



CIVIC LEARNING WEEK

March 9-13, 2026

The goal of Civic Learning Week is to prioritize civics education as a foundation for a strong, enduring democracy. Students, educators, policy-makers, and leaders in the public and private sectors come together to celebrate the rights and responsibilities of a participatory democracy. So what does that mean for you?

Learn

Use this guidebook to explore Oregon-specific learning opportunities that highlight experiencing civics firsthand in real world situations. This document is interactive, so look for the links in [blue!](#)
[Special links for teachers are in red.](#)

Engage

- Visit some of the sites featured in this guidebook.
- Read the primary and secondary documents available online.
- Invite community members you read about to speak to your class!

Get Involved

Take your learning to the next level by getting involved in the work you read about. Whether it takes place in your school, your community, or your state, the best way to understand the functions of democracy is to do them yourself.

Contact

For more information about or support with implementing Civic Learning Week, contact Nikki Darling at nikki@civicslearning.org.



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



WHO'S REPRESENTING YOU?

Oregon's Legislative Assembly is composed of two chambers – House of Representatives and Senate.

The Senate consists of 30 members elected to four-year terms. The House consists of 60 representatives elected to two-year terms. The Oregon Legislature convenes annually in January and alternates between short and long terms sessions each year.

Click the link above to learn about your representatives.

TRACK A BILL

WRITE A TESTIMONY

Teachers: Here are some great resources for teaching the Oregon Legislative process. Find CLP's easy-to-follow lesson plans on tracking an Oregon bill through Congress and writing congressional testimony to voice your opinion.

Engage

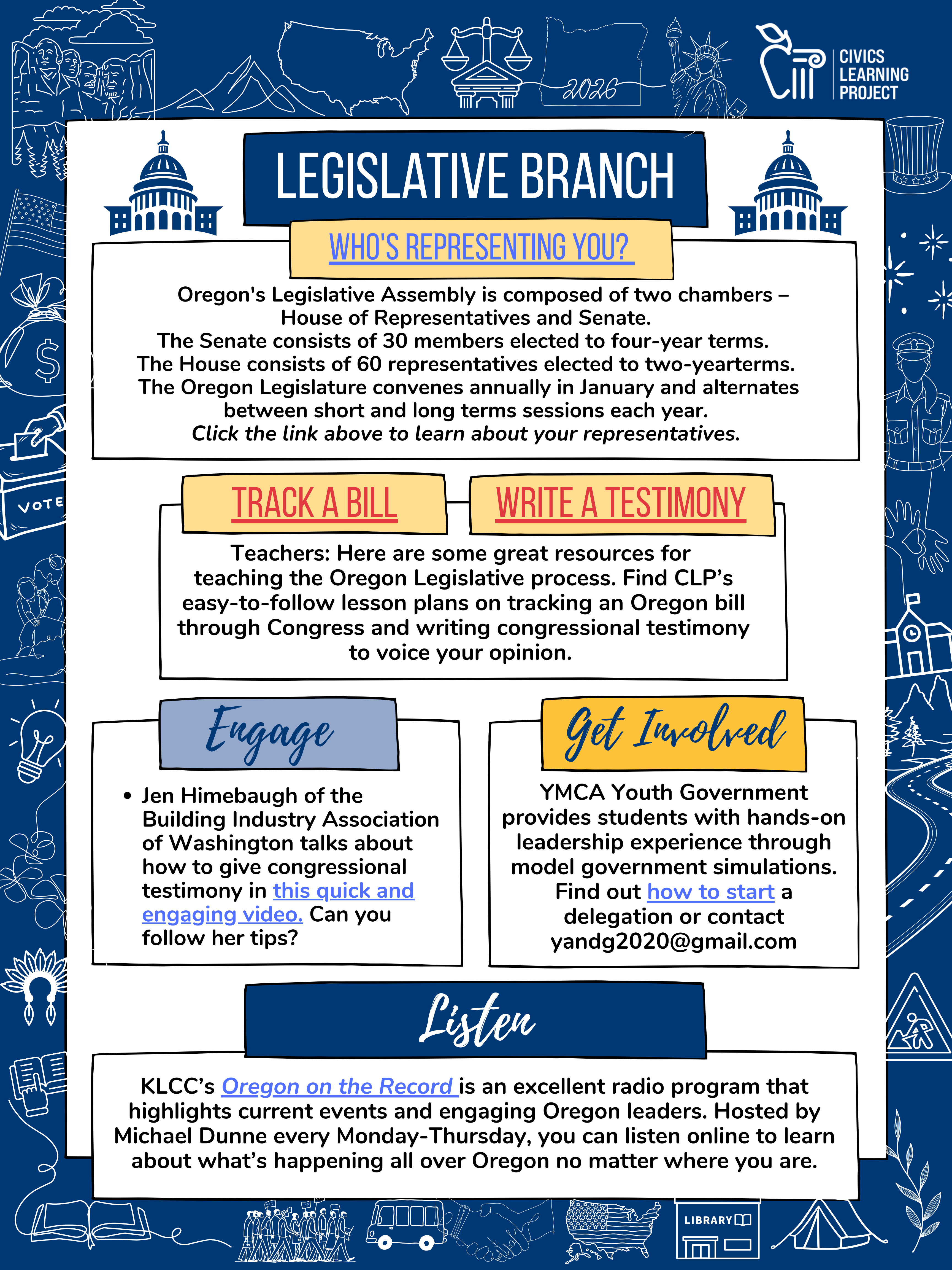
- Jen Himebaugh of the Building Industry Association of Washington talks about how to give congressional testimony in [this quick and engaging video](#). Can you follow her tips?

