



YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE - How to Pick a Candidate

Primary Election Day is May 16, 2017
General Election Day is November 7, 2017

STEP ONE:

Learn about the specific duties of the office and the skills and personal qualities needed to succeed well in the position. This principle applies to every elective office, from local officials to the President of the United States.

STEP TWO:

Evaluate which candidate's personal characteristics, life experiences, and skills would best enable him or her to carry out the duties of the office. For example:

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Intelligence
- Knowledge base that matches duties
- Social skills – ability to relate to all constituents
- Temperament/Sound Judgment
- Integrity/Honesty

LIFE EXPERIENCES

- Education
- Work experience
- Leadership and management skills
- Other experiences relevant to office duties

STEP THREE:

Watch the candidate's campaign performance and study his or her policy platform and proposals. While it is likely that no candidate will totally match your views, consider which person would best exercise the duties of the office being sought. Here are some guidelines:

CAMPAIGN PLATFORM AND PERFORMANCE

- Major issues identified
- Explicit workable policies detailed
- Only achievable promises made
- Personal attacks on opponent avoided
- Truthfulness evidenced
- Campaign donors revealed

For more information, check out this article on www.smartervoter.org: How to Judge a Candidate.

When you have studied the candidates and made your choice, be sure to vote!

