



# **Power of Democracy**

## Civic Learning Initiative

# 1787



Benjamin Franklin

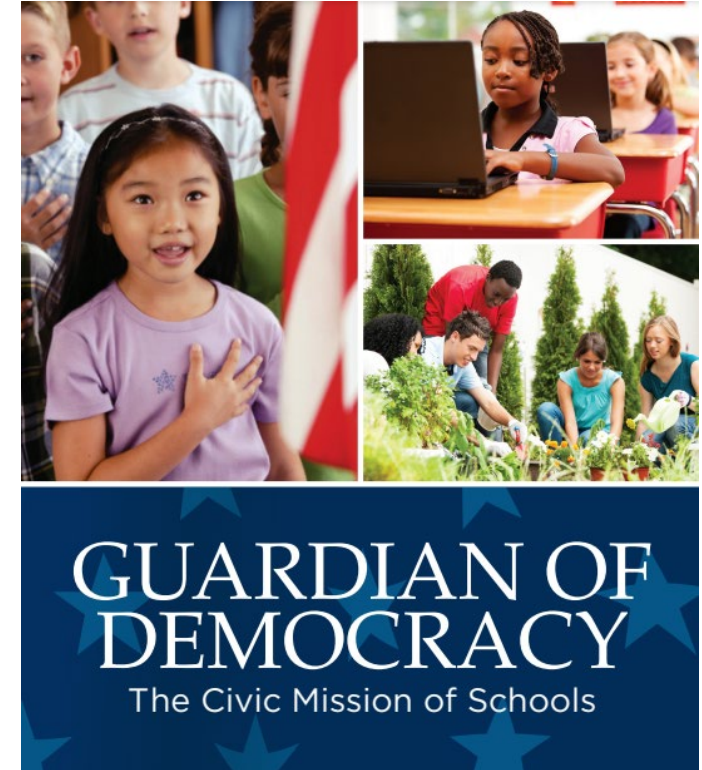
Outside Independence Hall when the Constitutional Convention of 1787 ended, Mrs. Powel of Philadelphia asked Benjamin Franklin, "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" With no hesitation whatsoever, Franklin responded, "A republic, if you can keep it."

AZ QUOTES



# 2003

“1/3 of the U.S. population believed that a U.S. Supreme Court ruling could be appealed.”



# 2013

## Task force urges remake of civics education

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS &  
PARTNERSHIPS

AUGUST 7, 2014



JOHN FENSTERWALD

11 COMMENTS



REPUBLISH



Jesus Santana, a student at Burton Technology Academy Charter High School in Los Angeles, gives his perspective on civics at the Civic Learning California Summit on February 2013.

SOURCE: CALIFORNIA TASK FORCE ON K-12 CIVIC LEARNING'S "REVITALIZING K-12 CIVIC LEARNING IN CALIFORNIA: A BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION"

# 2013-2023

## A Decade of Power of Democracy:

Images (2)

Jul 2013

Will the next generation do better?



Will the next generation do better?

K-12 Task Force

### CHIEF JUSTICE LAUNCHES STUDY ON CIVIC LEARNING IN CALIFORNIA

*K-12 task force spent a year studying the issue and compiling data and feedback from educators.*

The Commission sunsetted in 2009 with recommendations from the task force that recommended "the judicial branch to take a leadership role in advancing quality civics education, improving candidate information available to voters, increasing transparency on the part of judges and other court officials, and strengthening judicial accountability."

**Commission for Impartial Courts Final Report**

California Judicial Branch Sponsors... ◀ 4 of 16 stories ▶ "California's current civics classes..."



