

# STEP 6: DEMOCRACY & ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The World's Children's Prize Program includes a Global Vote. At every school the pupils organize their own democratic election day. In the run up to the day, they learn about how democracy works and how to run a fair election campaign.

Explain the basic principles of democracy, and that the children will later conduct a democratic election according to the same principles that are applied to their home country's political elections, with no cheating or corruption!

Give examples of how adult elections can sometimes be manipulated: powerful people may try to influence how regular people vote, by offering money or threatening them with violence. Some countries hold elections that claim to be democratic, but where only one candidate or one party can actually win.

## Follow the timeline

1. Study the timeline of the history of democracy in *The Globe* (p. 21–23).
2. Split learners up into pairs/groups to make a timeline of democratic development in their country.
3. Gather the class to make a timeline together, with each pair/group giving suggestions from their own timeline.
4. Ask learners to comment: was anything surprising? Have they learned anything new? What do they hope will be the next point on the timeline for their own community, and for the world?

## Run an election campaign



Children make their own election posters.

**Get pupils to** run their own election campaign. They can work individually and in groups and make flyers, election posters and maybe material on social media. They can write, draw and paint, give speeches, discuss and reflect on key issues.

### LINK TO ADULT ELECTIONS

Tell the pupils that the outcome of political elections is sometimes affected by corruption and abuse of power. Get the pupils to study good

and bad examples from the world of adult elections. Discuss how they themselves can conduct a fair election campaign, in which all candidates have the same amount of coverage and where everyone has enough information to make an informed choice. For example, all pupils must know enough about the Child Rights Heroes ahead of the World's Children's Prize Global Vote day to make an informed choice.

## Prepare for Global Vote day



**Talk about the** Global Vote and about how it usually works. Read one of the accounts about Global Votes around the world out loud (pages 24–28 in *The Globe*). Maybe show a short video.

### PREPARING

Get the pupils to work in pairs/small groups on different tasks to prepare for election day. Some can make the ballot boxes or the voting booths, while others decorate the voting station, cut out ballot papers, draw up election registers, etc. If you want to invite parents, local leaders and/or local media to your election day, that can be the job of another group. There's plenty of inspiration in *The Globe* and on the WCP website!

# STEP 7: THE GLOBAL VOTE

**It's important that every child knows enough about all the Child Rights Heroes to be able to make an informed choice in the Global Vote. No-one should interfere with the child's choice of candidate. Your Global Vote Day can take place on any day up to 1 June 2021.**

## APPOINT KEY PEOPLE!

- *Presiding Officers.* Tick off voters on the voting register and give out ballot papers.
- *Election Supervisors.* Oversee the voting and vote count, and check that all who have voted get a paint or ink mark.
- *Vote Counters.* Count the votes and send in the result.

## INVITE THE COMMUNITY

... invite family members and local leaders to your Global Vote Day.  
 ... invite local media (with plenty of advance warning). This gives the children a chance to make their voices heard on the topic of rights and democracy.

## You need:

### BALLOT PAPERS AND REGISTER

Print the ballot papers on the web, copy them in the TG or make your own. The voting register includes all children who have a right to vote (until the year they turn 18). On voting day, every student's name is ticked off as they cast their vote.

### RESOURCES

- \* Be inspired by other children organizing their Global Votes in *The Globe* and online
- \* Video on [youtube.com/worldschildrensprize](https://www.youtube.com/worldschildrensprize)
- \* Download ballot papers: [worldschildrensprize.org/ballots](https://www.worldschildrensprize.org/ballots)

### BALLOT BOXES

Ballot boxes can be made of cardboard, tin cans, jars, woven palm leaves or anything that can hold ballot papers.



### VOTING BOOTH FOR SECRECY

A voting booth is necessary to make sure voting is secret. In the Brazilian rainforest, students cover bamboo frames with leaves. Use your own creativity and local materials! Some schools contact local electoral authorities and borrow voting booths from them.



### GLOBAL VOTE DAY

Children join the voting queue. One by one, they go up to the presiding officers, who give out ballot papers and tick off each name on the voting register. The children step into the voting booth alone. They mark their choice on the ballot paper, and fold it so that nobody can see how they voted. They then go to place it in the ballot box.



### PREVENT CHEATING

Each child's finger/nail is marked with paint once they have cast their vote. Prepare paint that is hard to wash off, such as juice from cactus, inkpad ink, or a marker pen.

### COUNT THE VOTES

Once everyone has voted, the vote counters begin their work. Finally, the result of your Global Vote Day can be announced.

### NOT A COMPETITION!

The Global Vote is not a competition. All candidates have made fantastic contributions and are honoured at the WCP ceremony.

### REPORT THE RESULTS

Report the results for each of the candidates by 1 June 2021. If you have a WCP Coordinator in your country, report to them. Otherwise, use the ballot box at: [worldschildrensprize.org](https://www.worldschildrensprize.org) or send an email to [info@worldschildrensprize.org](mailto:info@worldschildrensprize.org)

### THE BIG ANNOUNCEMENT

In April 2021, all the votes from around the world are added together. Then, children around the world reveal the big news about the WCP Decade Child Rights Hero, and demand respect for the Rights of the Child at World's Children's Press Conferences. Contact your Country coordinator or the WCP if you would like to organize a press conference.