

# Democracy Central

## New in 2010



Melody Kahkedjian

### **A Teachers Guide To California's Statewide Elections**

Debra Bowen  
Secretary of State

**MYVOTE**  
STUDENT MOCK ELECTION

Jack O'Connell  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

# Democracy Central

## A Teachers Guide To California's Statewide Elections

### New Lessons for 2010

Educating for Democracy

California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools



**This is a publication of the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, a collaboration of Constitutional Rights Foundation, Center for Civic Education, and the Alliance for Representative Democracy.**

Constitutional Rights Foundation  
601 S. Kingsley Dr.  
Los Angeles, CA 90005  
[www.crf-usa.org](http://www.crf-usa.org)

Jonathan Estrin  
*President*

Marshall Croddy  
*Vice President*

Keri Doggett  
*Director of Program Development*

Bill Hayes  
*Senior Editor*

David De La Torre  
*Copy Editing*

Cover art by Melody Kahkedjian, a student of Ms. Stephanie Moore at Marshall Fundamental Secondary School, Pasadena Unified School District. It was among thousands of submissions by students statewide for the Constitution Day 2007 display in the state Capitol, sponsored by the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools.

## Introduction

For the 2008 presidential election, the California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools worked with Secretary of State Debra Bowen and then-Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell to prepare a collection of lesson plans and classroom activities to help students discover the importance of elections and the power of their vote in our democracy. Called *Democracy Central: A Teachers Guide to California's Statewide Elections*, its materials were widely used by teachers across the state.

For the 2010 statewide elections, we added three new lessons in this separate companion volume. Please note that all of the lessons and activities in both volumes of *Democracy Central: A Teachers Guide to California's Elections* are suitable for use in any federal, state, or local election. While they were chosen to help teachers prepare their students to vote in the MyVote California Student Mock Election, we hope you find them useful during non-election years as well.

The [Constitutional Rights Foundation](#), on behalf of the [California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools](#), selected and created material that is in line with California's 8th, 11th and 12<sup>th</sup>-grade History-Social Science standards. Students in 9th and 10<sup>th</sup> grade would also benefit from the many opportunities here to develop their critical thinking and civic participation skills.

The lessons are also aligned with the [Civic Mission of Schools Proven Practices](#). Please note that in the lessons, the term "promising approaches" is used, but in 2011, a new CMS report was issued confirming the practices as proven by research.

For young people, taking part in a mock election at school can be the first step toward becoming a lifelong voter. We encourage you to participate in the [MyVote California Student Mock Election](#), and help your students gain further firsthand experience with elections while serving their community as a [High School Poll Worker](#).

## Overview of the New Lessons for 2010

### **How Women Won the Right to Vote**

**What the students do:** Read an article about the women's suffrage movement and develop persuasive arguments supporting women's right to vote.

### **Fight for Your Right: A History of the Twenty-Sixth Amendment**

**What the students do:** Explore and discuss several documents to learn about the passage of the 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

### **Elections and Public Policy**

**What the students do:** Newspaper search to find election-related articles and discuss policies/problem/issues the candidates or ballot initiatives are addressing. After researching the candidates' views and/or ballot initiatives, students determine how they would vote.