# 2014

## Revitalizing K-12 Civic Learning In California: A Blueprint For Action



A Report By The California Task Force On K-12 Civic Learning  
August 2014

# 2013-2023

## A Decade of Power of Democracy:



**FRAMEWORK  
UPDATE**



**CIVIC LEARNING  
AWARDS PROGRAM**



**SEAL OF CIVIC  
ENGAGEMENT**



**JUDGES IN THE  
CLASSROOM**





JUDICIAL  
COUNCIL OF  
CALIFORNIA  
MAILROOM  
→



## Recommendation 1:

Recognize students, teachers, principals, schools, and districts that show exemplary outcomes in civic learning.





## **Recommendation 2:**

Improve professional learning experiences for teachers and administrators and provide access to existing professional learning experiences in civics to help them implement civic learning in schools.



Berkeley Law



Californians for  
CIVIC LEARNING



Center for  
Civic Education



CERG  
Civic Engagement Research Group  
University of California, Riverside



EDUCATION

USC Rossier  
School of Education

# FREE SOCIAL STUDIES MINI-CONFERENCE FOR TEACHERS





### **Recommendation 3:**

Create networking opportunities for districts to share ideas, instructional practices and resources to equitably achieve identified civic learning outcomes for all students at each grade level.

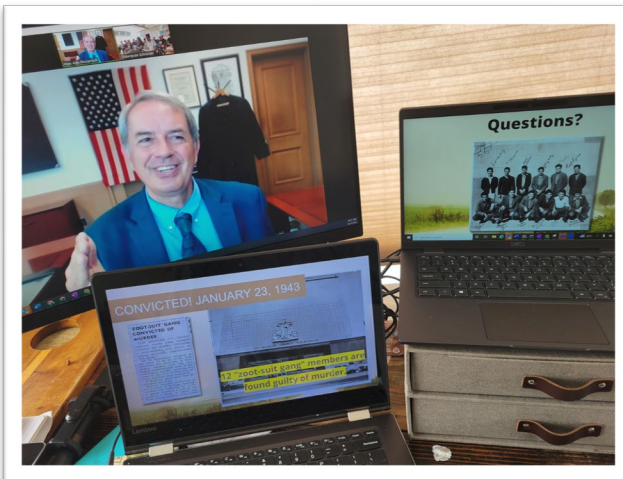
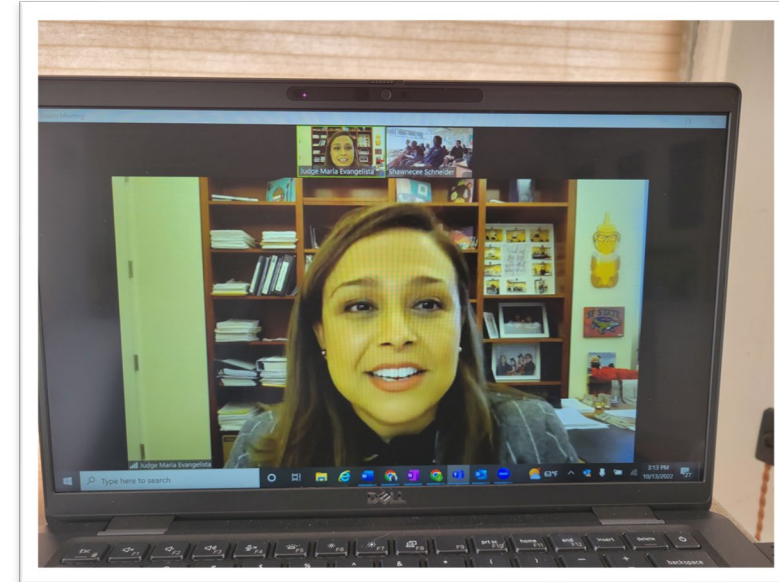
## **Recommendation 4:**

Provide guidelines and strategies to teach civic learning to all students, including English language learners, students from low-income families, students with special needs and incarcerated youth.