Get Involved

YMCA Youth Government provides students with hands-on leadership experience through model government simulations. Find out [how to start](#) a delegation or contact yandg2020@gmail.com

Listen

KLCC's [Oregon on the Record](#) is an excellent radio program that highlights current events and engaging Oregon leaders. Hosted by Michael Dunne every Monday-Thursday, you can listen online to learn about what's happening all over Oregon no matter where you are.



JUDICIAL BRANCH

JUSTICE FOR ALL

Different types of courts address the various legal needs of the United States. Federal courts have limited jurisdiction, and are only authorized to hear specific types of cases. State courts have general jurisdiction and handle a wide range of cases. There are also County, Municipal, and Justice courts, whose jurisdiction is limited to violations and lesser crimes. [Tribal courts](#) have different civil and criminal jurisdictions for violations occurring on federal Indian reservations.

JURY TRAINING: UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

Teachers: Mock Trials in your classroom and [lessons about jury formation](#) and jury trials are an excellent way to teach students about the justice system and engender a sense of empathy: putting ourselves in the roles of others expands our perspectives and perception.

Court Tours

Bring your students on a [CLP guided Court Tour](#) in Multnomah, Douglas, Lane, or Jackson counties to observe a snapshot of our judicial system. Contact CLP or go to your nearest County Courthouse Website for more details.

ORSC Oral Arguments

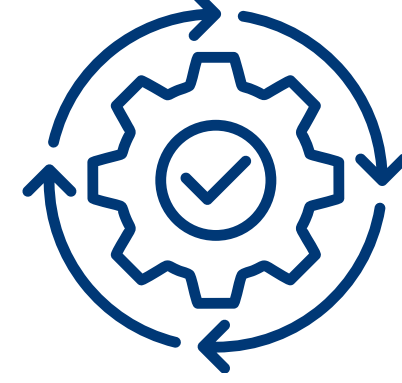
CLP and Umpqua Community College are hosting the [Oregon Supreme Court Oral Arguments on April 23, 2026](#). Come and see a live session of real court, have lunch with the justices, and attend breakout sessions all on one of Oregon's most beautiful campuses

Represent

The Oregon Department of Education will choose two high school juniors to represent Oregon in Washington DC for the [United States Senate Youth Program](#). This year, the delegates will each receive a \$10,000 college scholarship and attend an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., on March 6-13, 2027. Accepting applications from August 24 - October 12, 2026



EXECUTIVE BRANCH



WHO'S AT WORK?

