

## CONGRESSIONAL & SENATORIAL ELECTIONS



Week 4 of the project asks your students to make the connection between your state elections and the presidential contest. As Tip O'Neill noted, "All politics is local!"

**Question for the Week:** *Which candidates for congress are favored to win your state elections? (Use state or school poll numbers.) Do you feel that these projected winners can help their party's presidential candidate win your state? How? Why?*

### Online Resources:

Congress.org: Candidates and Issues  
<http://www.congress.org/election/home/>

Project Vote Smart: Candidates for U.S. Congress  
[http://www.vote-smart.org/election\\_congress.php](http://www.vote-smart.org/election_congress.php)

U.S. Senate Official Web Site  
<http://www.senate.gov/>

U.S. House of Representatives Official Web Site  
<http://www.house.gov/>

Wikipedia Gubernatorial Elections 2008  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_gubernatorial\\_elections,\\_2008](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_gubernatorial_elections,_2008)

Elementary  
Capitol Virtual Tour <http://www.senate.gov/vtour/index.html>

Middle School  
Politics 1: The 50 State Pages <http://www.politics1.com/states.htm>

High School  
On the Issues <http://www.issues2000.org/default.htm>



### Objectives for Week 4:

Using the online resources provided, identify the state offices in which seats are up for election this year, including governor, senator and congressperson

*This can include simply identifying the names of candidates for statewide office, identifying the specific candidates which represent your school's district, and even studying each candidate's stance on issues important to your state*

Determine which candidate(s) would win your state offices, if the election were held today

*You may opt to take a school poll or simply use the polls available through statewide news organizations and media. Determine if there is a correlation between the candidates who will win state offices and the presidential candidate you identified as the state polling leader in Week 2.*

Report your electoral vote projections to the project via email

*Send an email to [walter@surfaquarium.com](mailto:walter@surfaquarium.com) by Friday evening. In the subject line include your state name and "state offices" (for example, "**New Mexico State Offices**"). In the body of the email, simply list the name of each candidate and the number of electoral votes he would receive if the election were held today.*

### Suggested Procedure:

Monday: identify the candidates running for governor, senate and congressional offices in your state.

Tuesday and Wednesday: acquire polling data which identifies the leader in each race.

Thursday: determine if the leaders in the state races represent the same political party and/or ideology as the leader in state polling for the presidential race.

Friday: Send your findings to Walter so that he can list your projected state winners on your state page of the 2008 National CyberConvention web site.

### Materials:

Internet access

Web resources

State Newspapers and Periodicals

Videoconferencing equipment (optional)

Spreadsheet (optional) to tabulate data