# Launched in 2020

JUDGES IN THE  
CLASSROOM

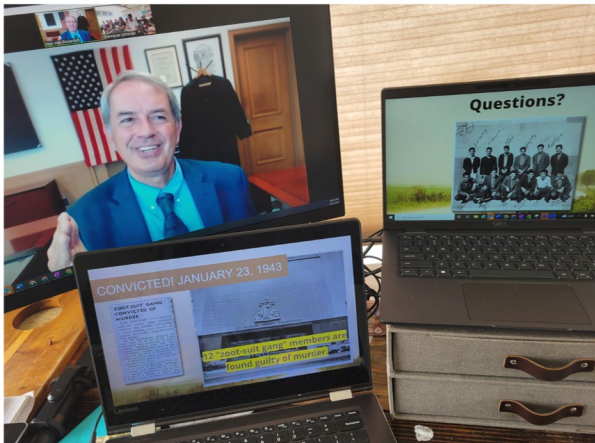
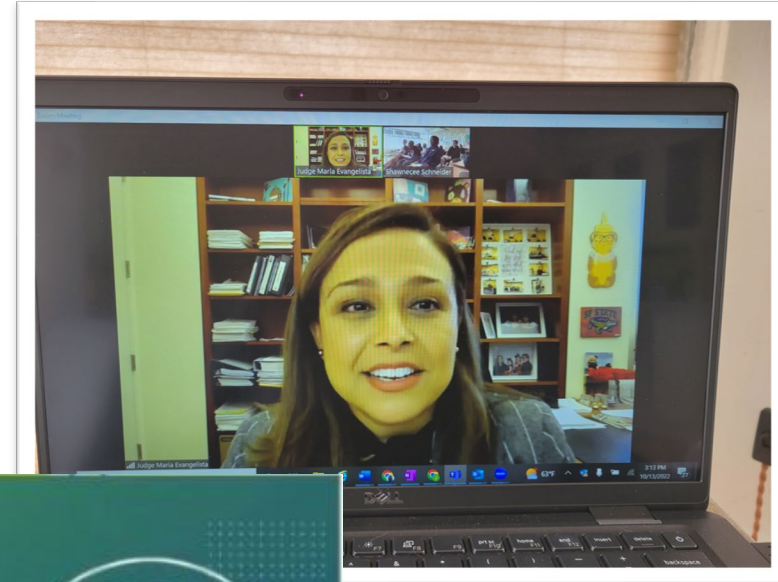






JUDGES IN THE  
CLASSROOM


# Remote in 2020





# Remote in 2020

## The Phase 1 Counties (launched Spring 2020):

 **Superior Court of San Bernardino County** · @SanBernCourt · Jan 7  
Judge Widman teaches 5th grade students at @Sultana\_OMSD as part of Judges in the Remote Classroom.



### Evelin's Thank you note!

*Thank you Judge Widman for coming  
we know how busy you are.*

*I also had so much fun with the plays  
about.*

*As well I would love for you to come a*



- Alameda
- Contra Costa
- Fresno
- Kern
- Los Angeles
- Mendocino
- Napa
- Orange
- Riverside
- San Bernardino
- Santa Clara





