



# VOTING

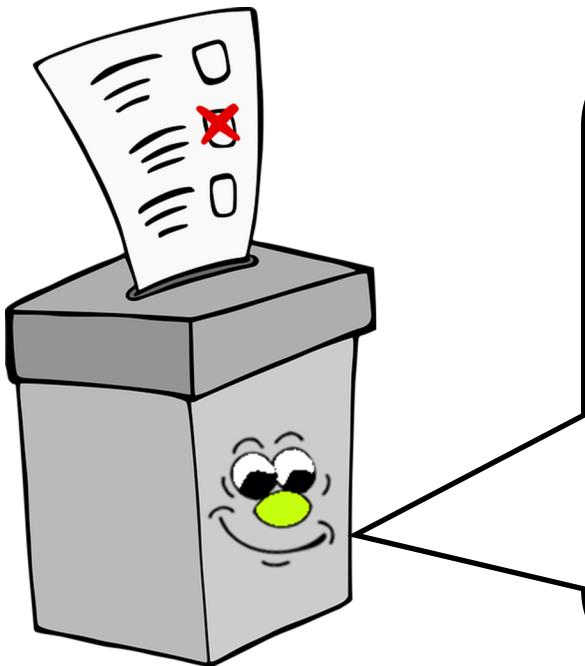
# for Kids

**Fun and fact-filled activities, games, puzzles, and more!**

**Don't miss out on all the fun stuff inside!**

**An activity booklet for kids created by the Ulster County  
Board of Elections and the Ulster County Clerk's  
Records Management Program**





Hi! I'm Billie Ballot. Welcome to Voting for Kids. I will be your guide on this lively adventure through National, State and Local elections and government. There will be some exciting history and "Fun Facts" along the way. Let's have some fun!

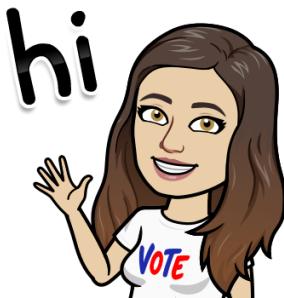
First, I'd like to introduce you to some of my friends from the Ulster County Board of Elections and Ulster County Clerk's Office. Thanks to them, we have this awesome book of activities to complete!

## About the Ulster County Board of Elections

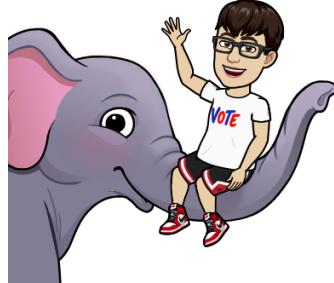
The Ulster County Board of Elections is dedicated to upholding the laws of the United States, the mandates of the New York State Constitution, and the Rights of the People of New York to cast their votes in all Federal, State, County, Town, Village (upon request), and required Special Elections, to fairly and accurately count the ballots for public offices, propositions and bond issues, and to safeguard the free elections of a democratic society. Annually, more than 600 poll-site inspectors are trained, more than 10,000 voters are registered or have their voter information updated, and approximately 125,000 voters are contacted with election-related information.

## About the Ulster County Clerk's Office

The Ulster County Clerk's Office acts as keeper of the records for Ulster County. We oversee records dating back to 1658 including deeds, mortgages, judgments, liens, maps, civil and criminal actions. Yearly, hundreds of people search, file and record land records, legal documents, and court papers in the office. The County Clerk's Office also manages the Department of Motor Vehicles, administers the Oath of Allegiance to new citizens, processes passport and notary applications, and maintains the County Archives, as well as providing services for businesses and veterans.



**Ashley Torres**  
Elections Commissioner



**John Quigley**  
Elections Commissioner

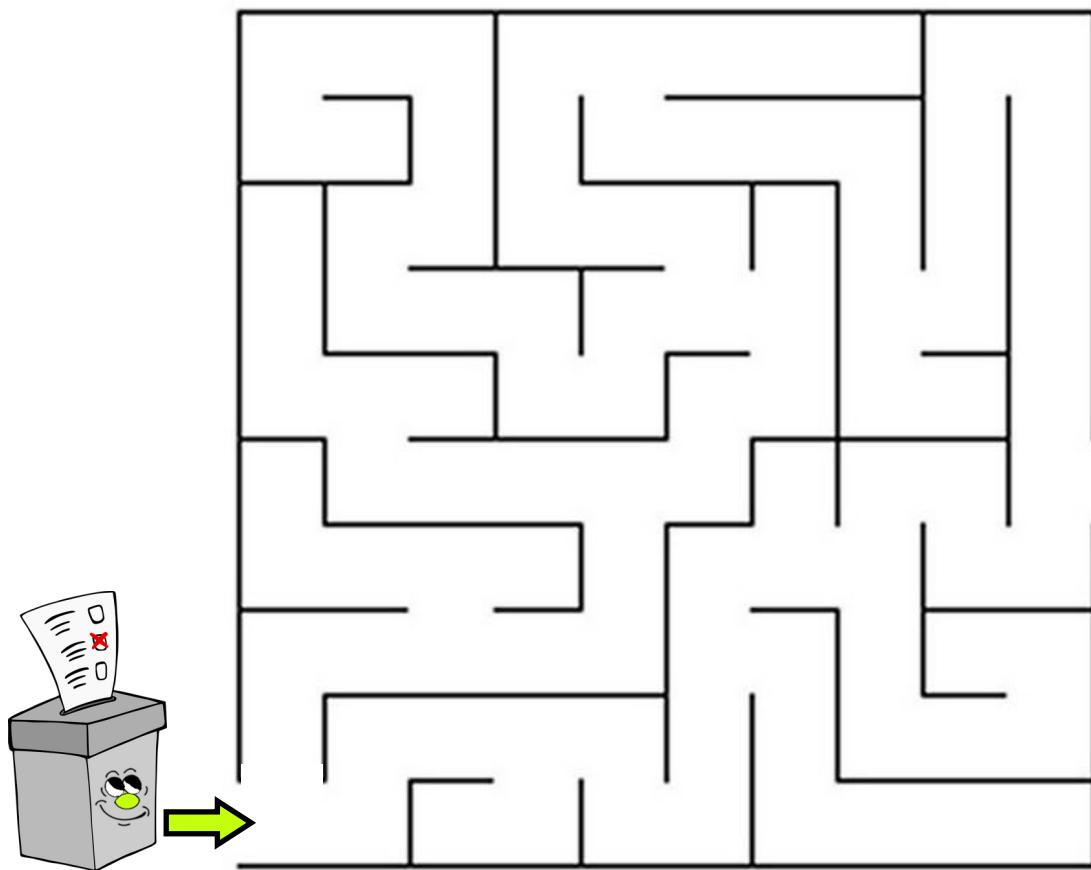


**Taylor Bruck**  
County Clerk

# What is Voting?

We vote to have a say over important decisions. Voting happens all the time—your family may vote on which restaurant to visit or you might vote on your favorite show to watch for family movie night. Our nation was created on the principle that people should control their government; that is done through citizens casting votes during elections. We don't ask people to vote on every decision, but instead elect representatives. In our government, we vote for people who represent our ideals and these representatives go on to make decisions that benefit the whole country.

## **Help Billie Find the Way to Vote!**



### **Follow the Voting Path**

1. **Register to vote**—Make sure to register to vote and keep your registration information such as your address current.
2. **Know the issues**—Learn about the candidates and questions that will be on the ballot.
3. **Visit a polling location**—Voting has never been easier in New York with options to vote early in-person, on election day, and by absentee ballot/vote by mail.
4. **Wait for results**—Preliminary results from the election will be available after the polls close on election day and the results are final about 2-3 weeks later after every vote is counted.



Visit [VOTEULSTER.com](http://VOTEULSTER.com) for more details about the path to voting.

# Now it is your turn — Make your voice heard!

- To Vote:** Fill in the oval completely.
- Over Vote:** Make sure you do not Over Vote. You may only vote for the allowable number of choices (Vote for 1; Vote for 2, etc.).
- Write-in Vote:** For a Write-In vote, locate the "Write-In" box at the bottom of the Office column and write your selection there.
- Review your Ballot:**  
Please review your ballot to make sure your choices are marked the way you want. Turn the ballot over to see if there are additional voting questions called "Referendums." During an election, you would then insert your ballot into a voting machine to be tallied.

		Favorite Candy (Vote for one)		Favorite Animal (Vote for one)		Favorite Ice Cream Flavor (Vote for one)		Favorite School Subject (Vote for any two)	
Pizza Party	A	<b>Snicker's Bar</b> <sup>1A</sup> Pizza Party		<b>Horses</b> <sup>2A</sup> Pizza Party		<b>Vanilla</b> <sup>3A</sup> Pizza Party		<b>Math</b> <sup>4A</sup> Pizza Party	
		<b>Sour Patch Kids</b> <sup>1B</sup> Bowling Party		<b>Monkeys</b> <sup>2B</sup> Bowling Party		<b>Chocolate</b> <sup>3B</sup> Bowling Party		<b>Science</b> <sup>4B</sup> Bowling Party	
Bowling Party	B	<b>M&amp;M's</b> <sup>1C</sup> Skating Party		<b>Lions</b> <sup>2C</sup> Skating Party		<b>Cookie Dough</b> <sup>3C</sup> Skating Party		<b>Art</b> <sup>4C</sup> Skating Party	
		<b>Skittles</b> <sup>1D</sup> Pool Party		<b>Kangaroos</b> <sup>2D</sup> Pool Party		<b>Cake Batter</b> <sup>3D</sup> Pool Party		<b>English</b> <sup>4D</sup> Pool Party	
Skating Party	C	<b>Baby Ruth</b> <sup>1E</sup> Costume Party		<b>Tigers</b> <sup>2E</sup> Costume Party		<b>Mint Chocolate Chip</b> <sup>3E</sup> Costume Party		<b>Social Studies</b> <sup>4E</sup> Costume Party	
		<b>Starburst</b> <sup>1F</sup> Dance Party		<b>Penguins</b> <sup>2F</sup> Dance Party		<b>Rainbow Sherbet</b> <sup>3F</sup> Dance Party		<b>Gym</b> <sup>4F</sup> Dance Party	
Write-in		Write-in:		Write-in:		Write-in:		Write-in:	

**Instructions**  
Mark the oval to the right of the name of your choice.

To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot, print the name clearly under the words 'Write-in', staying within the box.

The number of choices are listed for each contest. Do not mark the ballot for more candidates than allowed. If you do, your vote in that contest will not count. If you make a mistake, or want to change your vote, ask a poll worker for a new ballot.

**Ulster County ICP and BMD  
Test Ballot**  
July 4, 2021

# The United States Constitution

Our United States Constitution sets out the principles of our country, the organization of our government, and the rights of our citizens. July 4, 1776 is the day we declared our Independence and became the United States—but our Constitution wasn't established until September 17, 1787.

- ◆ **Sets the foundation**—It is the most important law of the land.
- ◆ **States individual rights**—Individual rights are identified in the Bill of Rights and later amendments. The Bill of Rights, created in 1789 & adopted in 1791, contains the first ten Amendments to the Constitution.
- ◆ **Defines the parts of government**—We call them “branches” of government (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial). They work together as equal partners. Each branch has unique powers and duties.
- ◆ **Explains how to make changes**—This is why the Constitution is called a *living* document. Changes and Amendments can be made to suit the changing needs of the people. There have been 27 Amendments so far.



## **Interesting facts**

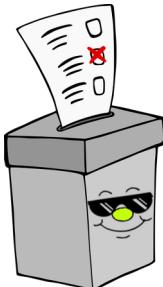
- ◊ We all make spelling mistakes—even the constitutional framers. One unfortunate example is the misspelling of the word “Pennsylvania” above the signers’ names.
- ◊ The first national Thanksgiving Day was proclaimed on November 26, 1789. The reason for the holiday was to give “thanks” for the constitution.
- ◊ The word “democracy” does not appear in the constitution.
- ◊ 2/3 of the states must agree to a change in the constitution. Thousands of amendments to the constitution have been proposed, but only 27 have passed, the last one being on May 5, 1992.

*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

# True or False?

## **Circle Your Answer**

1. True or False The Executive Branch (the President and Administration) manages all the branches of our government.
2. True or False The Constitution granted individual rights such as being able to vote, freedom of speech, and freedom to practice any religion.
3. True or False The U.S. Constitution is the oldest active codified (single, comprehensive document) constitution in the world.
4. True or False The U.S. Constitution was adopted as the highest law of the land on July 4, 1776.
5. True or False The U.S. Constitution outlines three branches of government.



## **BILLIE BALLOT FUN FACTS**

Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison believed very strongly in the Constitution. They even wrote a series of 85 essays, entitled The Federalist Papers.

They used the pseudonym (a made up name) Publius for the author so that no one would know they had written the essays. "Publius" was the name of a great Roman leader and founder of the Roman Republic, an inspiration for our own republic.



(Left to Right) Alexander Hamilton by John Trumbull, James Madison by John Vanderlyn, and John Jay by Gilbert Stuart.

