Roles of Elected Leaders

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Grade Level: K-2nd grade

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For additional lesson plans, visit sos.tn.gov/civics/lessonplans.

Introduction:
This is the fourth lesson in a civics unit for students grades K-2. This lesson addresses who our elected leaders are and what jobs they do.

Guiding Questions:
• Who are our elected leaders?
• What do elected leaders do?

Learning Objectives: In the course of the lesson, students will...
• Recognize their elected leaders (mayor, governor, president).
• Understand the role of each elected leader.

Curriculum Standards:

K.18 (Social Studies) Recognize and name the current President of the United States.

K.19 (Social Studies) Use drawings, dictating, and writing to participate in shared research describing the role of the President.

1.25 (Social Studies) Identify the current city/county Mayor, Governor and President and explain their roles in government.

2.23 (Social Studies) Compare the branches of Tennessee’s government to the national government.
Materials Needed:

- Computer
- Projector/Smart board
- Books (see attached list of options)
- Chart paper or worksheet (attached)
- Graphic organizer

Background:

As future voters and productive citizens, children should know the roles/duties of elected officials. The roles of our nation’s president, our state’s governor and our city’s mayor are vital to understanding our government.

See the attached list of websites for more information on the roles of each. For more details information about local government visit:

- CTAS – County Technical Assistance Service, County Executives & Mayors
- MTAS – Municipal Technical Advisory Service, City Information

Lesson Activities:

1. Explain to students that a teacher is in charge of a classroom and a principal is in charge of a school. Ask students to name their teacher and their principal. Discuss that a mayor is the person in charge of city/county, the governor is the leader of a state and the president is in charge of the county. Ask students if anyone knows the name of their mayor, governor or president.

2. Discuss that each person has different jobs. Together list some jobs of a principal and a teacher. Explain that the mayor, governor and president also have specific jobs they do. Explain they will do shared research to find the name of the mayor, governor and president and what their main jobs are.

   Note: Depending on age/ability of students you may wish to do this activity together on chart paper, or have student complete on worksheet (see attached).

3. Using the websites listed in the chart below and (if available) books from the recommend book list (see below), have students research the roles of these elected officials. As a class, research the “who, where, what” and complete the graphic
organizer together. You may wish to limit the “what” (jobs) to 2 or 3 jobs that you feel are most important or understandable to your students.

**Assessment:**

Use graphic organizer as assessment.

**Extension Options & Resources:**

Resources: See attached book and website list.

Extension:

- Tour the White House via virtual tour: [https://www.whitehouse.gov/about/inside-white-house/interactive-tour](https://www.whitehouse.gov/about/inside-white-house/interactive-tour)
- Invite your city/county mayor to speak to the class about their role in government.
## Websites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Mayor**  | http://www.tn.gov/main/session/local  
              http://teacher.scholastic.com/commclub/mayor/  
              http://www.whyzz.com/what-does-a-mayor-do |
| **Governor** | http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org/civics/a_1  
                  https://www.tn.gov/governor  
                  http://sos.tn.gov/products/office-governor |
| **President** | https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/president-obama  
                  http://www.congressforkids.net/Executivebranch_presidentsjob_2.htm  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Know Your Government: Who Lead Our County</td>
<td>Jacqueline L. Gorman</td>
<td>Weekly Reader Publisher</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>978-0836888461</td>
<td>24 pages, includes glossary and index; Lexile 620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know Your Government: Mayor</td>
<td>Jacqueline L. Gorman</td>
<td>Weekly Reader Publisher</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>978-1433901218</td>
<td>24 pages, includes glossary and index; Lexile 680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know Your Government: Governor</td>
<td>Jacqueline L. Gorman</td>
<td>Weekly Reader Publisher</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>978-1433901195</td>
<td>24 pages, includes glossary and index; Lexile 660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s a Governor? (First Guide to Government)</td>
<td>Nancy Harris</td>
<td>Heinemann</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>978-1403495143</td>
<td>32 pages; ages 6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know Your Government: President</td>
<td>Jacqueline L. Gorman</td>
<td>Weekly Reader Publisher</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>978-1433901232</td>
<td>24 pages, includes glossary and index; Lexile 630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Does the President Do?</td>
<td>Amanda Miller</td>
<td>Scholastic</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>978-0531224250</td>
<td>24 pages; ages 4-8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Mayor**

- **who?**
  (your mayor)
- **where?**
  (your city/county)
- **what?**
  in charge of our city/county
  meets with community leaders
  makes decisions about parks and libraries

**Governor**

- **who?**
  Bill Haslam
- **where?**
  Nashville, Tennessee
- **what?**
  leader of Tennessee
  travels around TN giving speeches
  chooses how to spend state money

**President**

- **who?**
  Barack Obama
- **where?**
  Washington D.C.
- **what?**
  leader of the United States
  travels to other countries to meet with leaders
  signs laws