# Hybrid in 2021

JUDGES IN THE  
CLASSROOM



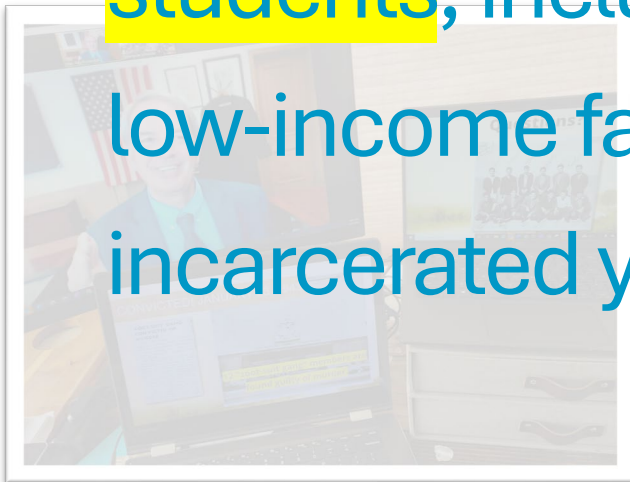
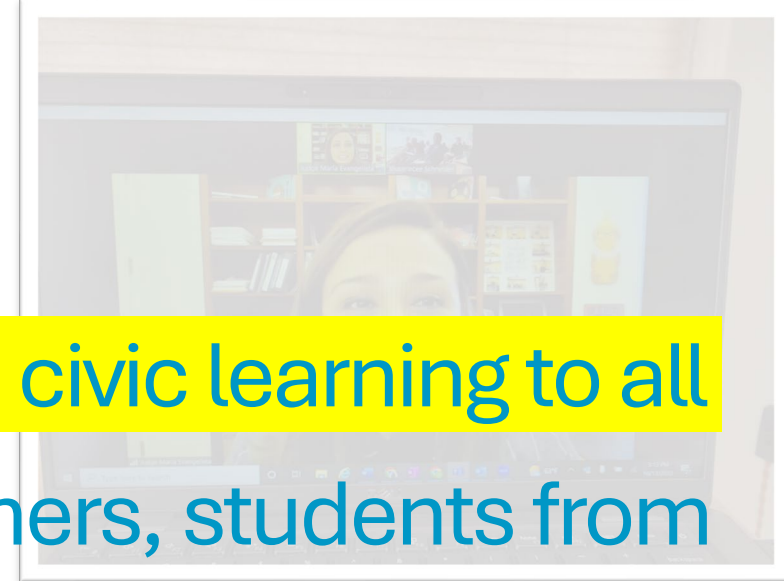
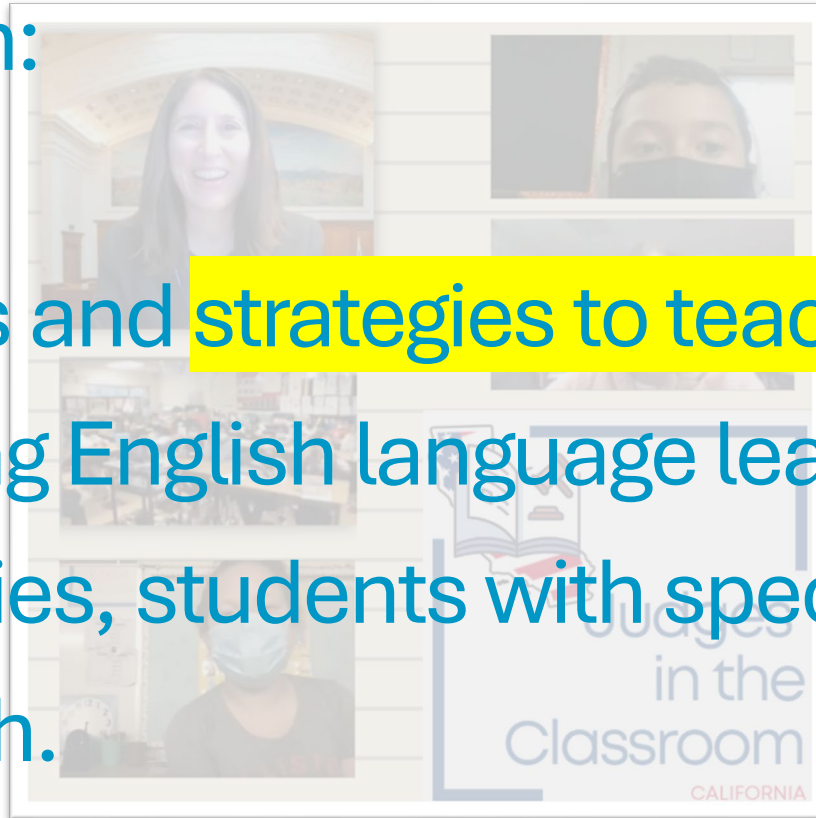
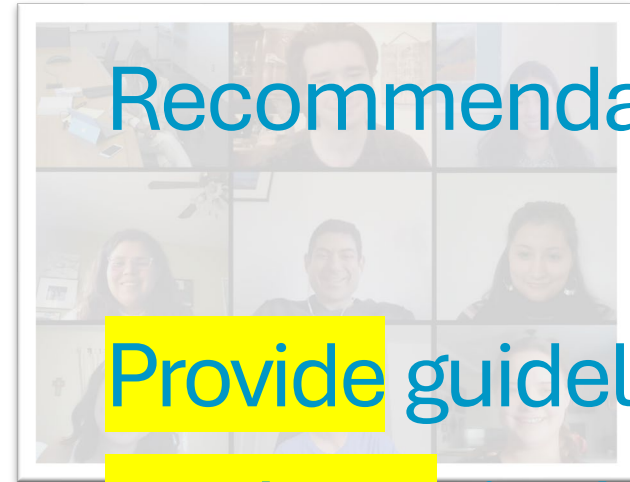