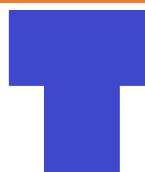
*Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States* is a 1940 oil-on-canvas painting by Howard Chandler Christy, depicting the Constitutional Convention signing the U.S. Constitution at Independence Hall in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787. Christy created the painting in April 1940; it is so large (20 by 30 feet) that he painted it in a sail loft. It is currently displayed along the east stairway in the House of Representatives wing in the Capitol building.

# **Three Branches of Government**

Our country was created with the principle that no single person or group could hold too much power. As a result, the U.S. Constitution established three main parts, called branches of government. Each branch is separate and has its own responsibilities AND each branch can check the power of other branches.

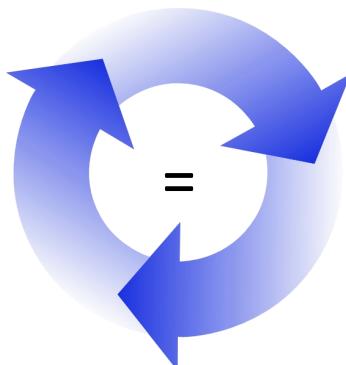


**White House— Executive**



The Executive Branch, led by the President, enforces national laws.

The President can pass into law or reject laws passed by Congress and sometimes suggests new laws for them to consider. The President works with the Vice President and a group of appointed advisors for help.



**Supreme Court— Judicial**



The Judicial Branch is the federal court system. It is headed by the U.S.

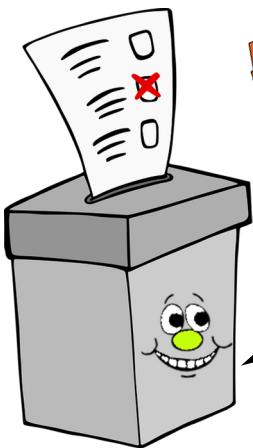
Supreme Court, the highest court in the nation. The members, called justices, review cases to determine whether laws or actions meet the standards of the constitution.



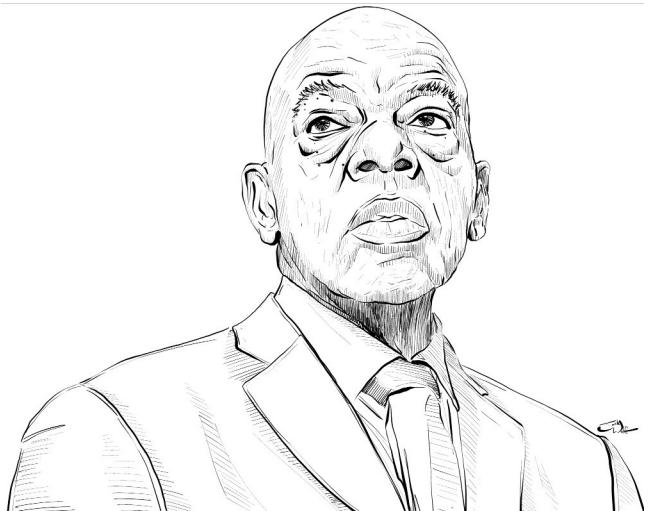
**Congress— Legislative**



The Legislative Branch, known as Congress, is made up of Senators and U.S. Representatives elected by people from state districts. There are 100 Senators (two from each state) and 435 Representatives (based on population). The main job of Congress is to pass laws.



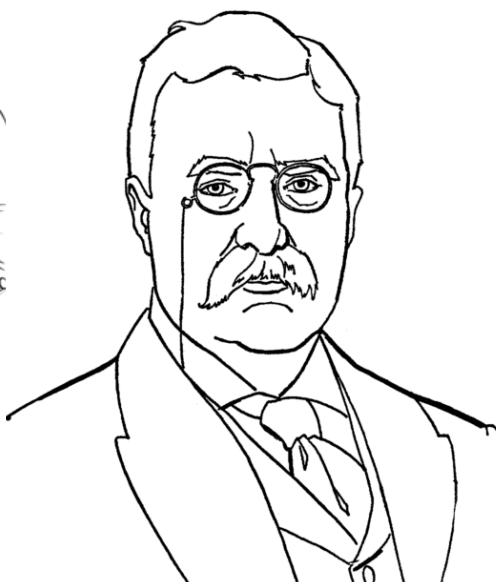
It takes a lot of people to help a government run. Here are some of the many important people who have helped shape our government. Have you heard of them? If not, maybe look them up!



**John Lewis**  
Congressman, 1987-2020



**Thurgood Marshall**  
Supreme Court Justice, 1967-1991



**Theodore Roosevelt**  
26th President, 1901-1909



**Margaret Chase Smith**  
Senator, 1949-1973



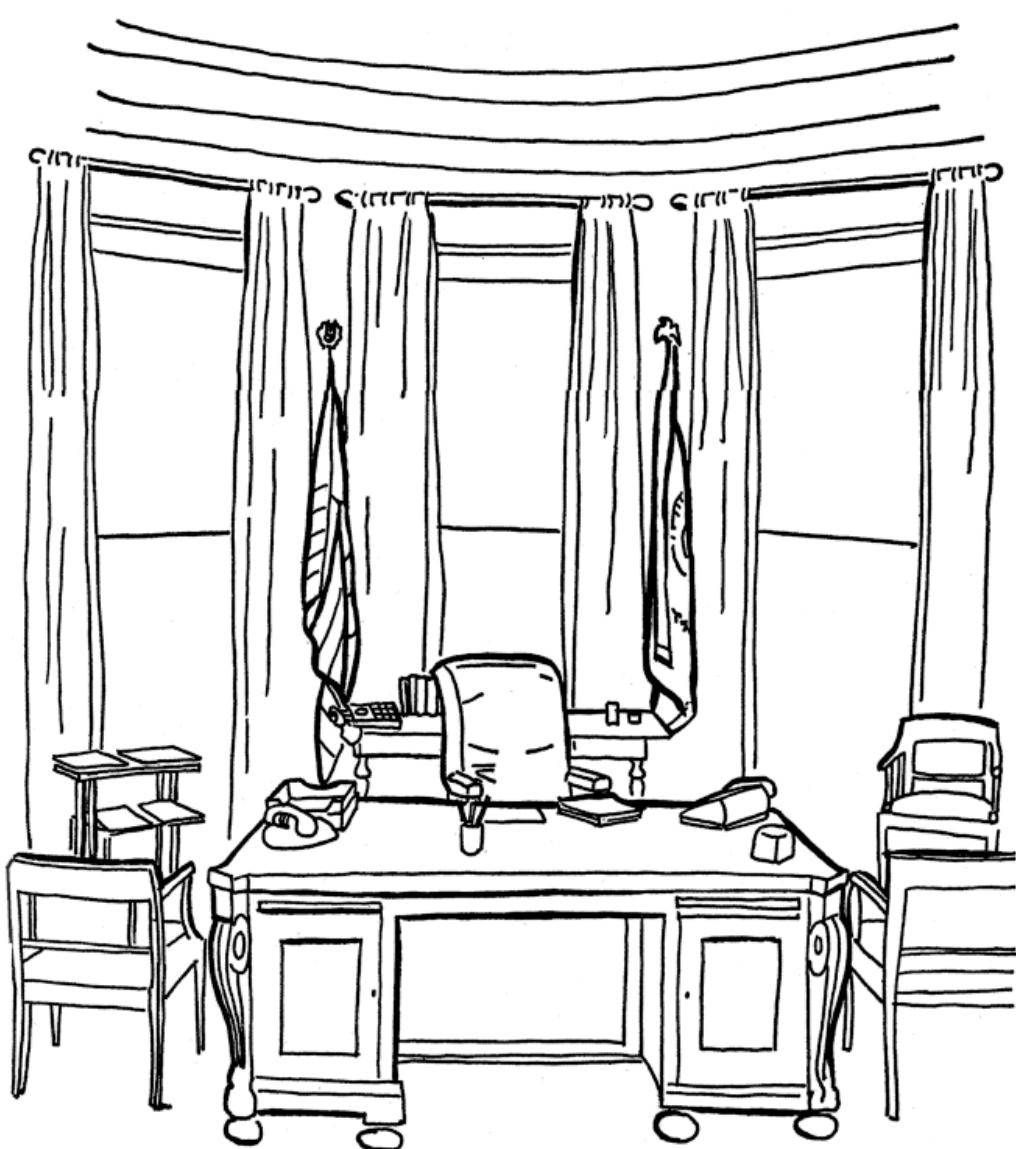
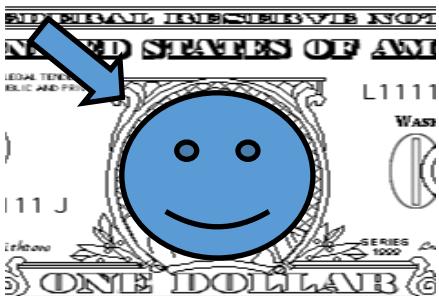
**Shirley Chisholm**  
Congresswoman, 1977-1981



**Ruth Bader Ginsburg**  
Supreme Court Justice, 1993-2020

## **If I were President of the United States, what would I do?**

**Your Picture Here!!!**



The President does a lot of work in the Oval Office, in the White House. What would the Oval Office look like if you were President? Draw yourself in!



# **Symbols of Our Country**

The United States has a unique national identity. Many different cultures make up our country. One way we come together is through shared symbols and traditions drawn from the diversity of our people such as songs, national mottos, and monuments. Some of our patriotic symbols and traditions are included below. ***Match them up by drawing a line to the correct symbol.***



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

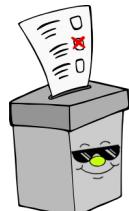


6.



7.

## **BILLIE BALLOT** **FUN FACTS**



Remember the misspelling of Pennsylvania in the Constitution? Well, the Liberty Bell had the same problem. Part of the inscription reads, "By Order of the ASSEMBLY of the Province of PENNSYLVANIA." Oops, I think someone needs a proof-reader!



Let's have some fun and make up our own National Anthem! Have you heard of "Mad Libs"? Well, this is our version. Fill in the blanks in the song using your own words or words from the Word Box. I can't wait to hear what you come up with!

## **Fill in the blanks National Anthem— (to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star).**

Try your hand at making a patriotic song about the place where you live. You never know, it might just catch on! Use your own words or select from the box provided. 

Action Word \_\_\_\_\_, Action Word \_\_\_\_\_, Concept Word \_\_\_\_\_, Place/Thing Word \_\_\_\_\_

How I \_\_\_\_\_ what you \_\_\_\_\_.  
Action Word \_\_\_\_\_, Concept Word \_\_\_\_\_.

Up above the \_\_\_\_\_ so \_\_\_\_\_,  
Place/Thing Word \_\_\_\_\_, Concept Word \_\_\_\_\_.

Like a \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky.  
Concept Word \_\_\_\_\_

Action Word \_\_\_\_\_, Action Word \_\_\_\_\_, Concept Word \_\_\_\_\_, Place/Thing Word \_\_\_\_\_

How I \_\_\_\_\_ what you \_\_\_\_\_.  
Action Word \_\_\_\_\_, Concept Word \_\_\_\_\_.

Created by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **WORD BOX**

#### **Place/Thing Words:**

Motherland, Homeland, Country, Nation, America, New York, Flag

#### **Patriotic Concept Word:**

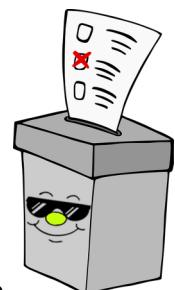
Glory, Freedom, Courage, Diversity, Tradition, Opportunity, Powerful, Truth, Democracy, Liberty

#### **Action Words:**

Helping, Honoring, Sharing, Loving, Action, Working, Voting

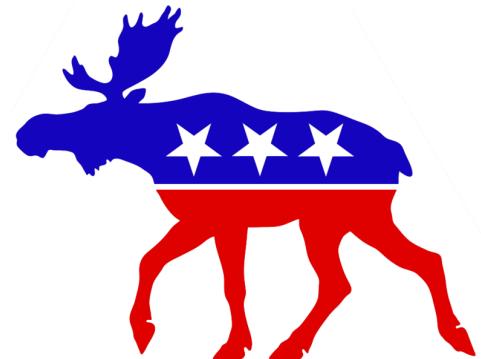
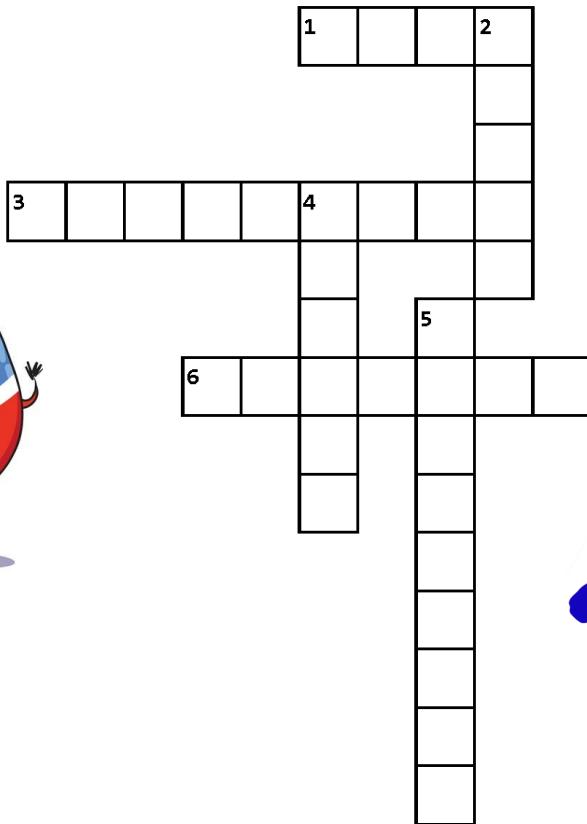
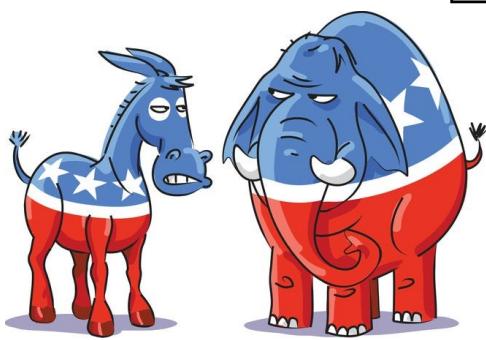
## **BILLIE BALLOT** **FUN FACTS**

We are taught that the United States of America is made up of 50 states and Washington D.C. Did you know there are other U.S. territories that are not states? These include Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam. Territories usually have their own organized government but fall under the sovereignty of the U.S. government. Residents of U.S. territories cannot vote for U.S. President and do not have full representation in Congress.



