferrocarriles)

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>MICHAEL L. WILLIAMS</b> | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>MARK THOMPSON</b>       | <b>DEM</b> |
| <b>DAVID FLOYD</b>         | <b>LIB</b> |

### Chief Justice, Supreme Court

(Juez Presidente, Corte Suprema)

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| <b>WALLACE B. JEFFERSON</b> | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>JIM JORDAN</b>           | <b>DEM</b> |
| <b>TOM OXFORD</b>           | <b>LIB</b> |

### Justice, Supreme Court, Place 7

(Juez, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 7)

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| <b>DALE WAINWRIGHT</b> | <b>REP</b> |
|------------------------|------------|

**SAM HOUSTON**  
**DAVID G. SMITH**

**DEM**  
**LIB**

### Justice, Supreme Court, Place 8

(Juez, Corte Suprema, Lugar Núm. 8)

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| <b>PHIL JOHNSON</b>      | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>LINDA REYNA YAÑEZ</b> | <b>DEM</b> |
| <b>DREW SHIRLEY</b>      | <b>LIB</b> |

### Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3

(Juez, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm.3)

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| <b>TOM PRICE</b>         | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>SUSAN STRAWN</b>      | <b>DEM</b> |
| <b>MATTHEW E. EILERS</b> | <b>LIB</b> |

### Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 4

(Juez, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm.4)

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| <b>PAUL WOMACK</b> | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>J.R. MOLINA</b> | <b>DEM</b> |
| <b>DAVE HOWARD</b> | <b>LIB</b> |

### Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 9

(Juez, Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm.9)

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>CATHY COCHRAN</b>              | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>WILLIAM BRYAN STRANGE, III</b> | <b>LIB</b> |

### State Representative, District 14

(Representante Estatal, Distrito Núm. 14)

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| <b>FRED BROWN</b> | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>RON DARBY</b>  | <b>LIB</b> |

### State Representative, District 17

(Representante Estatal, Distrito Núm. 17)

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>TIM KLEINSCHMIDT</b>    | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>DONNIE DIPPEL</b>       | <b>DEM</b> |
| <b>ALAN W. DUESTERHOFT</b> | <b>LIB</b> |

### Justice, 10<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals District

(Juez, Corte de Apelaciones Distrito Núm. 10)

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>REX DAVIS</b>        | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>RICHARD FERGUSON</b> | <b>DEM</b> |

### District Judge, 272nd Judicial District

(Juez del Distrito, Distrito Judicial Núm. 272)

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>TRAVIS BRYAN III</b> | <b>REP</b> |
|-------------------------|------------|

### District Attorney, 85<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

(Fiscal del Distrito, Distrito Judicial Núm. 85)

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| <b>RICK DAVIS</b>  | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>BILL TURNER</b> | <b>DEM</b> |

### County Attorney

(Procurador del Condado)

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| <b>ROD ANDERSON</b> | <b>REP</b> |
|---------------------|------------|

### County Sheriff

(Sheriff del Condado)

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| <b>CHRIS KIRK</b> | <b>REP</b> |
|-------------------|------------|

### County Tax Assessor/Collector

(Asesor-Colector de Impuestos del Condado)

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| <b>KRISTEEN ROE</b> | <b>REP</b> |
| <b>JOHN ROEMER</b>  | <b>LIB</b> |

### County Commissioner, Precinct No. 1

(Comisionado del Condado, Precinto Núm.1)

**LLOYD WASSERMANN REP**

**County Commissioner, Precinct No. 3**

(Comisionado del Condado, Precinto Núm.3)

**KENNY MALLARD REP**

**SPECIAL ELECTION (ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL)**

—

**CITY OF COLLEGE STATION**

**BOND ELECTION**

*BONO ELECCIÓN*

**Proposition No 1.**

**The issuance of \$48,785,000 tax bonds and notes for street and transportation improvements.**

*PROPOSICIÓN 1*

*La emisión de \$48,785,000 bonos de impuestos y notas para mejoramientos de las calles y transportación.*

**FOR (A FAVOR)**

**AGAINST (EN CONTRA)**

**Proposition No 2.**

**The issuance of \$8,385,000 tax bonds and notes for library improvements.**

*PROPOSICIÓN 2*

*La emisión de \$8,385,000 bonos de impuestos y notas para mejoramientos de biblioteca.*

