



Building election excitement

Podcast host Mindy Thomas is the co-creator of the award-winning *Wow in the World*; *Two Whats?! And a Wow!*; *Who, When, Wow!*; and more! She is passionate about uncovering fun facts to share with children who listen to her podcasts. *The Week Junior* spoke to her about why she is looking forward to the Presidential election.

What makes you get excited to discover facts about US history?

My fourth-grade teacher taught history in a lively way that had me hanging on her every word. It was at that point that I realized that US history is my history too.

Is there a past President you find particularly interesting?

I liked learning about President Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt. Like me, he had a love for adventure and the outdoors. He helped create the National Park Service, which encompasses some of the most beautiful natural places in the US. He had a daughter named Alice who kept a snake named Emily Spinach as a pet in the White House. Speaking of pets, my dog is named Teddy.

What is your plan for voting?

I love the energy of Election Day, so I will vote in person at my polling place. My kids aren’t old enough to vote yet, but they have always joined me to cast my ballot. They might be in it for the stickers, but we also make sure to thank the volunteers.

Why do you think kids should get informed about the election?

A lot of subjects that are important to kids—such as education, climate change, and the use of social media and AI—are being discussed by the Presidential candidates. These issues affect kids’ lives every day, so I think this is a great time for families to talk about their opinions and discuss which candidate best represents their values.

How can kids have fun with the election?

One of the most fun things kids can do is to hold an election of their own. Come up with a topic that’s controversial—even a silly one like “Is cereal a soup?” Then invite friends over to debate the issue. You can make posters, hold mini rallies, and ultimately have a vote!

How will you spend election night?

My family and I plan to pull out the outdoor movie screen and projector and bundle up for a backyard election night party. We’ll have friends and neighbors join us to watch the results roll in!



Mindy Thomas

FAN OF NATURE

When she’s not producing podcasts, Mindy Thomas likes to spend time outdoors, especially kayaking, hiking, and backpacking.

DID YOU KNOW? Mindy Thomas shares her favorite facts about US Presidents and elections.



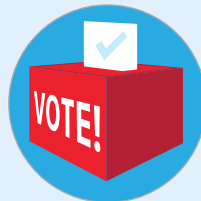
To run for President, the US Constitution (the nation’s top law) requires a candidate to be at least 35 years old. The youngest President ever elected was John F. Kennedy at age 43.



Virginia has had the most Presidents born there, with eight: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson.



Presidents come from a variety of backgrounds. Harry S. Truman sold men’s clothing, Lyndon B. Johnson was a teacher, Jimmy Carter was a peanut farmer, and Ronald Regan (above) was an actor.



Over 54 million people voted in the 2020 election between Joe Biden and Donald Trump, the highest rate for any US election since 1900. That’s like filling more than 2,000 football stadiums with people!



Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee for President, became the first female Vice President and the first Black woman and South Asian American to hold the office when she was inaugurated in 2021.