

Civic Quiz Questions

Question	Answer	Explanation/Fun Fact
Voting and Elections		
Name one of the three requirements needed in order to register to vote	18 years of age or older, U.S. citizen, resident of the county you will be voting in	
In what year did 18 year-olds earn the right to vote (correct if within 5 years)	1971	Before 1971, the national voting age was set at 21 years old, but during the Vietnam War, 18 year-olds were being drafted into the army, even though they were too young to vote against it. This problem pushed the government to make the change.
What amendment gave 18-year olds the right to vote?	26th Amendment	This was the quickest amendment to be ratified.
Generally, when is Election Day?	It's always the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November	Originally this time of year was chosen because it would occur after the harvest was completed, but before winter storms began, so more people could participate.
When is Election Day 2014?	4-Nov-14	
How often are Presidential elections held (every ___years?)	Every 4 years	Midterm elections for other offices may be held two years after the last presidential election and before the next presidential election.
What is a polling place?	A public building where eligible voters can cast their ballots on Election Day	Schools are often used as polling places. Do you know where your local polling place is?

Texas Government and Politics		
Who is the governor of Texas?	Rick Perry	
Name one of the candidates running to become the new Governor of Texas.	Greg Abbott or Wendy Davis	
Who is mayor of Dallas?	Mike Rawlings	

When does the Texas Legislature meet?	Every odd numbered year (also accept next year, 2015, January 2015)	The Texas Constitution states that the regular session is 140 days, but the governor may call the Legislature into as many special sessions as he or she wants.
How old do you have to be to serve in the state House of Representatives?	21	

U.S. Government		
What are the two major parties in the U.S.?	Democratic and Republican (also accept Democrat)	People join parties that they think have the same ideas about government that they do, but not everyone agrees on every issue. This is why it is important to know what individual candidates think, not just what party they belong to.
Who is the President of the U.S.?	Barack Obama	
Who is the Vice President of the U.S.?	Joe Biden	
What are the three branches of the U.S. Government?	Executive, Judicial, and Legislative	Each branch does their separate job, but also keeps an eye on the others to make sure the government runs the way it is supposed to. This is called a system of checks and balances.
Who is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the U.S.?	Chief Justice John Roberts	Supreme court justices must be nominated by the President and approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee and confirmed by the full Senate. Justices stay in their positions until they choose to retire, or are removed by impeachment.

Volunteering		
Name one way that you can volunteer	Open ended question, all answers are welcome and accepted	Any type of service can be volunteering. Be creative and try to think of ways to volunteer that involve things you already like.
What is one benefit of volunteering?	Open ended question, all answers are welcome and accepted	Everyone in a community wins when people volunteer.
Which of these three choices is the most popular volunteer activity: Preparing/distributing/serving food, helping out with transportation, or teaching/tutoring?	Food service	23% of volunteers engage in activities involve preparing, distributing, or serving food
True or false: You always have to be part of an organization to be a volunteer	False	Any time or energy that you give to help others can be volunteering, even if it is just carrying your neighbor's groceries. Small acts can make a big impact.
Which of these three choices is the area in which most people volunteer? Religious, educational, or social services?	Religious	34.2% of volunteers get involved through religious work or organizations such as churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, or other faith-based groups.

Texas Civic Engagement		
Which Texas city had the most volunteers in 2012: Austin, Dallas, Houston, or San Antonio?	Dallas	In 2012, 1,385,963 people in the city of Dallas engaged in volunteer activities
Which Texas city had the highest percentage of its population engage in volunteering: Austin, Dallas, Houston, or San Antonio?	Austin	In 2012, 29.4% of Austin's population engaged in volunteer activities
Which activity did Texans volunteer to do the most: Collect/distribute food, mentor youth, or fundraise?	Collect and distribute food	25.1% of Texas volunteers engaged in activities such as canned food drives or serving food at a local soup kitchen to help feed their communities.

Which age group of Texans volunteered the most in 2012: 35-44 year-olds, 45-54 year-olds, or 65-74 year-olds?	35-44 year-olds	Can your generation change this? Maybe in 2020, it will be your generation.
What was the voter turnout rate in Texas in 2010 (percentage, correct if within 10% of the answer)?	36.40%	Of all of the people registered to vote in Texas, only about 3 out of every 10 showed up to vote. Look at how many people are in the room right now. How many of them would have voted? That's not many people at all!
In 2010, where did Texas rank compared to other U.S. States in terms of voter turnout (number 1 through 51)?	51 st (last)	If you live in Texas, and you were embarrassed to learn this, talk to people you know who are eligible to vote and start a conversation with them. Did they vote? Why or why not? What would motivate them to vote next time?
What percentage of Texans volunteer?	25%	1 in 4 people in Texas volunteer in their communities. If every one of those people brought a friend to their next volunteer project, we could make that percentage much higher!

Being Engaged and Socially Connected		
Which of these activities is a way to stay socially connected: eat meals with my family, talk on the phone with my best friend, tweet, help a neighbor?	All of the above	
Which one of these is a form of political participation: staying informed about what's happening in the legislature, sharing a political article on Facebook/Twitter, using art to make a political statement?	All of the above	Even if you can't vote, you can still keep up with what's going on in your community. You can also use this knowledge to write to local officials and talk to those who can vote about your thoughts on issues

Name one responsibility that is reserved only for U.S. citizens?	Voting in a federal election, running for federal office, serving on a jury	
Are Texans more likely to trust their neighbors, or to exchange favors with their neighbors?	Trust their neighbors	49.7% of Texans say that they trust their neighbors, while 15.4% exchange favors with their neighbors a few times a week or more
Where is Texas ranked among U.S. States in regards to residents discussing politics regularly? (looking for a number between 1 and 51)	44 th	Texans don't seem to want to talk about politics as frequently as most Americans. Think about why that is and how you can change the conversation
What percentage of Texans trust most or all of the people in their neighborhoods?	50%	That means that half of your neighbors don't trust each other. Think about something your neighborhood can do to develop more trust and closer ties. A block party or community garage sale might be a good way to start.