# ALL ABOUT **PRIMARY** ELECTIONS

## Crossword Puzzle



### Across

1. Not about your hairdo!
3. You may see one in the Adirondack forest.
6. Yellow is a \_\_\_\_\_ color.

### Down

2. Kermit the frog may approve.
4. A place where your mom or dad might work.
5. Someone who runs for President, for example.

### Word Bank: **Bullmoose** • **Candidate** • **Green** • **Office** • **Primary** • **Whig**

Okay, let's talk about primary elections!

Imagine you and your friends want to choose someone to represent your class in a big school competition. But first, your class needs to decide who that person will be. A primary election is like the first round of voting to pick the best person from each team or group who wants to be the class representative.

In the real world, political parties have many people who want to run for a big job, like being the president, those people are called **candidates**. But they can't all run at once, so they hold a **primary** election. During the primary, people vote to choose one person from each party who they think would do the best job. The person with the most votes in the primary becomes the party's candidate for the final election and if they win, they get to hold **office**. Some parties have had funny names like **Bullmoose**, **Green** and **Whig**.

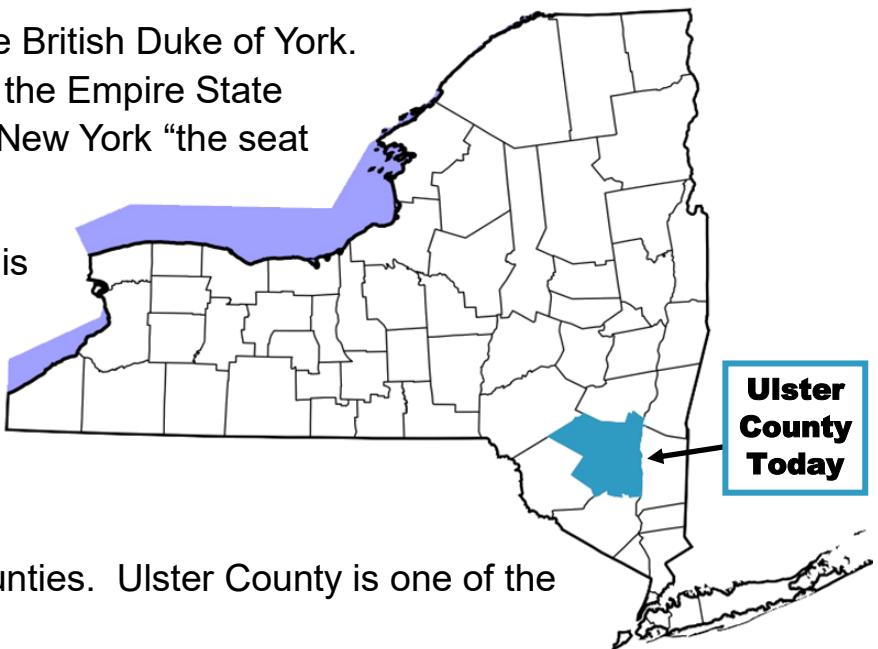
So, in short, a primary election helps a party pick its main player for the big game—just like choosing who will represent your class!

# New York State & Ulster County

**New York State** was named after the British Duke of York. Many experts believe it's nicknamed the Empire State because George Washington called New York "the seat of the Empire."

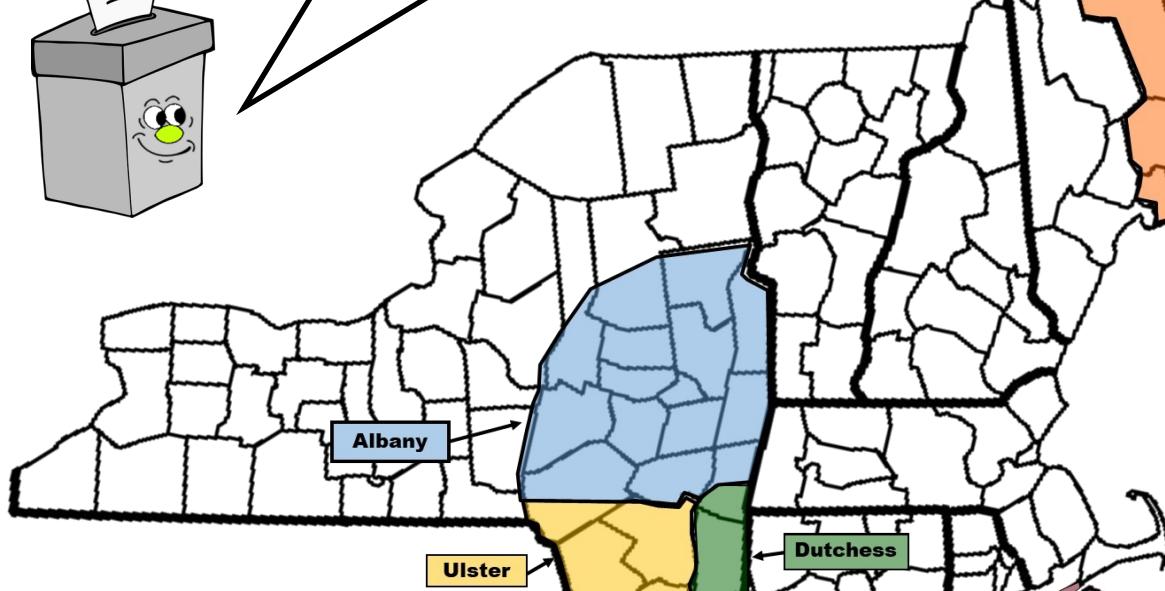
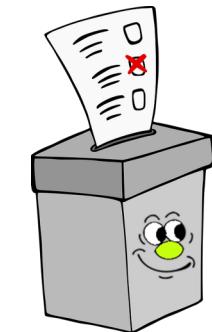
The official state motto for New York is "Excelsior," a Latin word that means "Ever Upward." It was adopted in 1778 during the Revolutionary War, to show the colonists' hopes for a bright future.

New York State is made up of 62 counties. Ulster County is one of the original 12 counties created in 1683.



1683?? That makes us pretty old.....over 340 years! That's a lot of candles on a birthday cake!

Can you believe New York used to include parts of Maine and Massachusetts? That's pretty cool!



12 Original Counties in 1683



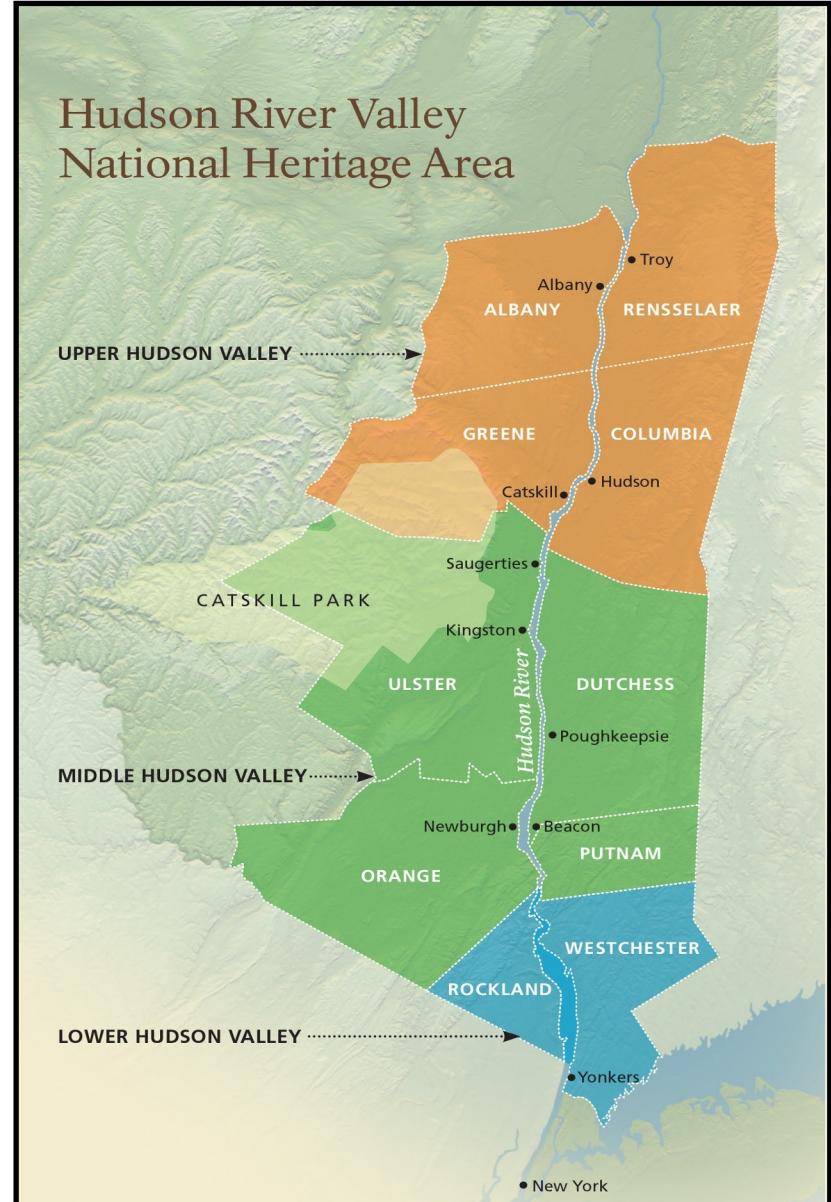
# Where in New York Is Ulster County?

Ulster County is in the **Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area** and the **Catskills** region.

The **Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area** covers land from Albany & Rensselaer Counties in the north to Rockland & Westchester Counties in the south. It is one of 55 federally-recognized National Heritage Areas in the U.S.

Ulster County is part of the **Middle Hudson Valley** area, which also includes Orange, Dutchess and Putnam Counties.

The **Catskills** region lies mostly in Greene and Ulster Counties, with parts in a few other bordering counties. Five towns in Ulster County are completely inside the Catskill Park—Denning, Shandaken, Hardenburgh, Woodstock and Kingston (the town, not the city).



## Can You Unscramble the Names of These Hudson Valley Cities & Towns?

*Hint—Use the map above to find the city & town names!*

OTRY \_\_\_\_\_  
EYRKNSO \_\_\_\_\_  
SICLALTK \_\_\_\_\_  
BCOANE \_\_\_\_\_  
TUSESGREIA \_\_\_\_\_

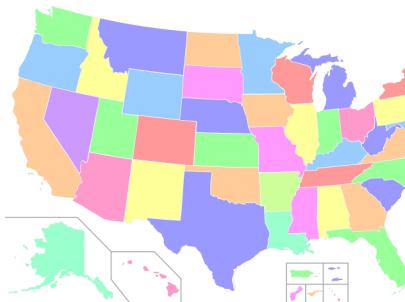
SNUDOH \_\_\_\_\_  
NNKISOTG \_\_\_\_\_  
YANLAB \_\_\_\_\_  
BUWNEGHR \_\_\_\_\_  
SOEUPEHKPEGI \_\_\_\_\_



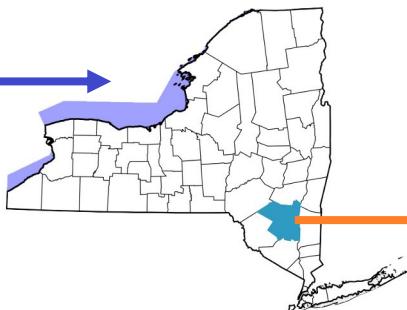
# What is Ulster County?

A County is the largest division for local government within a state.