# Assessment in 2021

Recommendation:

Provide guidelines and strategies to teach civic learning to all students, including English language learners, students from low-income families, students with special needs and incarcerated youth.



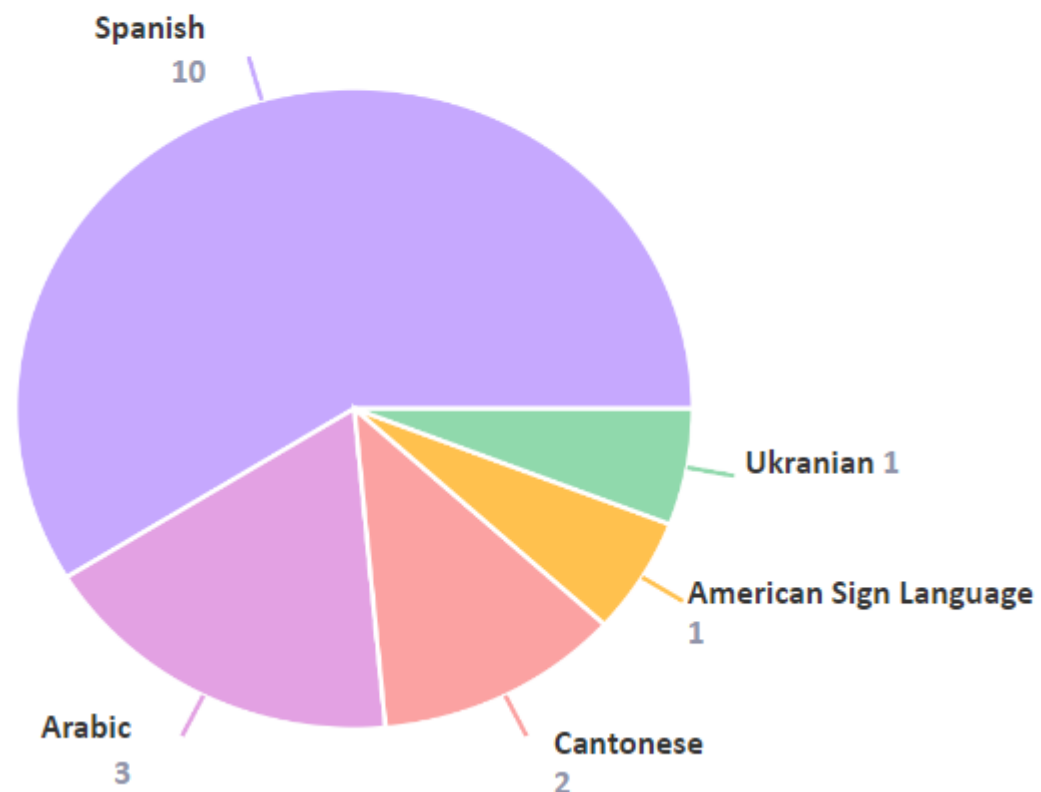


# Targeting in 2021

## Recommendation:

Provide guidelines and strategies to teach civic learning to all students, including English language learners, students from low-income families, students with special needs and incarcerated youth.

