What is it like being Oregon’s Kid Governor?

Being Kid Governor has taught me many things, but most importantly, it has taught me that just because we are kids, doesn’t mean that we can’t do great things and make a huge impact in this world.” Erikka Baldwin – Oregon’s 2019 Kid Governor

“Oregon’s Kid Governor program started in August 2017 as a way to bring Civics Education to Oregon’s 5th graders. Now entering our third year, we have reached thousands of Oregon 5th graders and watched both of our Kid Governors, Erikka Baldwin and Dom Peters, not only complete their 3 point plans but bring much more to this program as ambassadors for Civics by showing leadership, thoughtfulness, and a community minded spirit. Oregon’s future is in great hands!” Secretary of State - Bev Clarno

Erikka Baldwin
orkg.kidgovernor.org/fur-ever-homes-blog

ORKG Erikka’s 3-point plan to find forever homes for shelter animals includes:
1. Have Oregon students make adoption posters
2. Visit shelters with classrooms and read to the animals
3. Hold an adoption event

2148 - 5th graders registered to participate in the 2019 Oregon Kid Governor statewide election. Erikka Baldwin, (McCormack Elementary School in Eugene) with her platform of ‘Finding Forever Homes for Shelter Animals’, gathered the most votes.

To register your class for ORKG 2020 email or call Mary Beth Herkert
ORKG Director
MaryBeth.Herkert@OR.KidGovernor.org
503-378-5196

Winner of a 2017 Medallion Award from the National Association of Secretaries of State and a 2016 Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State & Local History
What is Oregon’s Kid Governor Program?

Oregon’s Kid Governor Program (ORKG) is a statewide civics program for 5th graders created by the Connecticut Democracy Center. Timed to coincide with Election Day in November, every school and home school in Oregon is eligible to enter one 5th grader to run in a statewide election that other 5th graders will vote in. Classrooms can vote in the election, nominate a classmate to run for office or do both!

Oregon’s Kid Governor nominees work with their classmates to create a campaign video telling about:

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

Oregon’s Kid Governor Program is a statewide civics program for 5th graders created by the Connecticut Democracy Center. Timed to coincide with Election Day in November, every school and home school in Oregon is eligible to enter one 5th grader to run in a statewide election that other 5th graders will vote in. Classrooms can vote in the election, nominate a classmate to run for office or do both!

What Resources are Available?

The Oregon Secretary of State provides toolkits with lesson plans to guide teachers through the program. Lessons focus on the three branches of government, role of elected officials, history and process of voting, and how to research important community issues.

Classrooms that plan to nominate and vote in the statewide election have access to a toolkit with 15 lessons and resources for election week. “Voting Only” classes have access to a toolkit as well, with 7 lessons focusing on the three branches of government, role of elected officials, and history and process of voting.

Why is Oregon’s Kid Governor Important?

Teachers and parents know how enthusiastic kids can be when talking about how they can make their school, community or even the world better. Oregon’s Kid Governor Program harnesses that enthusiasm by encouraging action through civic participation. This innovative program illustrates how elections and government work and how residents of all ages can participate in making a difference.

The lesson plans in the toolkits inspire 5th graders to be lifelong agents of change and active voters when they turn 18.