



## If Elected...

(30-45 Minutes)

### OBJECTIVE

- ✓ Understanding the role of a Mayor and the difference they can make in a community.

### MATERIALS

- ✓ "If Elected... Handout" – three separate handouts to choose from: Campaign Button 1, 2 or 3.
- ✓ Tape, markers, colored pencils, crayons, etc.

### GET READY

- ✓ Duplicate "If Elected... Handout" – one per student.
- ✓ Gather markers, colored pencils, crayons, etc. for decorating the buttons.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Explain to students the role of a mayor and that mayors are elected by the people who live within their city/town.

*Note: The mayor is the head of a city/town and makes decisions for that city/town. The mayor is an elected position for which the people must vote for.*

- ✓ Ask the group to brainstorm, as a whole, possible ideas a mayor would want to do to make their community better? Provide a couple of examples (cleaner community, recycling, etc.). Write down the ideas on the board.
- ✓ Ask each student to select their favorite idea and remind them that it doesn't have to be from the list of topics on the board.
- ✓ Explain the following to the students:
  - Each student is going to run for mayor of their city;
  - While running for mayor they are considered a "candidate"; and

- As a candidate, they must share their ideas with their city or town to get them to vote for them to become the mayor to make change in their community.

- ✓ Ask each student to first name their city/town and place it at the top of their button.
- ✓ Each student should write or draw their idea on the "If Elected... Handout" distributed to them. Each student will work independently on their button.

*Note: Remind your students to think of an improvement that would benefit the entire community.*

- ✓ Provide students time to color and cut out the buttons as well as to write their ideas,
- ✓ Make adhesive tape "hinges" to attach the buttons to their shirts.
- ✓ Place students in concentric circles by splitting the class in half and forming an "Inside Circle" and "Outside Circle" with the outside circle facing inward and the inside circle facing outward. Everyone should have a partner.
- ✓ Students facing one another should then read each other's buttons with their ideas listed.
- ✓ After reading their partner's button, one circle moves clockwise to the next person and the new pairs and the process repeats. Proceed until perhaps five pairs have shared.

*Note: This activity works best close to an election, preferably a mayoral election, but it is not essential.*

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ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Having an Impact



**If Elected...**  
(30-45 Minutes)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- ★ *What were some of your ideas?*
- ★ *Who would benefit from these improvements?*
- ★ *Is there a way that you can help your ideas come true? What can you do?*
- ★ *How might voting make your suggestions for our city/town a reality?*

K-2

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Having an Impact



**"If Elected... Handout"**  
**Campaign Button 1**

Write your ideas for improving your community on your Campaign Button Here.



**If Elected...**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mayor** \_\_\_\_\_

**City of** \_\_\_\_\_

Create a City of your own and write it Here.



Write your Last Name Here.



K-2

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Having an Impact



**"If Elected... Handout"**

**Campaign Button 2**

Write and draw your ideas for improving your community on your Campaign Button Here.

A large campaign button template. It has a circular center with a scalloped black border decorated with white stars. Inside the circle, the text "If Elected..." is at the top, followed by four horizontal lines for writing. Below the circle is a ribbon with two sections: "Mayor" and "City of", each with a horizontal line for writing. The ribbon has a jagged bottom edge.

Create a City of your own and write it Here.



Write your Last Name Here.



K-2

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

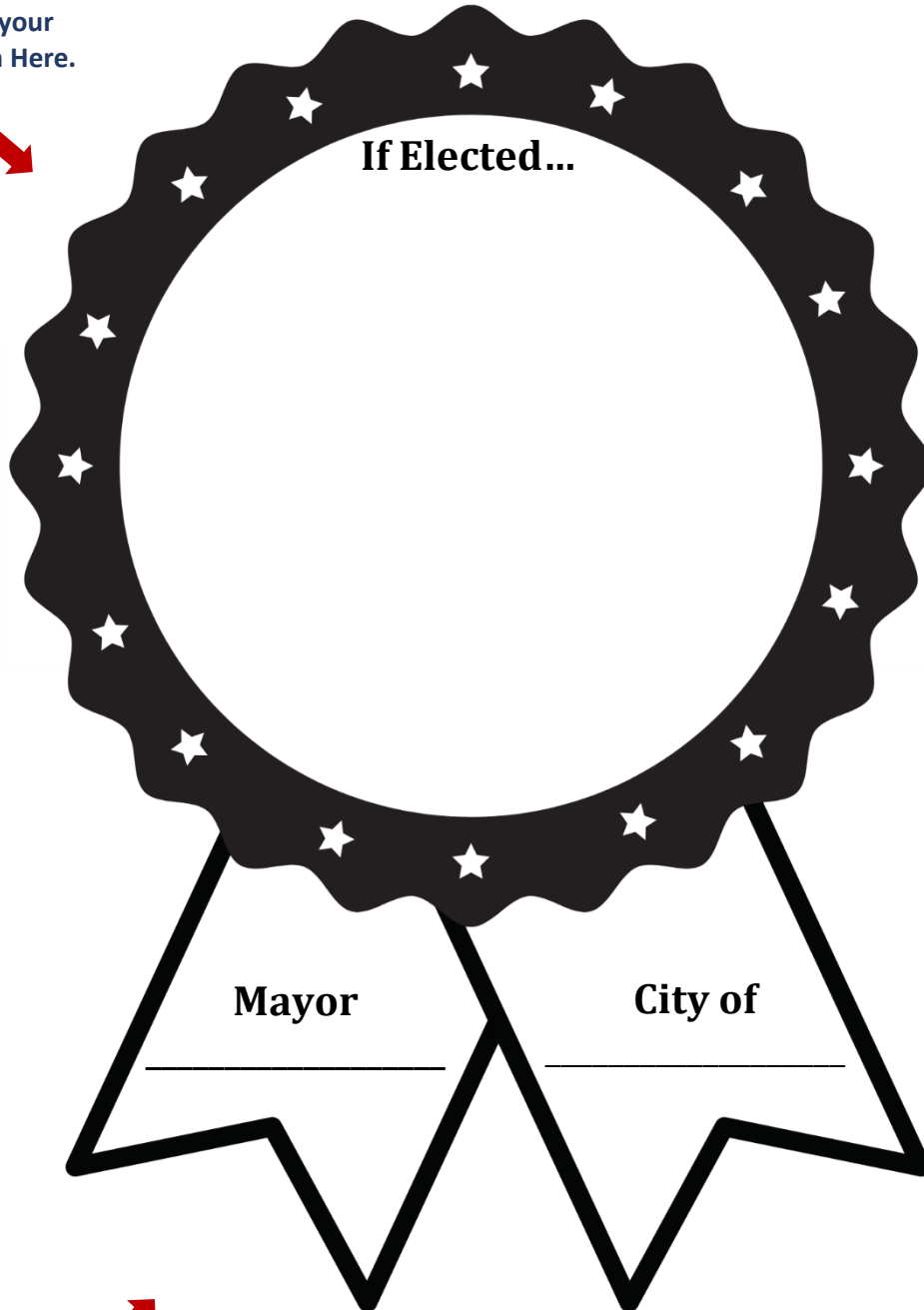
Having an Impact



**"If Elected... Handout"**

**Campaign Button 3**

Draw your ideas for improving your community on your Campaign Button Here.



Create a City of your own and write it Here.



Write your Last Name Here.