**FOR (A FAVOR)**

**AGAINST (EN CONTRA)**

**Proposition No 3.**

**The issuance of \$6,990,000 tax bonds and notes for fire safety improvements.**

*PROPOSICIÓN 3*

*La emisión de \$6,990,000 bonos de impuestos y notas para mejoramientos de seguridad contra incendios.*

**FOR (A FAVOR)**

**AGAINST (EN CONTRA)**

**Proposition No 4.**

**The issuance of \$12,790,000 tax bonds and notes for parks or other recreational improvements.**

*PROPOSICIÓN 4*

*La emisión de \$12,790,000 bonos de impuestos y notas para mejoramientos de parques y otras facilidades recreativas.*

**FOR (A FAVOR)**

**AGAINST (EN CONTRA)**

**Proposition No. 5**

**The issuance of \$7,050,000 tax bonds and notes for constructing and equipping a community center.**

*PROPOSICIÓN 5*

*La emisión de \$7,050,000 bonos de impuestos y notas para la construcción y equipamiento de un centro cívico.*

**FOR (A FAVOR)**

**AGAINST (EN CONTRA)**

**Proposition No 6.**

**The issuance of \$26,300,000 tax bonds and notes for constructing and equipping a city hall.**

*PROPOSICIÓN 6*

*La emisión de \$26,300,000 bonos de impuestos y notas para la construcción y equipamiento de una casa de ayuntamiento.*

**FOR (A FAVOR)**

**AGAINST (EN CONTRA)**

**CHARTER AMENDMENT ELECTION**

*CARTA ENMIENDA ELECCIÓN*

**Shall the Charter be amended to provide that city employees may apply and receive housing assistance or other assistance that is offered to other citizens?**

*¿Debe el Fuero ser enmendado para establecer que los empleados de la ciudad pueden aplicar y recibir asistencia de vivienda u otra asistencia que se ofrece a los de más ciudadanos?*

**YES (SÍ)**

**NO (NO)**

**LEGEND OF PARTY AFFILIATION**

*(Clave de afiliación de partido)*

**Republican = Rep**

*Republicano*

**Democratic = Dem**

*Demorático*

**Libertarian = Lib**

*Libertario*

# SAMPLE BALLOT

(BOLETA DE MUESTRA)

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

(ELECCIÓN DE ENMIENDAS A LA CONSTITUCIÓN)

(CONDADO DE) **BRAZOS COUNTY,**  
**TEXAS**

**NOVEMBER 3, 2009**

(3 DE NOVIEMBRE DE, 2009)

### INSTRUCTION NOTE:

To vote for your choice in each contest, completely mark the box provided to the left of your choice.

*Nota de Instrucción:*

*Para votar por su selección en cada carrera, marque completamente la caja a la izquierda de su selección.*

### PROPOSITION 1

The constitutional amendment authorizing the financing, including through tax increment financing, of the acquisition by municipalities and counties of buffer areas or open spaces adjacent to a military installation for the prevention of encroachment or for the construction of roadways, utilities, or other infrastructure to protect or promote the mission of the military installation.

*PROPOSICIÓN 1*

*Enmienda constitucional que autoriza el financiamiento, incluso por tributación incremental, de la adquisición por municipios y condados de zonas de separación o espacios abiertos adyacentes a una instalación militar para prevenir intrusiones o para la construcción de calzadas, servicios públicos, u otras infraestructuras destinadas a proteger o promover la misión de la instalación militar.*

For (A Favor)

Against (En Contra)

### PROPOSITION 2

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead.

*PROPOSICIÓN 2*

*Enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura para disponer la tributación al valor de una residencia familiar con base únicamente en el valor de dicha propiedad como residencia familiar.*

For (A Favor)

Against (En Contra)

### PROPOSITION 3

The constitutional amendment providing for uniform standards and procedures for the appraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes.

*PROPOSICIÓN 3*

*Enmienda constitucional que dispone normas y procedimientos uniformes para la tasación de bienes para fines de tributación al valor.*

For (A Favor)

Against (En Contra)

### PROPOSITION 4

The constitutional amendment establishing the national research university fund to enable emerging research universities in this state to achieve national prominence as major research universities and transferring the balance of the higher education fund to the national research university fund.

*PROPOSICIÓN 4*

*Enmienda constitucional que autoriza el establecimiento del fondo para universidades de investigación a calibre nacional a fin de posibilitar a universidades de investigación recién fundadas en este estado para alcanzar destaque nacional como gran universidades de investigación y lograr que se transfiera el saldo del fondo de estudios superiores al fondo para universidades de investigación a calibre nacional.*

For (A Favor)

Against (En Contra)

### PROPOSITION 5

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to authorize a single board of equalization for two or more adjoining appraisal entities that elect to provide for consolidated equalizations.