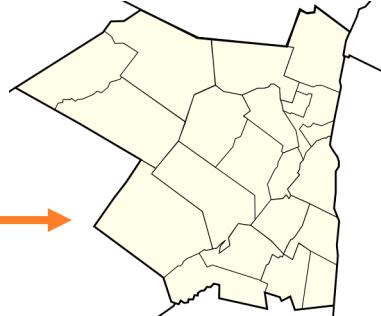
United States



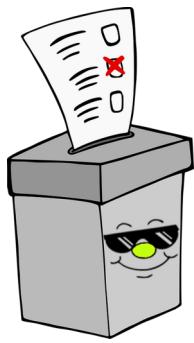
New York State



Ulster County



## **BILLIE BALLOT FUN FACTS**



Ulster County is a pretty cool place! There are lots of fascinating facts and interesting people around here. Check out some of these fun facts...

On September 9, 1777, while serving as Chief Justice, Founding Father John Jay oversaw the opening of the Ulster County Courthouse under the New York Government.

Professional boxer Billy Costello was born in Kingston in 1956. In 1978 at age 22, Costello won the New York Golden Gloves Championship in his weight division. In 1984, he knocked out Bruce Curry to win the World Boxing Council's Junior Welterweight title. In retirement, Costello became a volunteer director for the Kingston PAL Boxing Club and frequently appeared as a pro-boxing judge and referee.

Ulster County was featured in the December 2016 edition of National Geographic Magazine highlighting some of the County's environmental achievements.

The County includes more than 40 miles (64 km) of rail trails along the Hudson Valley Rail Trail, Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, and O&W Rail Trail. The Walkway Over the Hudson, the world's longest pedestrian and bicycle bridge which spans the Hudson River, is connected within Ulster County trails.

There are 194 sites & districts throughout Ulster County on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1777, Kingston was designated as the first Capitol—or seat of government—of New York because it was considered safer from the British forces than Albany or New York City.

Entertainer Jimmy Fallon was raised in Saugerties from age two. He graduated from Saugerties High School, where he had performed in many stage productions.

The Ashokan Reservoir is at the eastern end of the Catskill Park, and is one of several in the region created to provide the City of New York with water. As the city's deepest reservoir, the Ashokan Reservoir covers land in three Ulster County Towns: Olive, Hurley & Marbletown.

Marbletown native Romeo E. Muller, Jr. was a screenwriter and actor most remembered for his 1960s screenplays of TV specials Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town, The Little Drummer Boy, Here Comes Peter Cottontail, and Frosty the Snowman.

Abolitionist and women's rights activist Sojourner Truth (born Isabella Baumfree) was born in Esopus in 1797. She was born into slavery but escaped with her infant daughter in 1826. Two years later she fought for her son Peter's freedom in the Ulster County Courthouse, as he had been illegally sold to a slave owner in Alabama. After months of legal proceedings, Truth won back her son, and became one of the first black women to go to court against a white man and win.

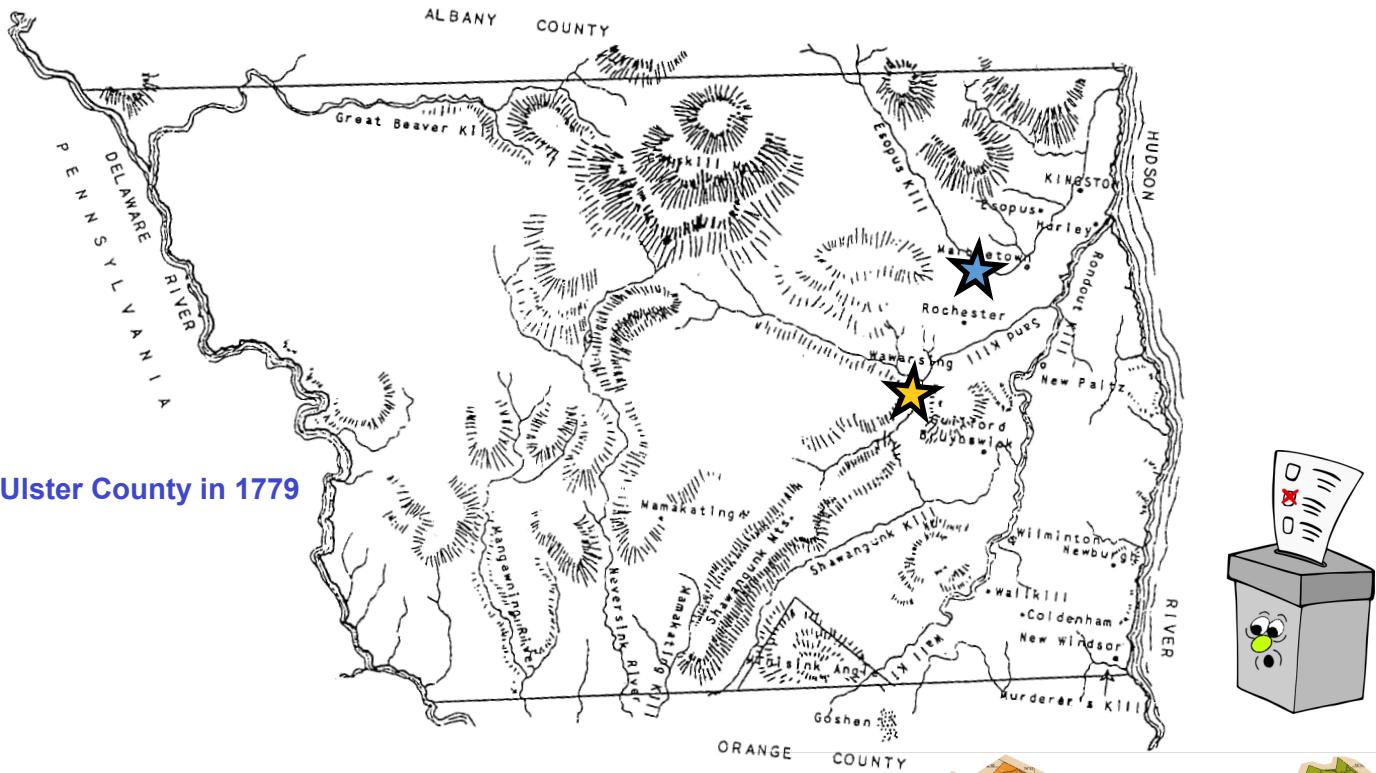
# How Has Our Government Changed?

1683 Board of Supervisors ► 1968 Legislature

Ulster County was officially formed on November 1, 1683. It was governed by a **Board of Supervisors**. There was one supervisor from each town and as more towns were created, more supervisors were added to the Board.

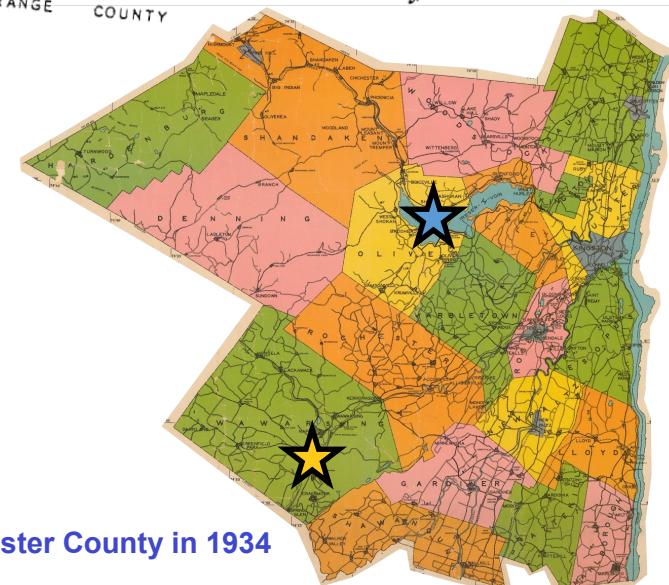
In 1968, the County moved from a Board of Supervisors to a **Legislature**. Instead of a representative from each town, the Legislature was divided into 12 districts with 33 total legislators. Each district had a similar number of people in it to more equally represent Ulster County's citizens.

The Board of Supervisors and the Legislature made all of the decisions for our County.



Ulster County changed in size over the years, forming new county borders and new towns.

These maps are 155 years apart. The 2 blue stars are the approximate location of the Ashokan Reservoir and the 2 yellow stars are the Village of Ellenville. What a difference!



Ulster County in 1934

## 1968 Legislature ► 2006 Executive & Legislature

In 2006, Ulster County residents adopted a new charter that changed the form and functioning of our government. We now have a **County Executive** and a re-districted **Legislature**. This helps to separate and balance the power in our local government.

The new **County Executive** serves as the county's Chief Executive. Some of the powers and duties of the Executive include appointing department heads, creating the county's budget, approving contracts and local laws, making recommendations to the County Legislature about county affairs, and much more. The County Executive is elected every four years.

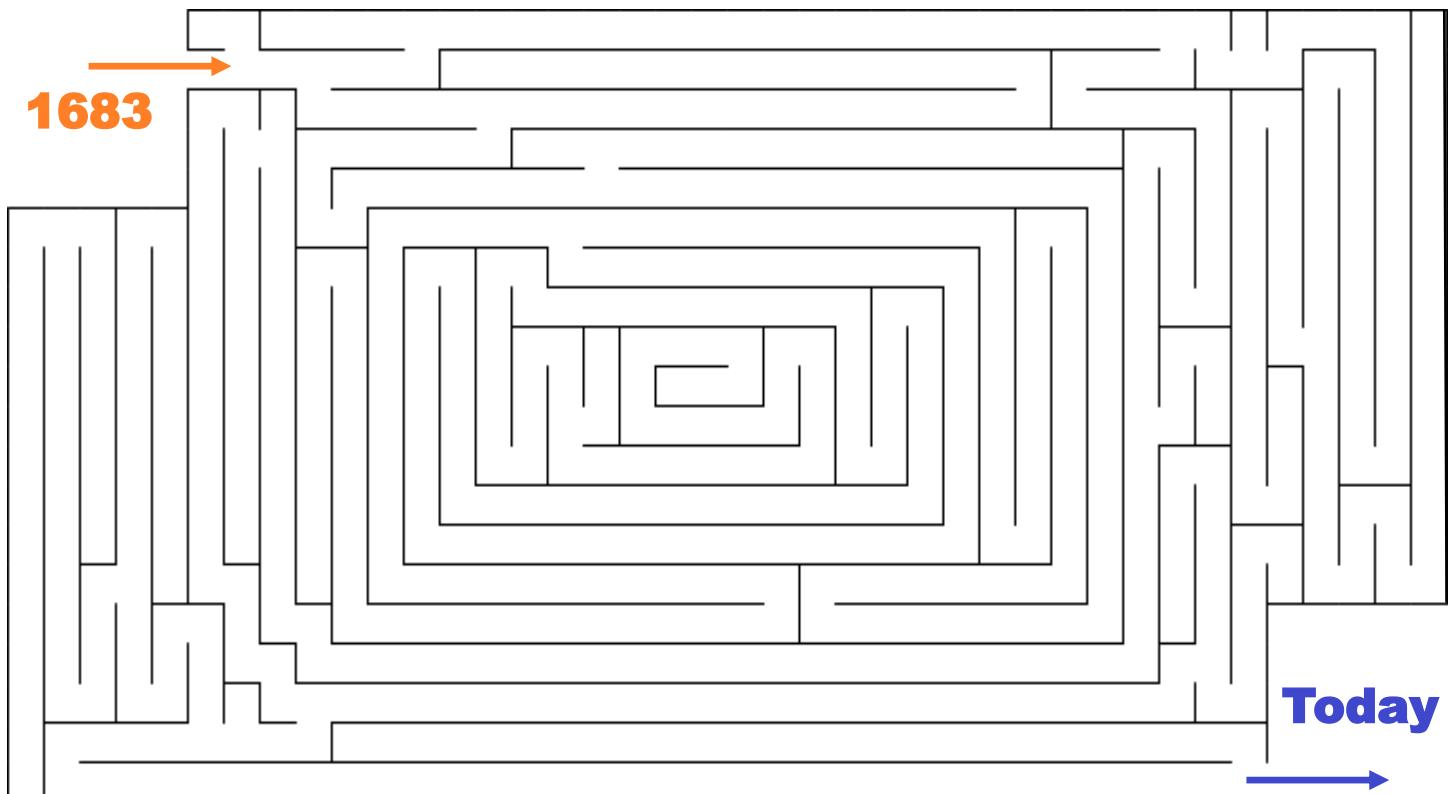
The new **County Legislature** is divided into 23 districts and one person is elected from each district to serve as a legislator. The Legislature can enact, amend and

rescind local laws and resolutions. They are also responsible for approving the budget, conducting studies and investigations, and much more. Legislators are elected every two years.



Hey, I think this maze looks pretty tough!  
You might want to use a pencil, just in case.

