VOTING WITH CHILDREN

Can children accompany me to vote?

• Yes! Minors can accompany voting adults into the voting booth in every state and Washington D.C.
• There is an age limit in some states, usually in the teenage years, and there may be a limit to the number of children that can accompany you. Check your state’s elections office regulations.

Why should children accompany me to vote?

• Allows them to see democracy in action and educates them about their civic rights and responsibilities.
• Makes the political process more tangible and easier to understand.
• Do not have to hire a babysitter!

How do I discuss voting with children? The Girlscouts 5 steps…

1. Make it personal.
2. Explain why voting is special (i.e. history of voting rights).
3. Prepare your child for the polls.
   o Explain what voting is like. Make sure they understand they cannot tell others who to vote for.
4. Take your child with you! Make sure to give them an “I voted” sticker.
5. Follow up! Update with results.
   o Explain why voting is important regardless of the outcome.

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