The executive branch is responsible for executing laws. At the Federal level, this is done by the president; at the State level, by the governor; and at the local level by the mayor. While the President of the U.S. gets lots of attention, it's likely that the work of the Governor of your state and the [Mayor of your town](#) have daily impacts on your life. Do you know who the mayor of your town is?

CURRENT EVENTS

Every other week during the school year, Civics Learning Project curates a Current Event. Each Current Event includes multiple reliable news links, essential questions, Constitutional and civics connections, and lesson ideas for teachers. Read our past current events relating to the executive branch:

- [Executive Privilege](#)
- [Executive Orders](#)
- [Presidential Succession](#)
- [Civil Servants](#)

Law Day

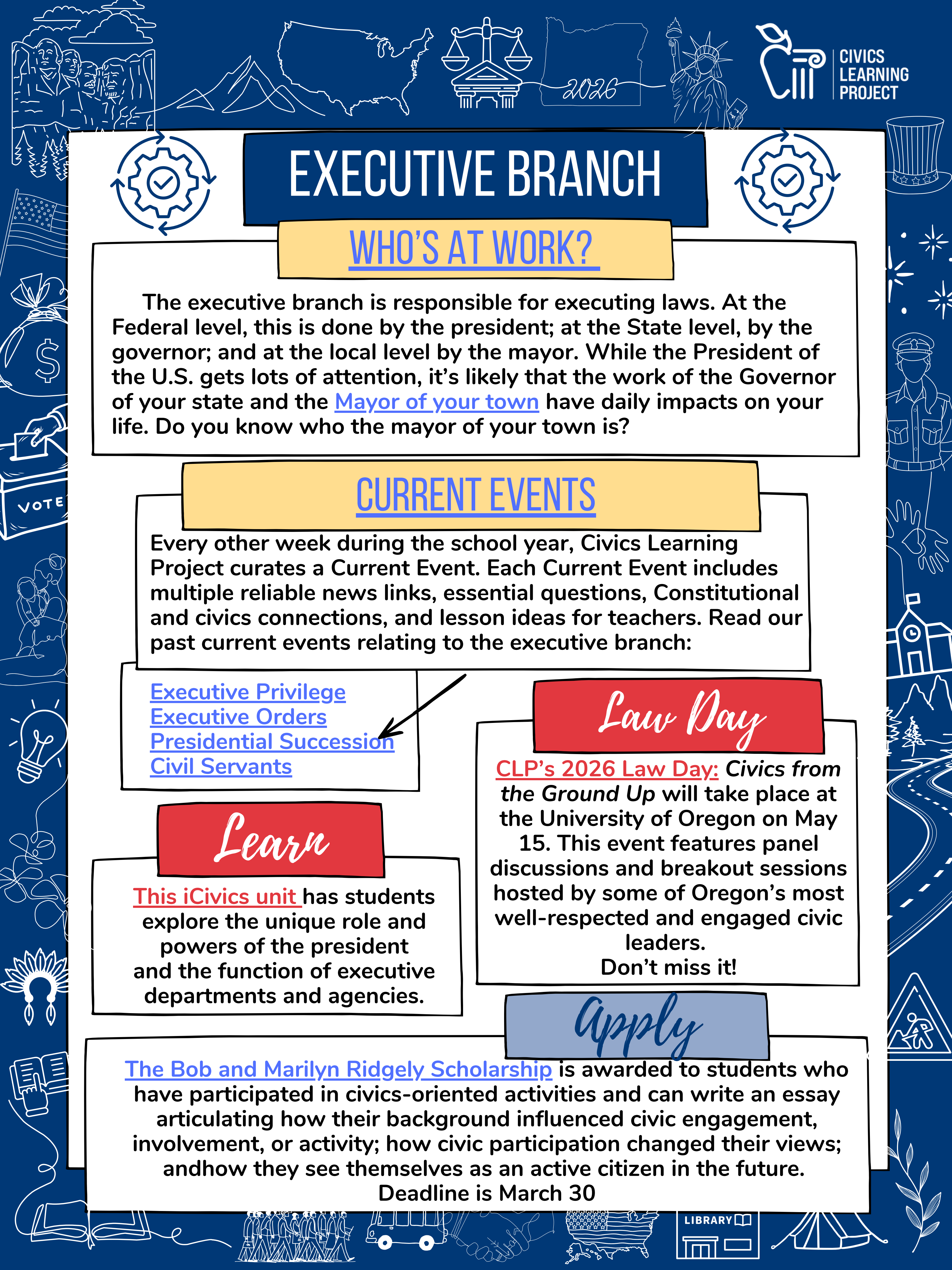
CLP's 2026 Law Day: Civics from the Ground Up will take place at the University of Oregon on May 15. This event features panel discussions and breakout sessions hosted by some of Oregon's most well-respected and engaged civic leaders. Don't miss it!