**Help our government move from its formation to today!**



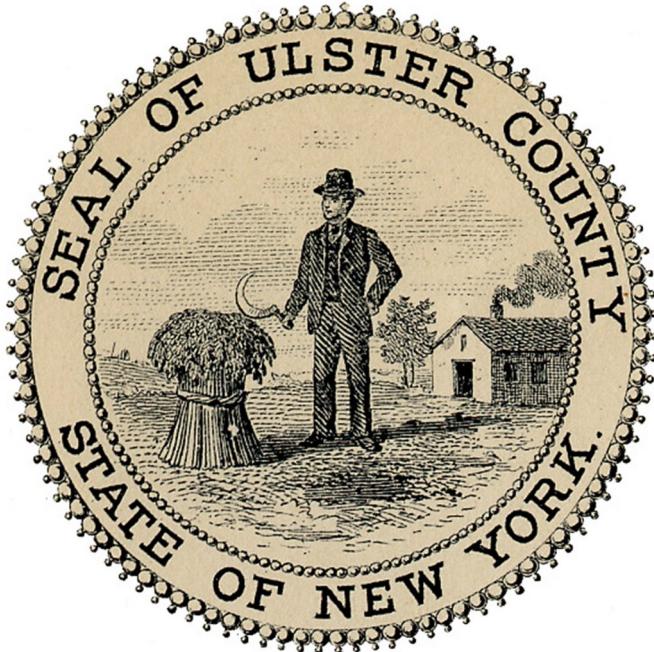
# **The Seal of Ulster County**

A County Seal is a design or emblem, belonging to the county, which bears an imprint and is put on documents to show they are official. The Ulster County Seal (whether old or new) represents a sheaf of grain, a farmer and a Dutch stone house.

Below are pictures of two different seals that have been used by the County. The first was used in the 1800's through 1974. On March 14, 1974, the new seal was adopted by the Ulster County Legislature, along with a new flag that would bear the image of the seal. Both the flag and the official seal were adopted for the upcoming 1976 bicentennial celebration.

**In the 1800's this was the seal of Ulster County.**

**In 1974 the seal was changed to look like this.**



## **Can You Spot the Differences?**

There are several differences between these seals. Can you name three of them?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

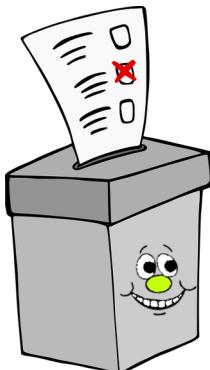


## ***Bonus Questions!***

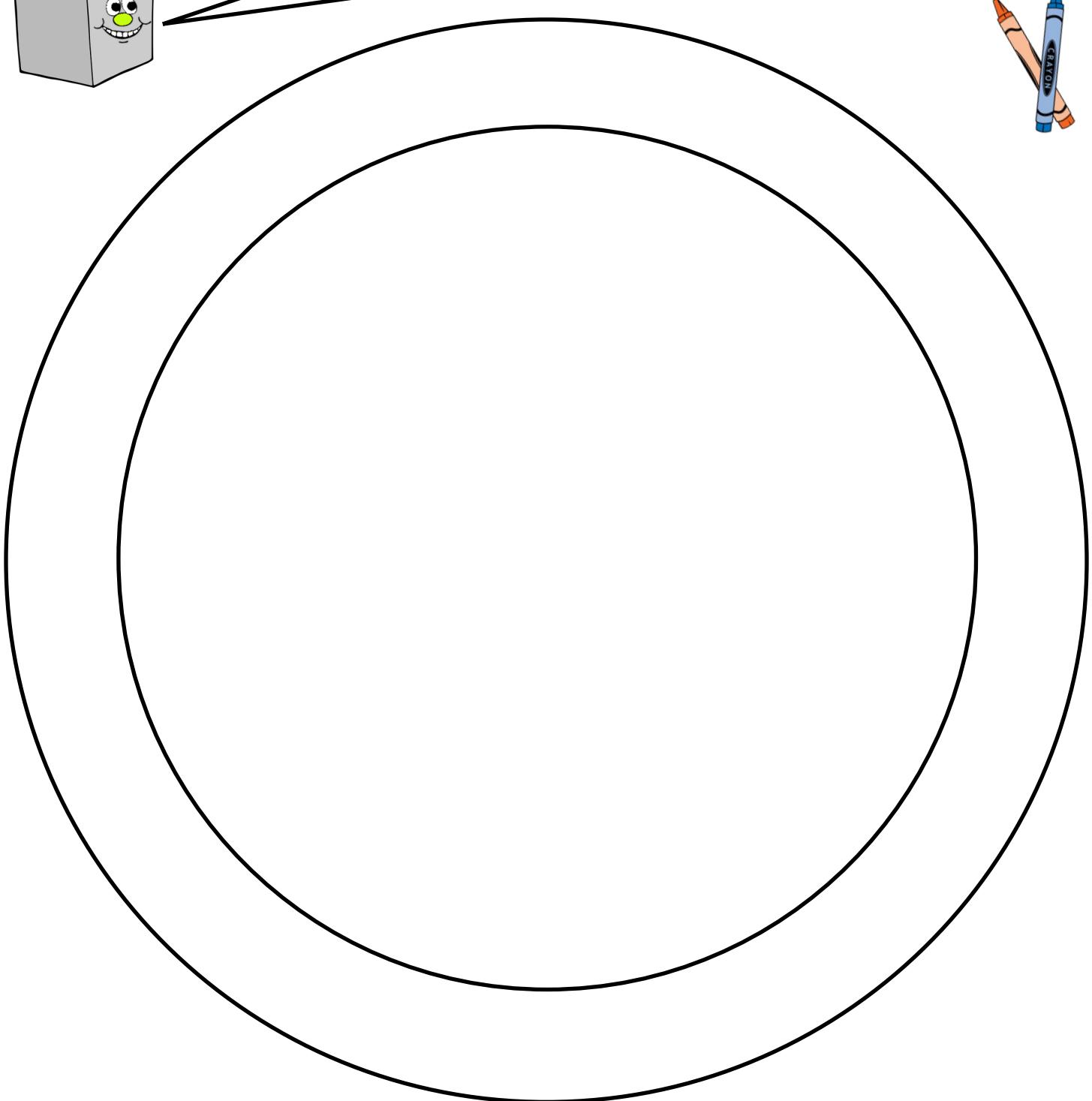
*Why is 1683 an important year for Ulster County?* \_\_\_\_\_

*How many years does a "bicentennial" celebrate?* \_\_\_\_\_

# **Design Your Own Seal**



Create a seal to represent you, your family or your school. Think of at least three symbols you would put on the seal. What words would you put around the edge? Have fun and color in your design!



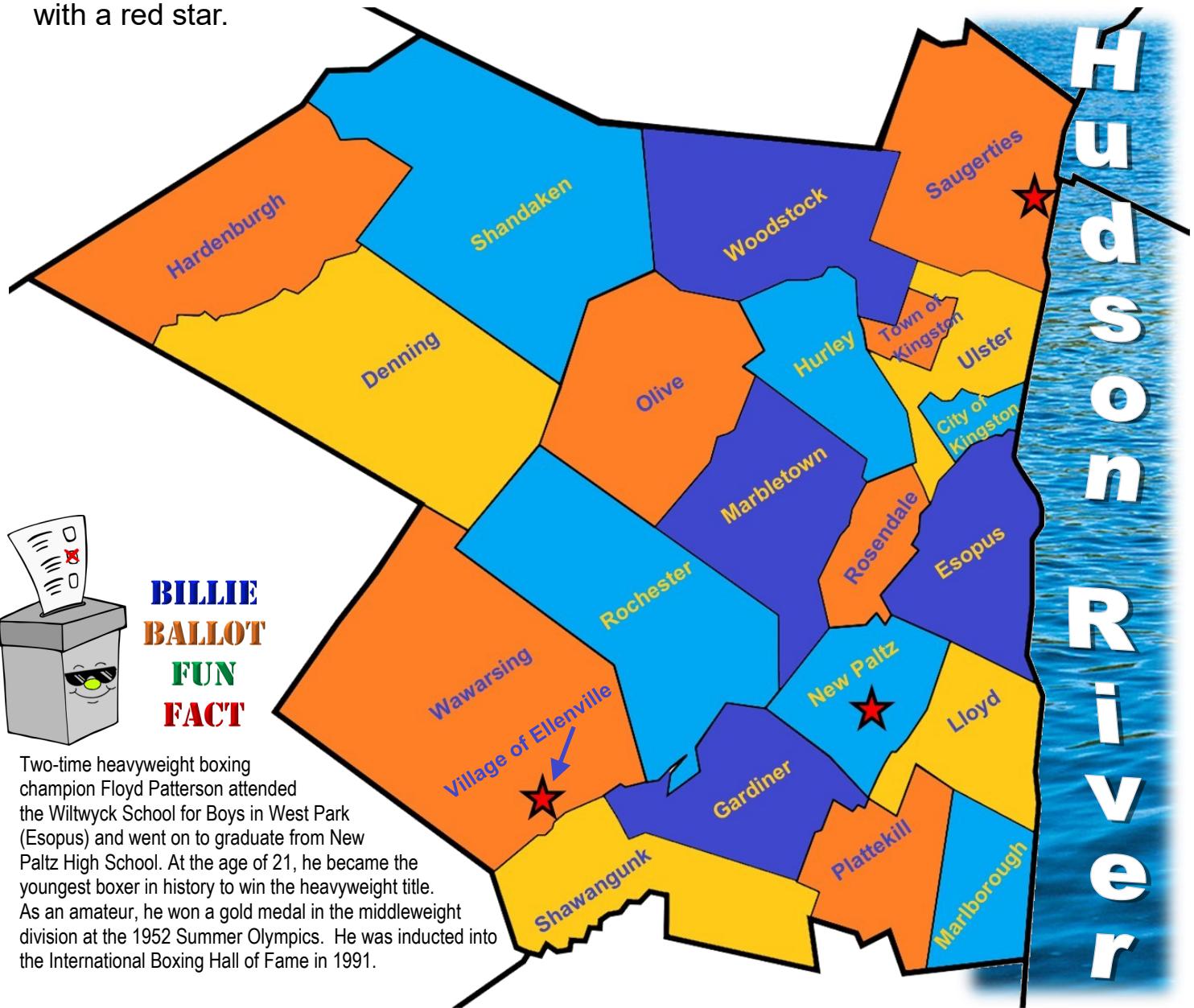
# **Ulster County's City, Towns & Villages**

Ulster County is made up of **1 city, 20 towns and 3 villages**.

A **city** is a “large or important municipality in the U.S. governed under a charter granted by the state.” The City of Kingston is our county’s only city. It is also the County Seat, the home of Ulster County government.

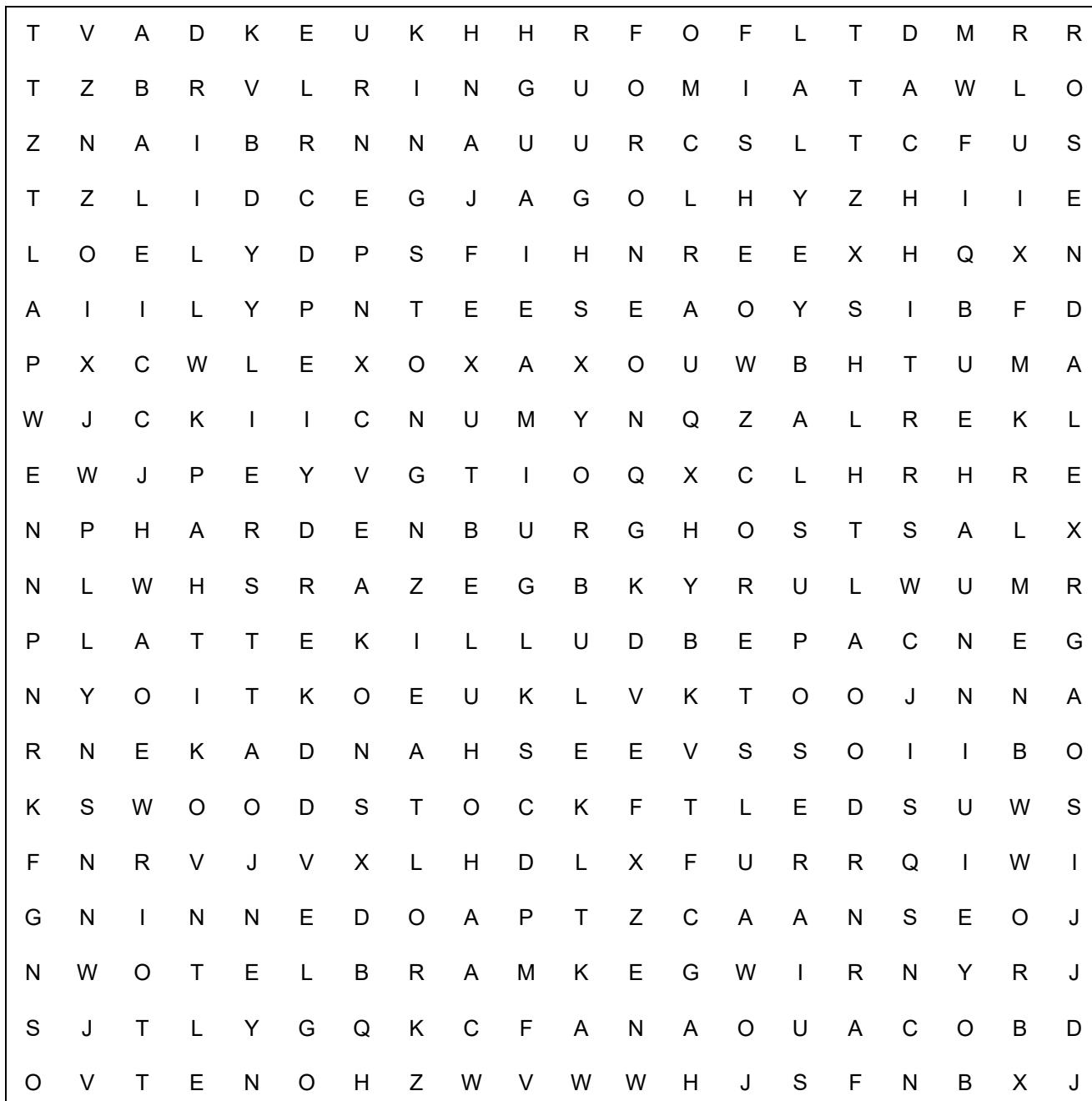
A **town** is “an urban area that has a name, defined boundaries, and local government, and that is generally larger than a village and smaller than a city.” Ulster County has 20 towns of varying size and population.

