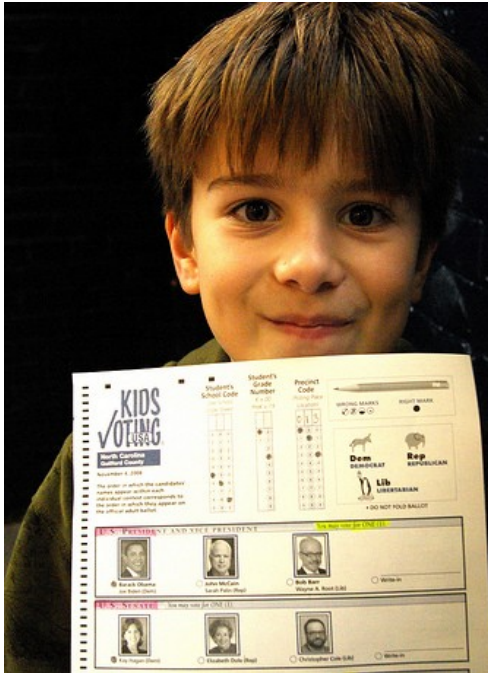


# Fair Elections

Pray that people in all countries may be able to vote.



Do you remember the last presidential election? Voting is one of the ways Americans can speak out about what's happening in our country. Responsible voters try to understand what the different candidates think about important issues. How candidates stand on things such as taxes, education, the environment, and health care will shape how they make laws about those issues. That's why it's important to vote – so we elect people who make good laws.

When America was a brand new country only white men who owned land were allowed to vote. After many years laws were passed that allowed men and women of all races to help choose our lawmakers. We changed the rules to make voting more fair.

In other countries things aren't always as easy. In some places women aren't allowed to vote. In many places people cheat in elections. Other places have problems with violence when elections go wrong.

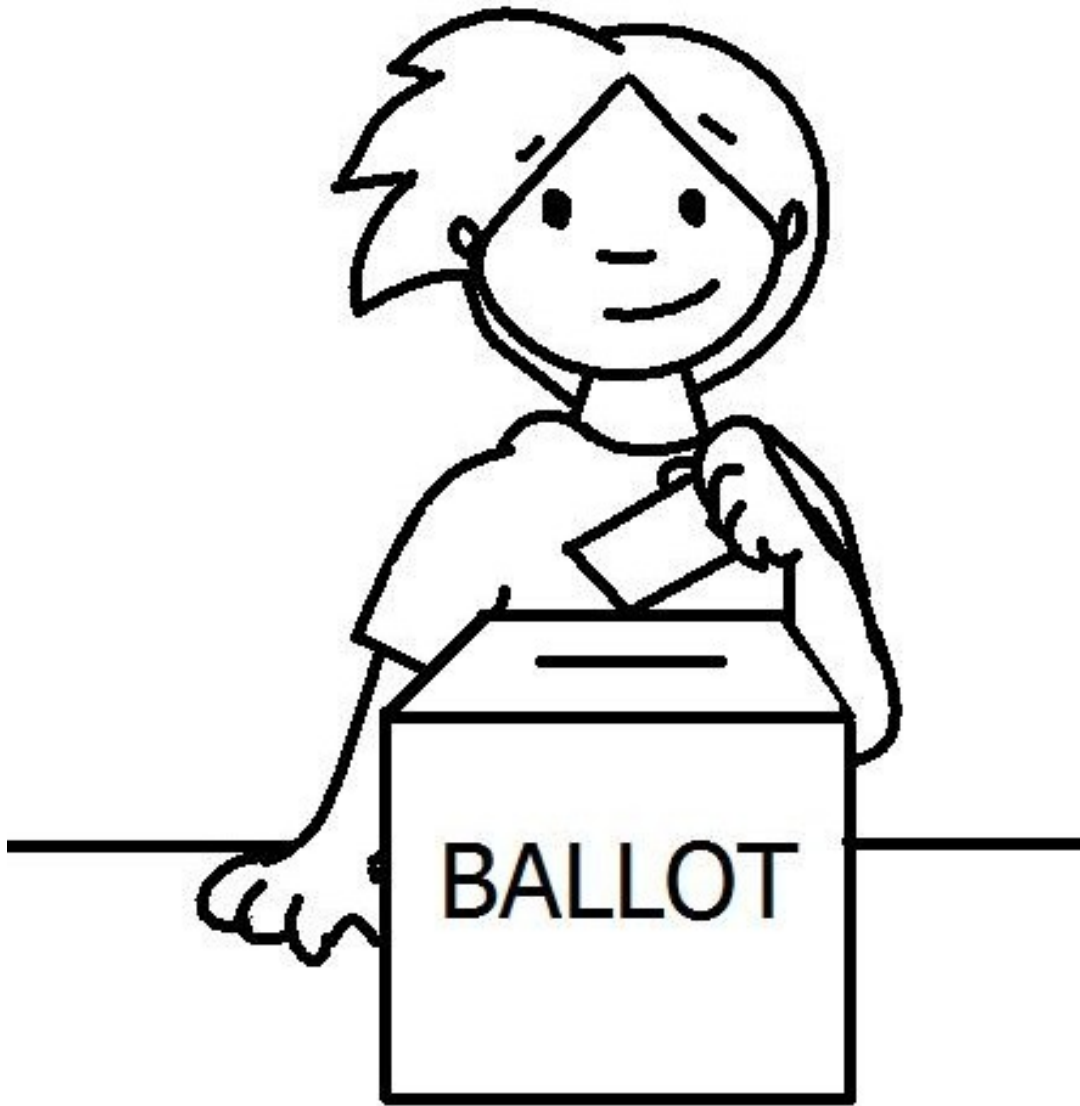
Pope Benedict asks us to pray this month for elections throughout the world... that all people may be allowed to vote freely, and that the people who count the votes don't cheat.

The Pope also wants all people who vote to learn about the important issues that lawmakers face. The Church can help us learn what is important and what is right, and when we understand the truth, we can help elect people who will make the world a better place.

## ***Think about it!***

- Why is it important to vote?
- Why should you learn about the important issues that lawmakers face?
- How can you learn what is the right answer to those important issues?

# Fair Elections



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may be able to vote.**