Learn

This iCivics unit has students explore the unique role and powers of the president and the function of executive departments and agencies.

Apply

The Bob and Marilyn Ridgely Scholarship is awarded to students who have participated in civics-oriented activities and can write an essay articulating how their background influenced civic engagement, involvement, or activity; how civic participation changed their views; and how they see themselves as an active citizen in the future. Deadline is March 30





MEDIA AND JOURNALISM



WHAT'S NEW IS OLD

In a world swirling with sources of information, it's hard to know where to look. But being informed is a primary responsibility of any voter. Social media? Print newspapers? Community gatherings? Here are some resources to help you decide how to direct your attention and decipher news from entertainment. Consider the roles of [regional](#) and more [far-reaching news outlets](#) in these two videos.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS

Once you find out what's happening in your community, what's next? Ask your teacher about Community Action Projects! A "CAP" begins with students identifying issues relevant to their lives. They then study government function, analyze community problems, determine multiple policy options, and prepare a persuasive presentation providing evidence and reasoning for why their policy should be adopted.

Teachers!

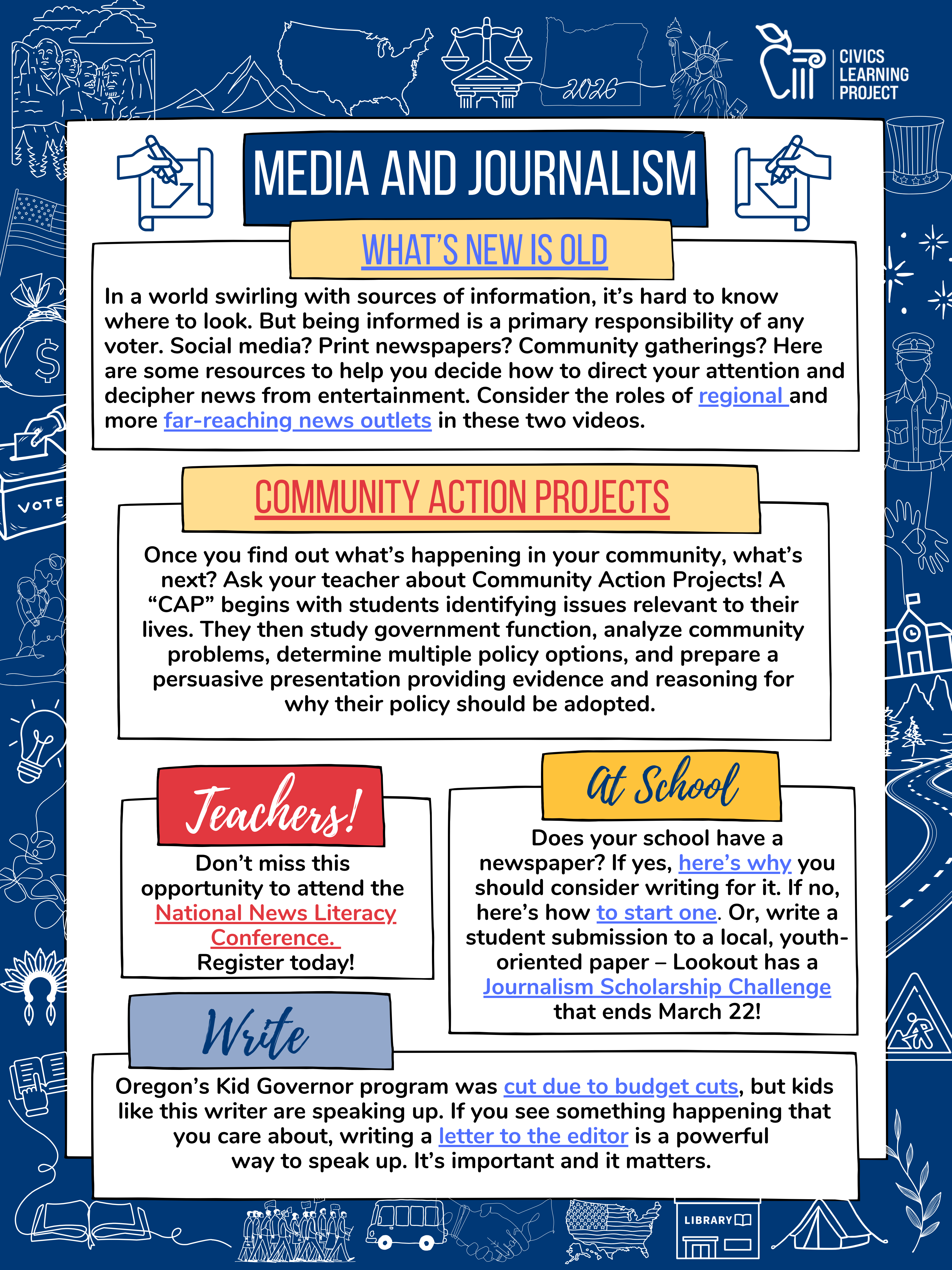
Don't miss this opportunity to attend the [National News Literacy Conference](#). Register today!