*PROPOSICIÓN 5*

*Enmienda constitucional que permite a la legislatura autorizar una sola junta de igualación para dos o más entidades contiguas de tasación que decidan ofrecer igualaciones consolidadas.*

For (A Favor)

Against (En Contra)

### PROPOSITION 6

The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to issue general obligation bonds in amounts equal to or less than amounts previously authorized.

*PROPOSICIÓN 6*

*Enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la Junta Directiva de Tierras para Veteranos para emitir bonos de obligación*

general cuyo monto sea igual o inferior a sumas anteriormente autorizadas.

- For** (A Favor)  
 **Against** (En Contra)
- 

#### PROPOSITION 7

**The constitutional amendment to allow an officer or enlisted member of the Texas State Guard or other state militia or military force to hold other civil offices.**

##### PROPOSICIÓN 7

*Enmienda constitucional que permite que un oficial o soldado raso de la Guardia Estatal de Texas u otra fuerza militar o milicia estatal ocupe otros cargos civiles.*

- For** (A Favor)  
 **Against** (En Contra)
- 

#### PROPOSITION 8

**The constitutional amendment authorizing the state to contribute money, property, and other resources for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of veterans hospitals in this state.**

##### PROPOSICIÓN 8

*Enmienda constitucional que autoriza que el estado aporte dinero, bienes y otros recursos al establecimiento, mantenimiento y administración de hospitales de veteranos en este estado.*

- For** (A Favor)  
 **Against** (En Contra)
- 

#### PROPOSITION 9

**The constitutional amendment to protect the right of the public, individually and collectively, to access and use the public beaches bordering the seaward shore of the Gulf of Mexico.**

##### PROPOSICIÓN 9

*Enmienda constitucional a fin de salvaguardar el derecho del público, individual y colectivamente, de tener acceso y uso de las playas públicas contiguas a la orilla marítima del Golfo de México.*

- For** (A Favor)  
 **Against** (En Contra)
- 

#### PROPOSITION 10

**The constitutional amendment to provide that elected members of the governing boards of emergency services districts may serve terms not to exceed four years.**

##### PROPOSICIÓN 10

*Enmienda constitucional que dispone que los integrantes de las juntas directivas de distritos de servicios de emergencia puedan ocupar periodos que no excedan cuatro años.*

- For** (A Favor)  
 **Against** (En Contra)
- 

#### PROPOSITION 11

**The constitutional amendment to prohibit the taking, damaging, or destroying of private property for public use unless the action is for the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property by the State, a political subdivision of the State, the public at large, or entities granted the power of eminent domain under law or for the elimination of urban blight on a particular parcel of property, but not for certain economic development or enhancement of tax revenue purposes, and to limit the legislature's authority to grant the power of eminent domain to an entity.**

##### PROPOSICIÓN 11

*Enmienda constitucional que prohíbe la toma de posesión, los daños, o la destrucción de bienes privados destinados al uso público, a menos de que tal acción sirva para la posesión, utilización y usufructo de los bienes por el Estado, por una subdivisión política del Estado, por el público en general, o por entidades a las que se conceda el poder de dominio eminente por ley, o para la eliminación del deterioro urbano de determinada parcela de la propiedad, pero no para fines de desarrollo económico o del aumento de sus ingresos fiscales así como para poner límites a la autoridad de la legislatura para conceder el poder de dominio eminente a alguna entidad.*

- For** (A Favor)  
 **Against** (En Contra)
- 

### SPECIAL ELECTION

(ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL) –

#### CITY OF COLLEGE STATION

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##### BOND ELECTION

BONO ELECCIÓN

#### Proposition No 1.

**The issuance of \$48,785,000 tax bonds and notes for street and transportation improvements.**

##### PROPOSICIÓN 1

*La emisión de \$48,785,000 bonos de impuestos y notas para mejoramientos de las calles y transportación.*

- For** (A Favor)  
 **Against** (En Contra)
-

## Chapter Four: Activity Five

**Supplies:** newspaper articles about recent elections, county results of polling in recent elections, butcher paper, markers, straight edge ruler

**Directions:** Choose several county offices voted on in the last election and trace the elimination process beginning with the primary election and ending with the general election. This information can be acquired from the county elections administrator. A wire diagram could be constructed on butcher paper showing the candidates who ran in each type of election and then moved on to the next races.