A **village** is “an incorporated minor municipality, usually larger than a hamlet and smaller than a town.” There are three villages in our county, two of which share their name with the town where they are located. On the map below, villages are marked with a red star.



# Find Ulster County's Towns & Villages!

Use the Word Bank below to find all the town and village names in Ulster County. Words can go in any direction and share letters as they cross over each other. Good luck!



## Word Bank

Denning	Kingston	Plattekill	Ulster
Ellenville	Lloyd	Rochester	Wawarsing
Esopus	Marbletown	Rosendale	Woodstock
Gardiner	Marlborough	Saugerties	
Hardenburgh	New Paltz	Shandaken	
Hurley	Olive	Shawangunk	

New Paltz and Saugerties each have a Village and Town with the same name. Kingston has a Town and a City. Don't worry, we only put them in the puzzle once!

# **Voting in a City, Town or Village**

There are many different jobs to perform in a local government. A lot of these jobs require you to be elected by the people in your city, town or village.

The **City of Kingston** elected officials include the Mayor, nine Common Council Members and two City Judges.

**Towns** have different elected officials than a city. In most towns, a ballot could have a Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, Highway Supervisor, Town Justices, Tax Collector and Town Board Members.

A **Village** usually has a Mayor, Board of Trustees and Village Justices that are elected to their positions.

What city, town or village do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

Who are some of your elected officials? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



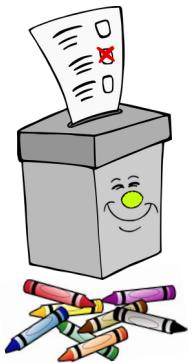
If you could be a local elected official, what job would you like to have?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why did you pick that job? What would make you good at it?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

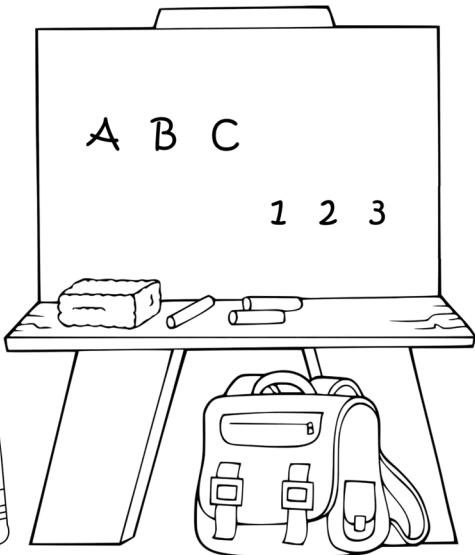


# **Where Else Do I Vote?**

There are many different places and organizations that require voting to elect their leaders. Voting is such a good idea, they do it everywhere!



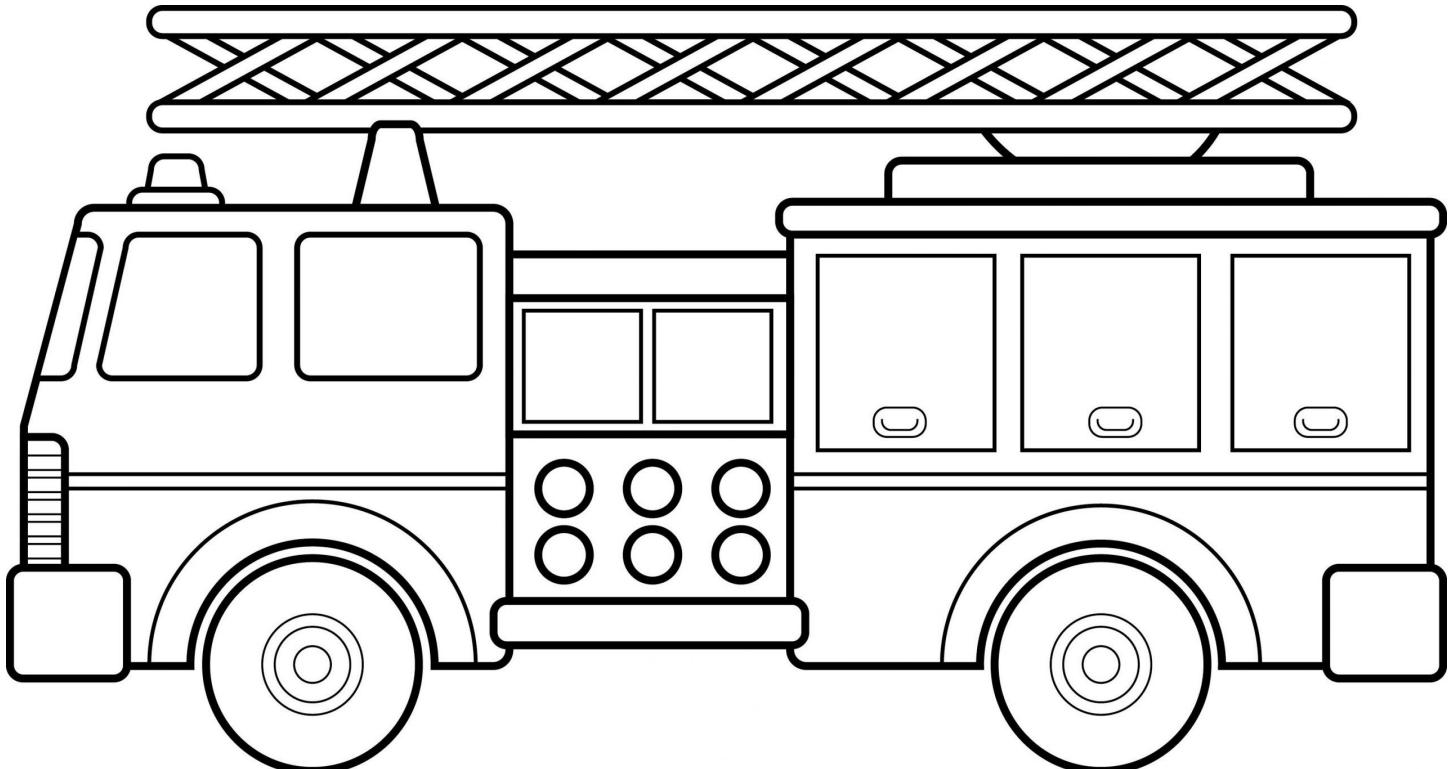
**School**



**Library**



**Fire District**



# Who Do I Vote For?

Every office has its own set of responsibilities. Just like a librarian takes care of books, each office has a specific job to do. Can you match the name of each elected official with what they do?



## **SHERIFF**

Responsible for implementing state laws and overseeing the operation of the state executive branch.

## **Town Clerk**

Chief Executive Officer of a local government who oversees the various local agencies and departments, and communicates with state and federal offices.

## **School Board Member**

Works with the Assembly and Governor to create, amend, or repeal laws.

## **Mayor**

Presides over Vehicle and Traffic Law misdemeanors, issues warrants for arrest, sentences criminals, and imposes fines.

## **STATE SENATOR**

Enforces laws, runs the jail, protects the courts, helps in emergencies.

## **GOVERNOR**

Serves as a link between schools and the public, hires superintendents, maintains school facilities.

## **TOWN JUSTICE**

Keeps important records like birth certificates and marriage licenses, issues permits, collects taxes, and records local laws.

# **Who Can Vote?**

You can vote in U.S. elections if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years old on or before Election Day, and are registered to vote!

What does it mean to be a citizen? According to the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, there are two pathways to citizenship...

1. You are a U.S. citizen if you are born in the United States, or born abroad to a United States citizen parent.
2. You can become a U.S. citizen through naturalization, a process in which an eligible legal immigrant applies for citizenship and is accepted.



There are many steps to becoming a U.S. citizen through naturalization. One of the steps is to take a test on U.S. history, government and civic principles. Below are a few sample questions you might see on that test. Can you answer them? Look up the answers if you need to!

**1. How many senators does each state have?** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**2. What is one way Americans can serve their country?** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**3. George Washington is famous for many things. Name one.** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**4. Name three national U.S. holidays.** \_\_\_\_\_

---



After you pass the test, you get to attend a citizenship ceremony! Did you know that we have those ceremonies right here at the Ulster County Courthouse?

Cut out the sample program on the next page. You can hold your own ceremony and take the oath!



cherish your freedom, protect your rights,

you.

You are now a citizen - take pride in your new country and enjoy the privileges it offers. You are now a citizen - take pride in your new country and enjoy the privileges it offers. You are now a citizen - take pride in your new country and enjoy the privileges it offers.

States of America.

Welcome to Citizenship of the United

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

KINGSTON, NY 12401

ULSTER COUNTY

Fold 1



**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**

**NATURALIZATION TERM**

**HON. JULIAN D. SCHREIBMAN**

**JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT**

**ULSTER COUNTY**

**TAYLOR BRUCK**

**ACTING CLERK OF THE COURT**

**ULSTER COUNTY CLERK**

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT  
HONORABLE JULIAN D. SCHREIBMAN  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2024  
NATURALIZATION COURT  
REMARKS BY TAYLOR BRUCK, ACTING ULSTER COUNTY CLERK  
REMARKS BY TAYLOR BRUCK, ACTING ULSTER COUNTY CLERK  
OPENING OF COURT  
PRESENTATION OF COLORS & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
REMARKS BY TAYLOR BRUCK, ACTING ULSTER COUNTY CLERK  
NATIONAL ANTHEM  
JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT  
HONORABLE JULIAN D. SCHREIBMAN

~ Court Adjourned  
~ Retirement of Colors  
~ "America the Beautiful"  
~ Presentation of Certificates of Citizenship  
Honorable Julian D. Schreibman, Justice of the Supreme Court  
Justice Schreibman's Address  
Oath of Allegiance by Taylor Bruck, Acting Ulster County Clerk  
County Clerk's Recomendation to Justice Julian D. Schreibman  
Remarks by Taylor Bruck, Acting Ulster County Clerk  
Remarks by Taylor Bruck, Acting Ulster County Clerk  
Opening of Court  
Presentation of Colors & Pledge of Allegiance  
Opening of Court

### OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

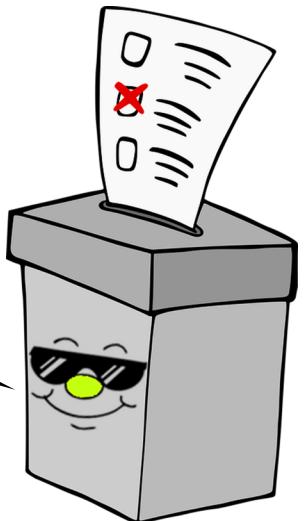
I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.

Back Side of Program

# BILLIE BALLOT FUN FACTS

Citizenship is a pretty big deal. You have many different rights and responsibilities. I found some more fun facts about it. Check it out...

In the United States, anyone who is born on U.S. soil is automatically a citizen. Most countries follow a different practice to grant citizenship that is some combination of both birthplace and/or inherited nationality.



Mandatory duties of citizenship do not include voting! As a citizen you are required to obey the law, pay taxes, serve on a jury when called, and register for the military draft (men). Voting is included in your rights, but it is not required.

The concept of citizenship first arose in towns and city-states of ancient Greece, where it generally applied to property owners. A citizen in a Greek city-state was entitled to vote and was liable to taxation and military service.



Ulster County holds Naturalization ceremonies several times each year at the Ulster County Courthouse. The program on the previous page tells you all about the ceremony, but do you know what happens after? The new citizens are celebrated by their family, friends and local officials while sharing a congratulatory cake!

# Was Everyone Always Allowed to Vote?



Voting laws, like many laws, were changed and amended over the years. Follow the timeline and color in these big changes to the voting laws in the United States.

1776—The Declaration of Independence is signed. Right to vote is restricted to property owners, mostly white males age 21 and over.



1787—The U.S. Constitution is adopted.



1887—The Dawes Act is passed, granting citizenship to Native Americans who give up their tribal affiliations.



1890—Wyoming becomes the first state to allow women to vote.



