



4 What matters most after an election?

What Matters?

During the election, the Chief Electoral Officer must ensure that the electoral process happens according to the laws set out by the *Election Act*. However, the electoral process is not finished after the election.

The government, of course, starts or continues its work. Elections Alberta also has important work to complete.

After an election is over, the Returning Officer must prepare reports on the election and provide these reports to the Chief Electoral Officer. A Returning Officer's appointment expires four months after the election is over.

The Chief Electoral Officer must then prepare a final report on the election. He or she also identifies ways that the electoral process can be improved.

A democratic society is based on the belief that all citizens have a voice in decision-making. We hold elections to select our representatives. We encourage individuals and groups to voice their opinions and act on them. We can write to newspapers, participate in action groups and contribute to community events.

Even though kids cannot vote, you can participate in society in many different ways. You can provide their opinions in public forums such as the media and the internet. You can participate in youth groups and join political organizations. And increasingly, governments are working to ensure that youth voices are heard on issues that affect them.



How can you make sure your voice is heard?

Every day you make decisions and take actions that affect others. Even by choosing not to participate in something, you express your opinion and can affect others. Think about how you want to participate and the impact you would like to have on your family, friends, school and community.

Complete the personal action plan on the next page and make sure your voice is heard!



Pause and Reflect

Kids under the age of 18 cannot vote, so how do they get a say? How can you make sure that your ideas and concerns matter?

What matters most to you as a citizen? How do you think you fulfil the responsibilities you have as a citizen?

Ideas for Action

- Make a commitment to vote by creating your own commitment card.
- Create a positive message or logo about participation and wear it on a t-shirt or baseball hat.
- Write a letter to a local newspaper or blog.
- Run for student council.
- Talk to your family about political decision-making.
- Go to **What Matters** on the **Building Future Voters** elementary webpage at www.buildingfuturevoters.ca for ideas, examples and inspiration.

Personal Action Planner

Actions I Would Like to Take	What I Need to Know	Possible Challenges and How I Might Overcome Them	How I Will Know I Am Successful