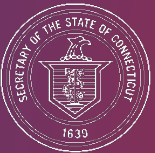




# The Power of Civics

**Deputy Secretary of the State**  
**Jennifer Barahona**  
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Office of the Connecticut Secretary of the State



# Let's test your civic knowledge!

## 1. Name the 3 branches of government

- Executive, Legislative, Judicial

## 2. The U.S. House of Representatives has how many members?

- 435 Congresspeople

## 3. The Connecticut General Assembly (the state legislature) has how many state representatives and senators?

- 151 State Representatives
- 36 State Senators

## 4. True or False. Being an 'Independent' means you don't belong to a major political party.



- False



# Let's test your civic knowledge!



# The Power of Civics

PowerofCivics.ct.gov

The Power of Civics  
Learn it. Use it. Share it.

HOME ? [User Icon]

HOME MY COURSES

## Welcome to The Power of Civics!

By logging in today, you've already taken an important step in empowering yourself. Understanding how government works - and how to work with it - is one of the most valuable tools you can have as a Connecticut resident. Whether you're here because you're facing a challenge and need help navigating the system, or you're simply curious and want to be prepared before you ever need assistance, this platform is for you. No matter if you have just ten minutes or more time to explore, whether you're new to civic education or already active in your community - there's something here for you. The Power of Civics is designed for everyone, regardless of background or experience. Let's get started - your civic journey begins now, and the tools you need are right at your fingertips.

**If you plan on taking a break from your online training, please close all windows to ensure that your progress is saved.** When you return to the online training, you will be able to resume where you left off.

Ready to start? Click the **My Courses** button above to access your training.

Stephanie Thomas  
Secretary of the State

- Platform **launched** in October 2025
- Confident civic participation = better outcomes
- A tool that makes **civic participation** easier



Office of the Connecticut Secretary of the State



# Overview of the Training

## Introduction to Government Activity

Let's review what you've learned in your introduction to government.

*Please read each question and type in the correct response or select the correct*

Fill in the blank:

If you're learning a new topic like civics, you should grab a \_\_\_\_\_ so that ask each other questions, talk through ideas, and figure it out together.

Type your answer here

SUBMIT



Section 5: Elected Officials



Section 6: Legislative Process

Let's review some election information. Click and drag each phrase card on the left to match with its correct definition on the right.

6:00 a.m.

Ways you can register to vote

Ways you can vote

State and federal offices

Unaffiliated

Ways you can connect with the Connecticut SOS

In person at your town's Registrar of Voters office or a voter registration agency; or online at [myvote.ct.gov/register](https://myvote.ct.gov/register).

Why is understanding the different levels of government and their roles important for citizens?

1 It primarily helps in understanding historical election results.

2 It helps citizens identify the correct officials to contact about specific issues they care about.

MyVote.ct.gov

CONTINUE

SUBMIT





# Welcome and Introduction to Government

## Section 1: Welcome and Introduction to Government

[RESUME COURSE](#)



Office of the Connecticut Secretary of the State

- **Understanding** your rights and duties as a citizen
- **Background** on how our government functions
- **Levels of Government**
  - Federal, State, and Local

# Engage with Community

## Section 2: Engage with Community

[RESUME COURSE](#)



Office of the Connecticut Secretary of the State

- **Attending** town meetings
- **Volunteering** to connect with the community
- **Participating** in a political party
- **Understanding** the threat of misinformation
- Civically Engaged Organizations **(CEO)** Program

# Candidates and Campaigns



## Section 3: Candidates and Campaigns

[RESUME COURSE](#)

- **Familiarize** yourself with the ballot
- **How to research candidates and engage with campaigns:**
  - Attend Candidate Events
  - Volunteer with a Campaign
  - Donate to a Campaign
  - Meet with Candidates



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# Elections

## Section 4: Elections

START COURSE



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- **How to prepare to vote:**

- Register to vote:  
**[MyVote.ct.gov/lookup](https://MyVote.ct.gov/lookup)**
- Determine political party
- Key election dates + type of election
- Sample ballots
- Your polling location

**Stay Engaged with  
Connecticut SOTS at  
[MyVote.CT.Gov](https://MyVote.CT.Gov)**

# Elected Officials

## Section 5: Elected Officials

START COURSE



Office of the Connecticut Secretary of the State

- **Understand** the different levels + positions in Government
- **Identify + Meet** your elected officials
- **Communicate + Share** your expertise or concerns with your elected officials

# Legislative Process

## Section 6: Legislative Process

START COURSE



Office of the Connecticut Secretary of the State

- Stay **informed** on issues:
  - Your town/city's website
  - [cga.ct.gov](http://cga.ct.gov)
  - [congress.gov](http://congress.gov)
- **Understand** the budget process
- **Learn** how to submit testimony + read a bill
- **Understand** the decision making process



# Why Civic Participation Matters?

## The Power of Civics

PowerofCivics.ct.gov



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### Civic Participation Strengthens Democracy:

- Informed voters **reflect** the community
- Participation **builds** trust within government processes

### Current Election-related news:

- Executive orders = Changing election procedures
- Discussions about voter identification and proof-of-citizenship requirements

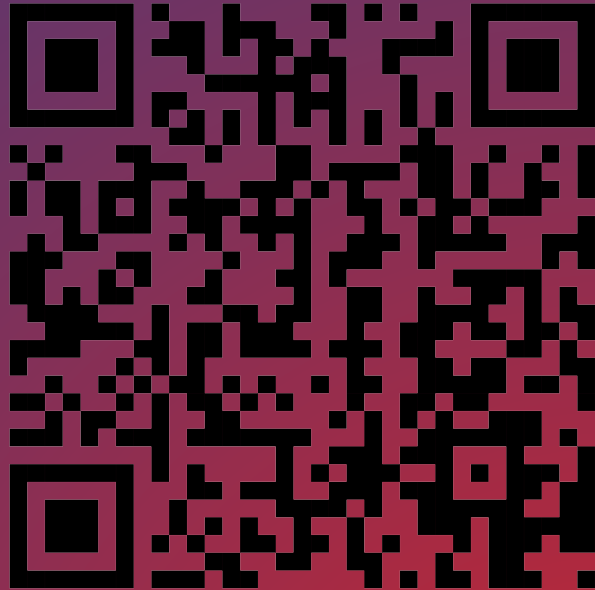
### What our office can do:

- We provide **official, real-time information** on registration rules, documentation requirements, voting options, and upcoming changes leading into the 2026 election



# Civically Engaged Organizations

Visit this website to sign up to be a Civically Engaged Organization:

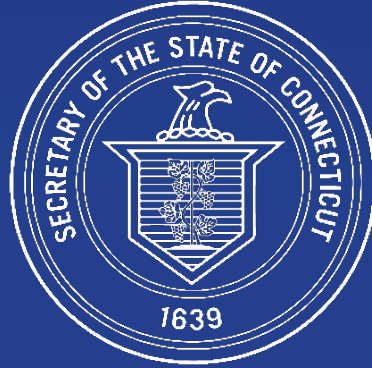


## Norwalk CEOs:

- Norwalk ACTS
- Ametheia DraG
- ElderHouse, Inc.
- Fairfield County's Community Foundation
- HELP, Inc
- HMTX Industries
- Lennie Rose Estate Appraisals, Inc.
- Livity, LLC
- Odyssey Family Executive Center
- Open Doors
- Restoratively Speaking, LLC
- Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities
- St. Paul's On The Green
- The Carver
- The Odyssey Family Executive Center of South Norwalk
- Walton altEnergy



Office of the Connecticut Secretary of the State



# Thank You!

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