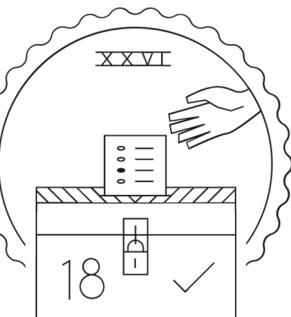
Women's Suffrage March, 1913

1964—The 24th Amendment is passed, guaranteeing the right to vote in federal elections will not be denied for failure to pay any tax.

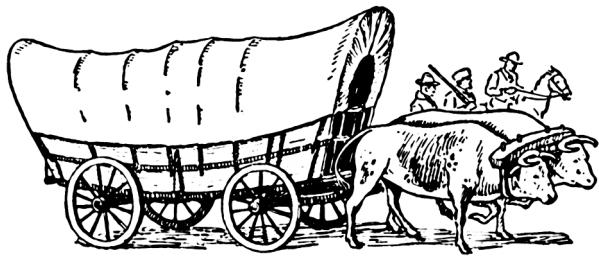


Martin Luther King Jr., 1929-1968

1965—The Voting Rights Act is passed. It prohibits racial discrimination in voting.



1971—The 26th Amendment is passed, lowering the voting age to 18 years old.



1856—Voting is expanded to include all white men, regardless of land ownership.



*Sojourner Truth, 1797-1883*



Frederick Douglass, 1817-1895

1868—The 14th Amendment is passed granting citizenship to former slaves.



1870—The 15th Amendment is passed, stating that the right to vote cannot be denied based on race.

1924—The Indian Citizenship Act grants citizenship to all Native Americans.



1952—The McCarran-Walter Act is passed, granting all people of Asian ancestry the right to become citizens



1961—The 23rd Amendment is passed, giving the citizens of Washington D.C. the right to vote for U.S. president.

1975—Amendments to the Voting Rights Act are passed requiring voting materials to be printed in multiple languages.



## Các Câu Hỏi về Công Dân (Lịch Sử và Tô Chức Công Quyền) cho Trắc Nghiệm Nhập Tịch

100 câu hỏi về công dân (Lịch Sử và Tổ Chức Công Quyền) cùng các giải đáp cho trắc nghiệm nhập tịch ghi dưới đây. Trắc nghiệm công dân được hỏi miệng và giám khảo của Cơ Quan Quốc Tịch Vâ Di Trú (USCIS) sẽ hỏi ứng viên nhập tịch từ 10 trong số 100 câu. Ứng viên phải trả lời đúng 6 trên 10 câu hỏi để được đậu phần nhập tịch này.

# *Naturalization Practice Tests in Vietnamese & Arabic*



1986—The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act is passed granting United States Military and Uniformed Services, Merchant Marine, and other citizens living on bases, abroad, or aboard ship the right to vote in federal elections by absentee ballot.



*Chief Petty Officer*  
U.S. Navy

# **#UlsterCountyVotes**

The Ulster County Board of Elections holds a yearly contest inviting students throughout the county to design and submit an "I Voted" sticker. The winning designs, chosen by the Board Commissioners and the public, are then used to create a 2-inch sticker that is distributed at polling sites on Election Day in November. Pictured below are some of the many "I Voted" submissions from 2021.



Julia McClosky



Mae Rogers



Siena Beach



Brooke Myers



Aaliyah Ghafoor



Isabella Finch



Jasmin, Highland High School



Alex O'Neill

# **"I Voted" Sticker Spotlight**

In 2022, an Ulster County "I Voted" sticker gained viral acclaim for its eye-catching design featuring a vibrant spider created by student Hudson Rowan. The whimsical and colorful sticker quickly became a social media sensation, encouraging civic engagement and garnering attention for its unique take on celebrating voter participation.

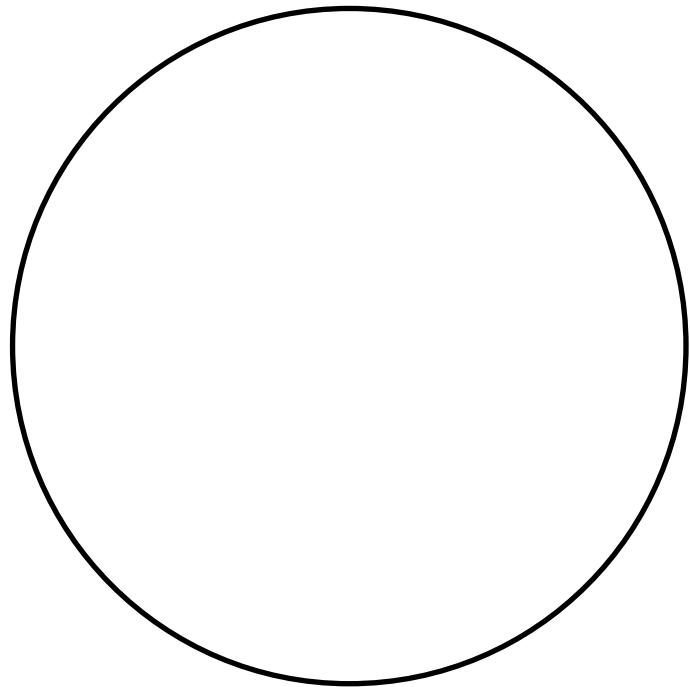
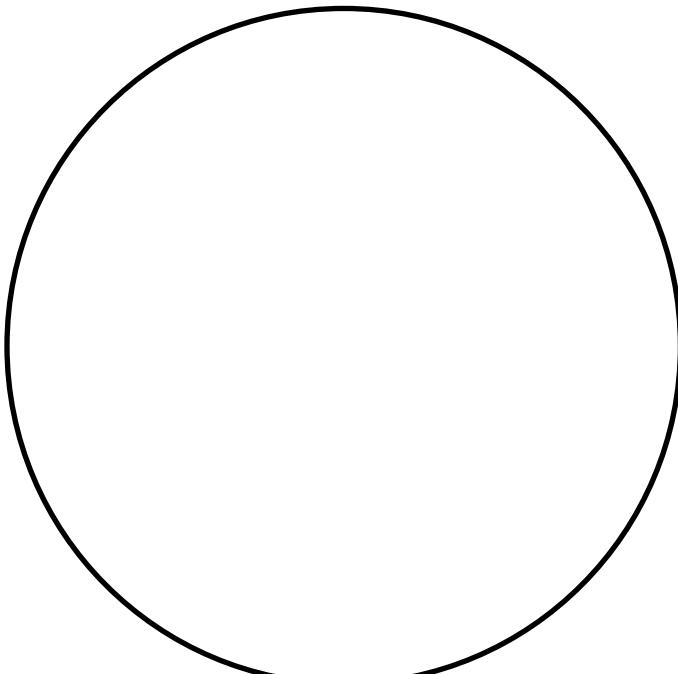


Hudson Rowan's design (left) featured bright colors like magenta, teal, purple and red. Using your favorite colors, create your own version of this iconic "I Voted" sticker:

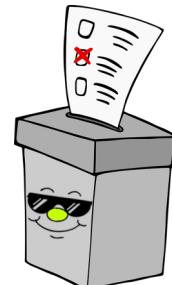


# **Design Your “I Voted” Stickers**

Use your imagination and all the knowledge you have gained throughout this book to design your own “I Voted” sticker. What does voting mean to you?



## **BILLIE BALLOT** **FUN FACT**



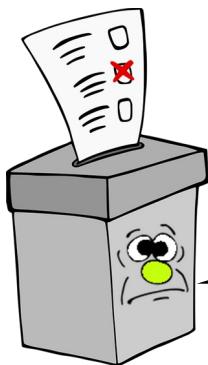
Painter John Vanderlyn, born in Kingston in 1775, was well known as a portrait artist. He was a protégé of Aaron Burr, who served as a lawyer in many Ulster County court cases. Vanderlyn even lived with the family when Burr was Vice President. While Vanderlyn went on to paint many historical figures, his mentor had a more difficult future. Burr's legacy is defined by his infamous personal conflict with Alexander Hamilton that ended in Burr killing Hamilton in a duel in 1804.



*Self Portrait*  
by John Vanderlyn, 1800



*Aaron Burr*  
by John Vanderlyn, 1802



# Glossary

Psst...there are some hard words in this packet! I didn't know them all, so I looked them up for us. Did I miss any? Maybe you could look them up for me.

**Abolitionist**

A person who advocated or supported doing away with or putting an end to slavery in the U.S. (especially prior to the Civil War).

**Absent**

Beyond the boundaries of one's country : in or to a foreign country.

**Allegiance**

The loyalty of citizens to their government.

**Amendment**

A change or addition designed to improve a text, piece of legislation, etc.

**Amendment**

A document outlining the conditions under which a corporation, colony, city, or other corporate body is organized, and defining its rights and privileges.

**Citizenship**

A member of a community; gained by meeting the legal requirements of a national, state, or local government.

**Colonists**

Inhabitants of the 13 British colonies that became the United States of America.

**Commissioner**

A representative granted with the authority or power to perform certain acts or duties

**Congress**

The act or action of coming together and meeting; the supreme legislative body of a nation and especially of a republic.

**Constitution**

A body of the most important principles or established rules for conduct.

**Convention**

A meeting or formal assembly, as of representatives or delegates, for discussion of and action on particular matters of common concern.

**Democracy**

A system of government by the whole population or all eligible members (citizens) of a state or nation, typically through elected representatives.

**DMV**

Department of Motor Vehicles is a state-level government agency that administers vehicle registration and driver licensing.

**Duke**

A British nobleman holding the highest hereditary title outside the royal family, ranking immediately below a prince and above a marquis.

**Government**

The political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens, or inhabitants of communities, societies, and states.

**Great Seal**

A seal, or stamped emblem, used on official state documents of the highest importance.

**Hamlet**

A small village.

**Heritage**

Something that is handed down from the past, like a tradition.

**Icon**

A person or thing regarded as a representative symbol.

**Incorporated**

Formed or constituted as a legal city, town, village, etc., that operates under a corporate charter granted by the state.

**Infamous**

Well known for something bad; notorious.

**Jurisdiction**

The official power to make legal decisions and judgments.

**Legislative**

Having the power to make laws.

**Legislature**

A body of persons, usually elected, who are empowered to make, change, or repeal the laws.

**Liberty**

The quality or state of being free; the positive enjoyment of various social, political, or economic rights and privileges.

**Mandate**

An official order to do something.

**Military Draft**

Mandatory enlistment of people to military service.

**Municipality**

A city, town, or other district that usually its own local government.

**Nation (sometimes interchanged with state)**

A large body of people united by common descent, history, culture, language, or inhabiting a particular country or territory.

**Naturalization**

The process by which a foreign citizen becomes a citizen of a new country.

**Patriotic**

Having or expressing love and devotion for one's country.

**Proposition**

A legislative proposal.

**Protégé**

A person who is guided and supported by an older and more experienced or influential person.

**Referendum**

An official vote on a specific issue. It's often part of a larger election.

**Representative**

A person chosen or appointed to act or speak for others.

**Republic**

A state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch (King or Queen).

**Rescind**

To revoke, cancel, or repeal (a law, order, or agreement).

**Reservoir**

A natural or artificial place where water is collected and stored for use, especially water for supplying a community, irrigating land, furnishing power, etc.

**Resolution**

Something settled or resolved; the outcome of decision making, usually agreed to by a vote.

**Sail Loft**

A large loft or room where sails are cut out and made.

**Sovereignty**

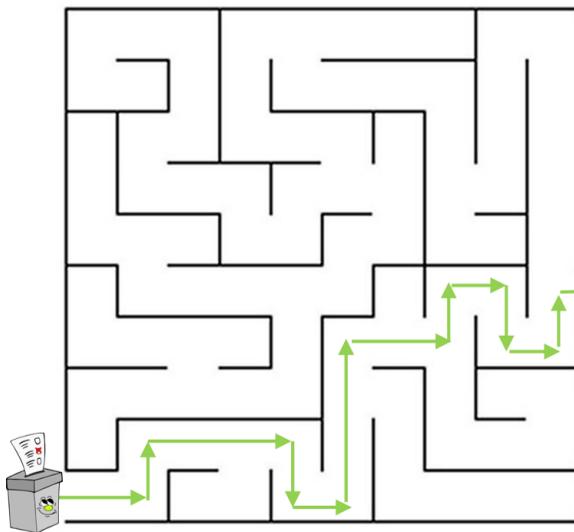
Supreme and independent power or authority in government as possessed or claimed by a state or community.

**U.S. Territory**

A piece of land belonging to the jurisdiction of the United States.

# Activity Solutions

## Help Billie Find the Way to Vote!



Check it out!! They gave us the answers to all the activities. Let's check and see how we did...



## True or False

1. **False**—They are equal but manage different things.
2. **False**—Individual rights were later outlined in the Bill of Rights and other Amendments.
3. **True**—While the independent republic of San Marino's constitution is older, established in 1600, it is a set of documents, not one comprehensive document.
4. **False**—It was adopted on September 17, 1787.
5. **True**—The Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches.

