



**THE OFFICE OF  
THE OREGON SECRETARY OF STATE**

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The Oregon State Capitol houses the state legislature and the offices of the Governor, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer. The current building was constructed between 1936 and 1938 after a fire destroyed the previous capitol in 1935. It was expanded in 1977 and is located in the heart of Salem.

**To register your class or school for  
Oregon's Kid Governor<sup>SM</sup> 2017-18,  
email Mary Beth Herkert, State Archivist  
mary.e.herkert@oregon.gov**

*Join 5th grade students around the state, as they choose Oregon's Kid Governor!*

800 Summer St. NE  
Salem OR 97310



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The Office  
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## WHAT IS OREGON'S KID GOVERNOR<sup>SM</sup>?

Oregon's Kid Governor is a statewide in-school civics program for 5th graders created by the Office of the Oregon

Secretary of State (thanks to help from Connecticut Public Affairs Network). Timed to coincide with most years' general Election Day in November, each school in Oregon is eligible to enter one student nominee into a statewide election that other 5th graders around the state vote in.

Oregon's Kid Governor candidates work with their classmates to create a campaign speech outlining:

1. Why they want to be Oregon's Kid Governor
2. Their leadership skills and qualities
3. A community issue that they want to address and why it's important
4. A 3-point plan that will help 5th graders across Oregon make a difference on that issue

From the pool of nominees, a selection committee of education and civics professionals will choose the final seven candidates and the Secretary of State's Office will post their video speeches online. During Election Week, registered classes will watch and analyze the campaign speeches and then vote for the platform and candidate they want to support. The candidate with the most votes statewide is then named Oregon's Kid Governor and serves a one-year term.

The Kid Governor's responsibilities will be to create videos about his/her issue to share with student

constituents around the state, write posts for a special blog, speak with students around the state, and participate in other programs with the Oregon Secretary of State. The Kid Governor will even have his/her own office in Salem!



## WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

The Oregon Secretary of State's Office provides toolkits with specially designed lessons to guide educators through the

program. Easy "drop-in" lessons focus on the three branches of state government, the role of a Governor, the history and process of voting, and research on important community issues. Classes that plan to nominate a candidate and vote in the statewide election have access to a toolkit with four weeks of in-class lessons and resources for Election Week. "Voting Only" classes have access to a toolkit with one week of in-class lessons and resources leading up to the election.



## WHY IS OREGON'S KID GOVERNOR IMPORTANT?

As educators and parents, we witness the enthusiasm kids have to better the world around

them. Kid Governor harnesses that enthusiasm by encouraging action through civic participation. This innovative program illustrates how elections work and how Oregon residents of all ages can participate in our democratic society. Toolkits of in-class lessons inspire 5th graders to be

lifelong agents of change, active participants in government, and registered voters when they turn 18!

Timeline for

# OREGON'S KID GOVERNOR<sup>SM</sup>

## 2017-18

### OCTOBER 27, 2017

5 p.m. deadline for campaign videos to the Oregon Secretary of State's Office.

### NOVEMBER 6, 2017

Finalist videos chosen and posted to the Secretary of State website.

### NOVEMBER 6-14, 2017

Election Week in classrooms throughout Oregon.

### NOVEMBER 21, 2017

Newly-elected Kid Governor is announced.

### JANUARY 9, 2018

Inauguration Day at the Capitol in Salem, and term of office begins.