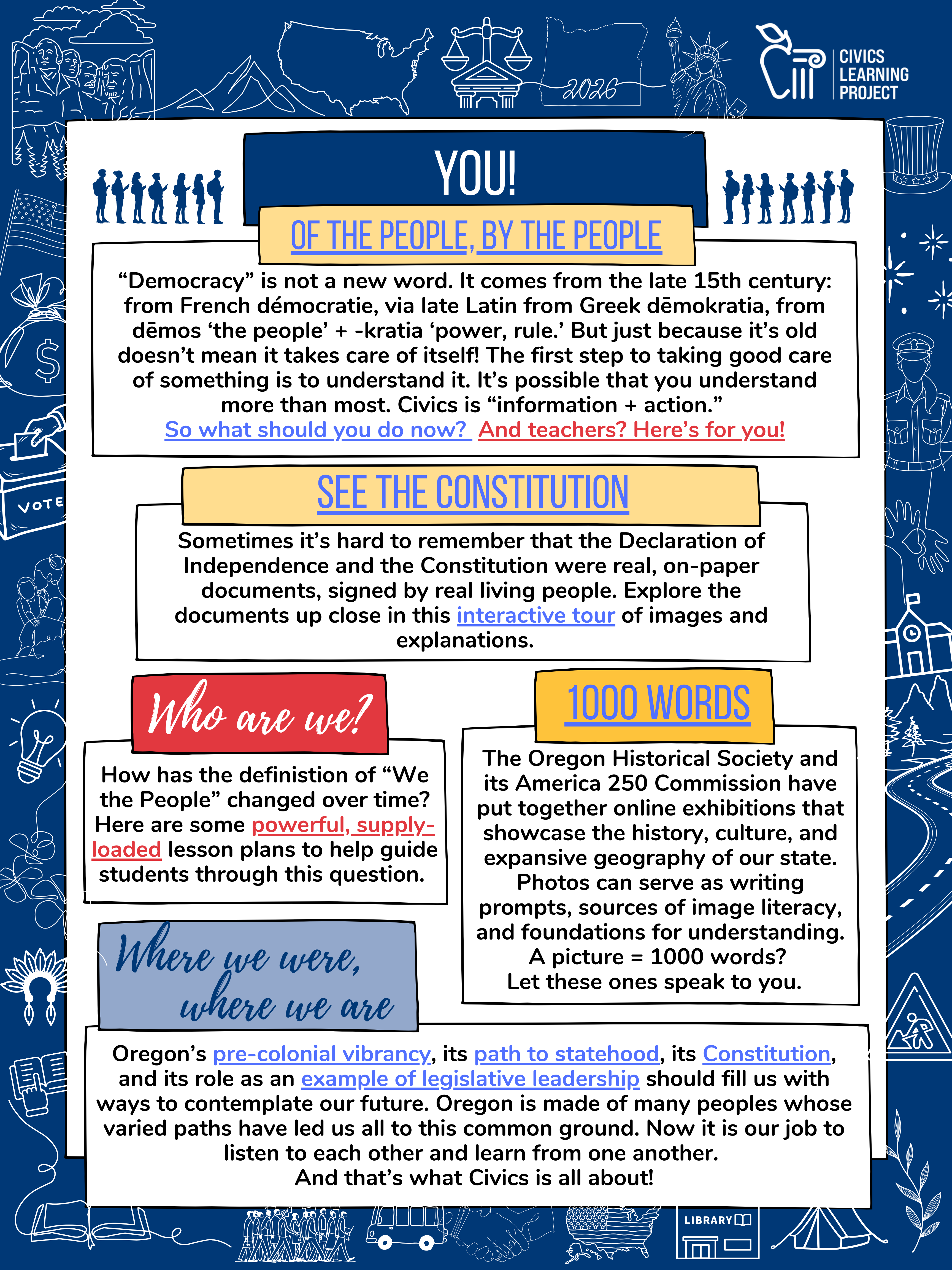
At School

Does your school have a newspaper? If yes, [here's why](#) you should consider writing for it. If no, here's how [to start one](#). Or, write a student submission to a local, youth-oriented paper – Lookout has a [Journalism Scholarship Challenge](#) that ends March 22!

Write

Oregon's Kid Governor program was [cut due to budget cuts](#), but kids like this writer are speaking up. If you see something happening that you care about, writing a [letter to the editor](#) is a powerful way to speak up. It's important and it matters.





YOU!



OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE

“Democracy” is not a new word. It comes from the late 15th century: from French *démocratie*, via late Latin from Greek *dēmokratia*, from *dēmos* ‘the people’ + *-kratia* ‘power, rule.’ But just because it’s old doesn’t mean it takes care of itself! The first step to taking good care of something is to understand it. It’s possible that you understand more than most. Civics is “information + action.”
So what should you do now? And teachers? Here’s for you!

SEE THE CONSTITUTION

Sometimes it’s hard to remember that the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were real, on-paper documents, signed by real living people. Explore the documents up close in this interactive tour of images and explanations.

Who are we?

How has the definition of “We the People” changed over time? Here are some powerful, supply-loaded lesson plans to help guide students through this question.

1000 WORDS

The Oregon Historical Society and its America 250 Commission have put together online exhibitions that showcase the history, culture, and expansive geography of our state. Photos can serve as writing prompts, sources of image literacy, and foundations for understanding. A picture = 1000 words? Let these ones speak to you.

Where we were, where we are

Oregon’s pre-colonial vibrancy, its path to statehood, its Constitution, and its role as an example of legislative leadership should fill us with ways to contemplate our future. Oregon is made of many peoples whose varied paths have led us all to this common ground. Now it is our job to listen to each other and learn from one another.
And that’s what Civics is all about!