## Symbols of Our Country

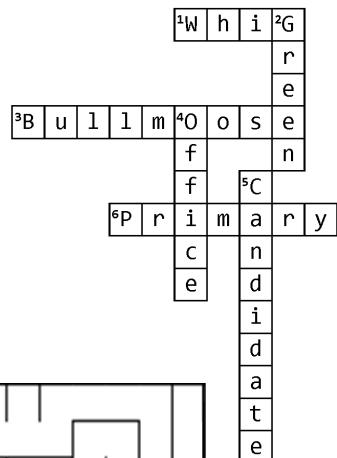
1-F New York State Flag  
 2-C Great Seal of the U.S.  
 3-D Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance  
 4-A American Flag  
 5-B Icons of Political Parties  
 6-G Liberty Bell  
 7-E Statue of Liberty

## Unscramble the Hudson Valley

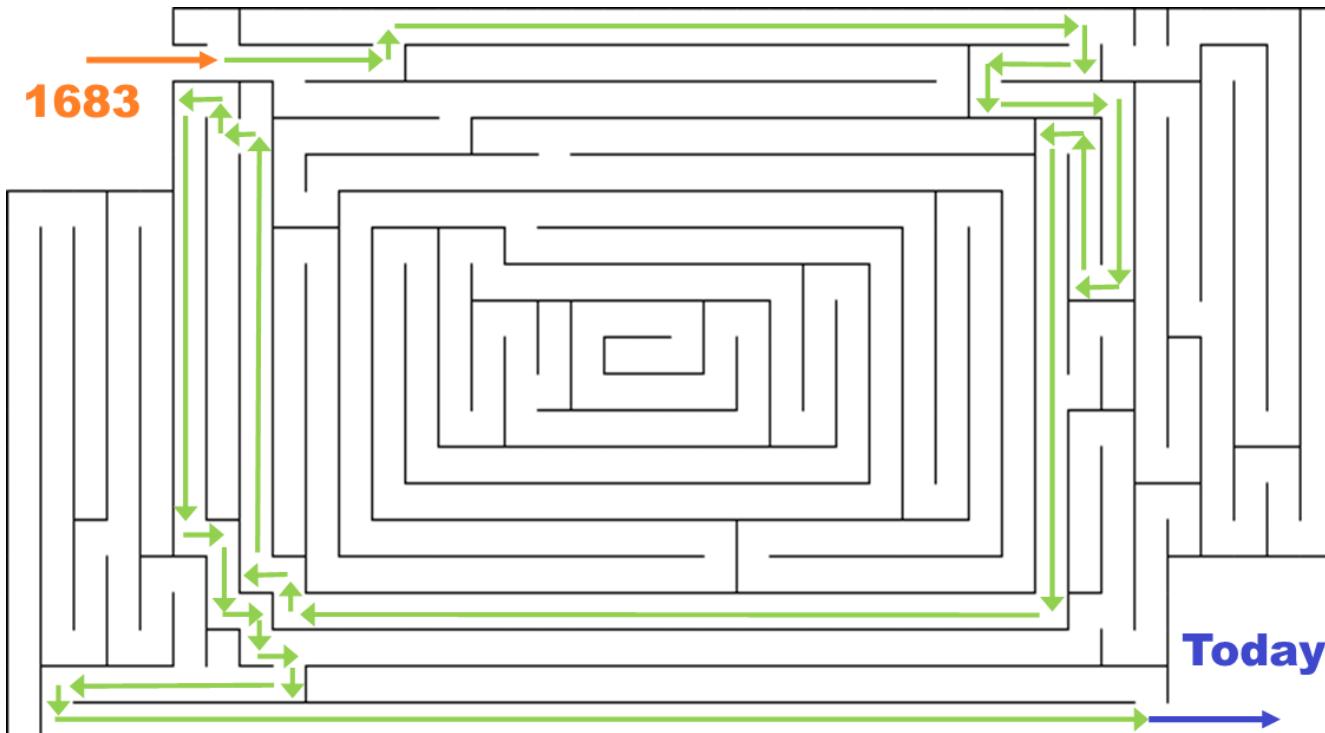
### Cities & Towns

Troy	Hudson
Yonkers	Kingston
Catskill	Albany
Beacon	Newburgh
Saugerties	Poughkeepsie

## Crossword Puzzle



## Help our government move from its formation to today!



## Ulster County Seals—Can You Spot the Differences

The men are wearing different clothing; the 1974 seal has mountains in it and a date; the man in the 1974 seal has a sword; the 1800's seal has a jagged edge and the 1974 seal has a double line around the edge.

## *Bonus Questions!*

*Why is 1683 an important year for Ulster County?*  
It is the year Ulster County was formed.

*How many years does a  
"bicentennial" celebrate?  
200 years.*



## Citizenship Test

The information on the “Who Can Vote?” page as well as the sample questions are from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website ([uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov)). The questions are directly copied from the 2020 Civics Test.

1. How many senators does each state have?

- Two (2)

2. What is one way Americans can serve their country?

- Vote
- Pay taxes
- Obey the law
- Serve in the military
- Run for office
- Work for local, state, or federal government

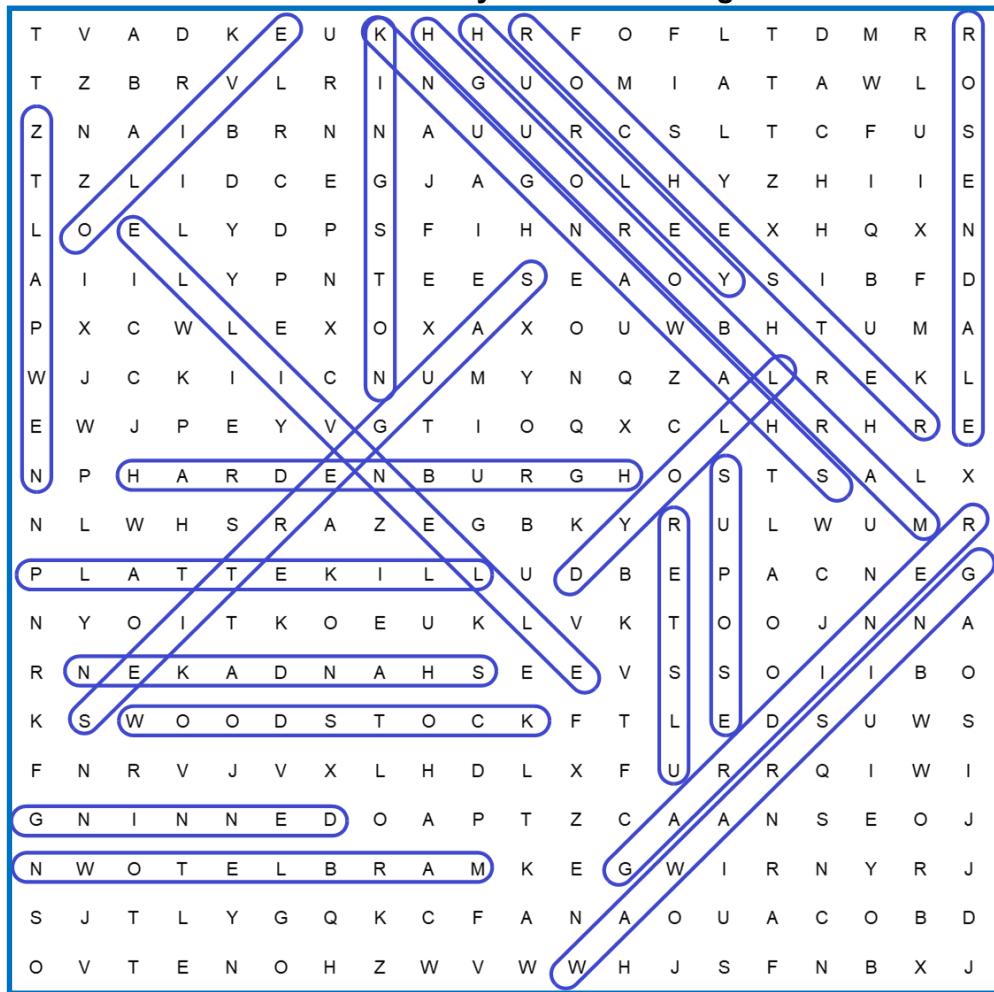
3. George Washington is famous for many things.  
Name one.

- “Father of Our Country”
- First President of the United States
- General of the Continental Army
- President of the Constitutional Convention

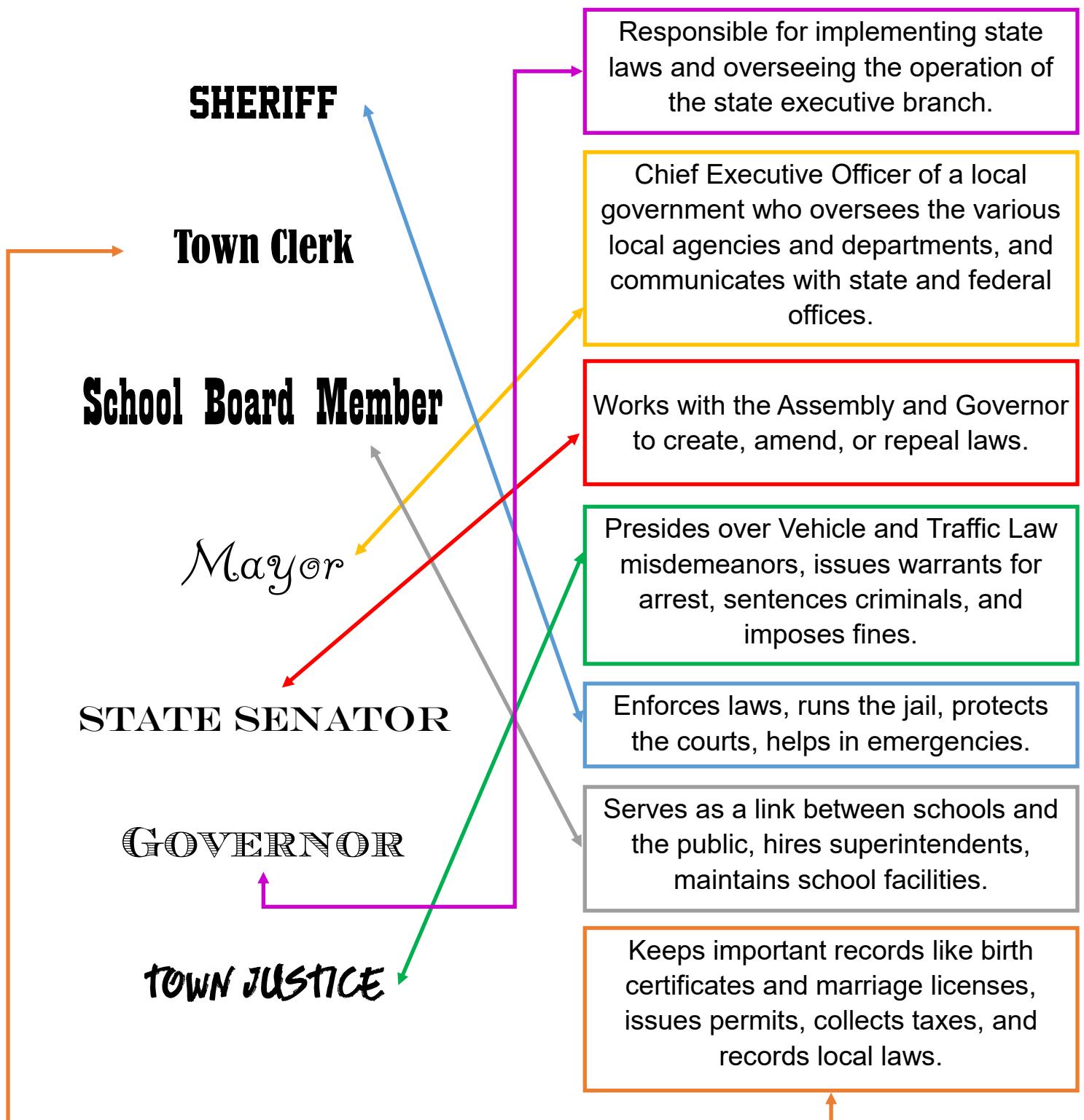
4. Name three national U.S. holidays.

- New Year’s Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Presidents Day (Washington’s Birthday)
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

## Find Ulster County's Towns & Villages!



## Office Responsibility Matching





Thanks for playing along with me on our adventure through National, State and Local elections and government. Have a question?? Here's how you can contact us...

## Ulster County Board of Elections

79 Hurley Ave., Suite 112, Kingston, NY 12401  
(845) 334-5470  
[elections.ulstercountyny.gov](http://elections.ulstercountyny.gov)  
[elections@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:elections@co.ulster.ny.us)

## Ulster County Clerk's Office

Main Office: 244 Fair Street, 2nd Floor, Kingston, NY 12401  
(845) 340-3040  
[clerk.ulstercountyny.gov](http://clerk.ulstercountyny.gov)  
[countyclerk@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:countyclerk@co.ulster.ny.us)

Records Center & Archives: 300 Foxhall Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401  
(845) 340-3415  
[clerk.ulstercountyny.gov/archives](http://clerk.ulstercountyny.gov/archives)  
[archives@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:archives@co.ulster.ny.us)

## **BILLIE BALLOT** **FUN FACT**

There are more activity packets and educational publications on the County Clerk's website, listed above. You can learn all about Archives, Maps, Genealogy, local Native American history, early Dutch settlers, the Matthewis Persen House Museum and more!