## 17 Requests from ESL Classrooms





JUDGES IN THE  
CLASSROOM

# Targeting in 2021-2022



[www.judgesintheclassroom.org](http://www.judgesintheclassroom.org)

## THE SLEEPY LAGOON ZOOT SUIT TRIAL

*People v. Zammora*

1942



Prepared by the Los Angeles County Superior  
Court Latino Judicial Officers Association

New for 2023! September 15–October 15

The Sleepy Lagoon Zoot Suit Trial

Grades 5–12

Commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month

Also available in Spanish!





JUDGES IN THE  
CLASSROOM

# Targeting in 2023-2024



February



March/April



May




# SEPTEMBER IS CONSTITUTION MONTH

Join  
[CivicEd](#)  
Network



## This September, we'll celebrate Constitution Day...all month long.

California Teachers K-12, celebrate Constitution Day and Month with Judges in the Classroom.

Sponsored by California Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero's Power of Democracy Civic Learning Initiative. 

### Send Us an Invite.

California judges are ready to visit your classroom this new school year.

**INVITE**

Teachers, please give at least 2 weeks to locate a match for your classroom. You will be asked to talk briefly with your visitor to discuss logistics, as well as class level of understanding of the selected lesson.

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Students K-3 will gain an understanding of rule vs. law, the concepts of governance, and the role of a judge.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL

For students in grades 4-8, lessons focus on the Constitution, the 3 branches of government, and role of the courts.

#### HIGH SCHOOL

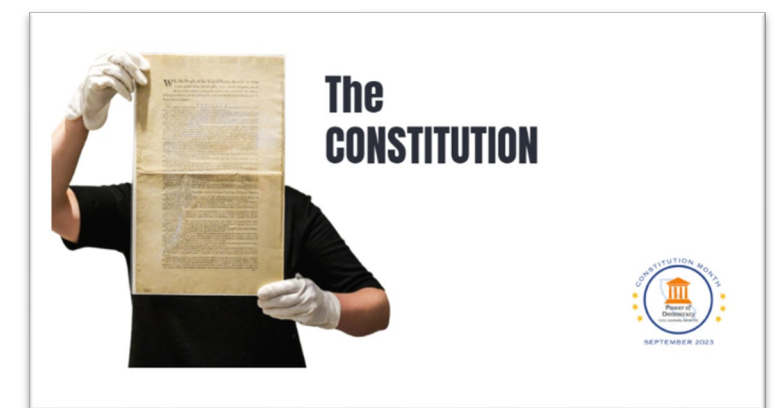
Some lessons focus on milestone cases, while others are more interactive with judges engaging students in critical thinking exercises.



# Constitution Month

## LESSONS

Teachers, request a lesson commemorating Constitution Month delivered by a judge. The following lessons highlight the judicial branch of government, the role of the judiciary, and the origins and importance of the U.S. Constitution.





Constitution Month  
"NO ANIMALS ALLOWED"



## Constitution Month: "No Animals Allowed"

### Grades K-5

"No Animals Allowed" is the most requested lesson for elementary school classrooms. Students learn the difference between a rule and a law. For Constitution Month, the lesson introduces young learners to the concept of governance, and the framework of the U.S. Constitution.

[INVITE](#)

## Constitution Month: "We Are All Equal"

### Grades 4-12

Introduce students to the origins of the U.S. Constitution, the founding fathers who wrote it, and the three equal branches of government it established (with emphasis on the judicial branch). Key points: Magna Carta, Revolutionary War, Federalism, Articles 1-3, Bill of Rights, Founding Fathers, Judicial Review.

[INVITE](#)

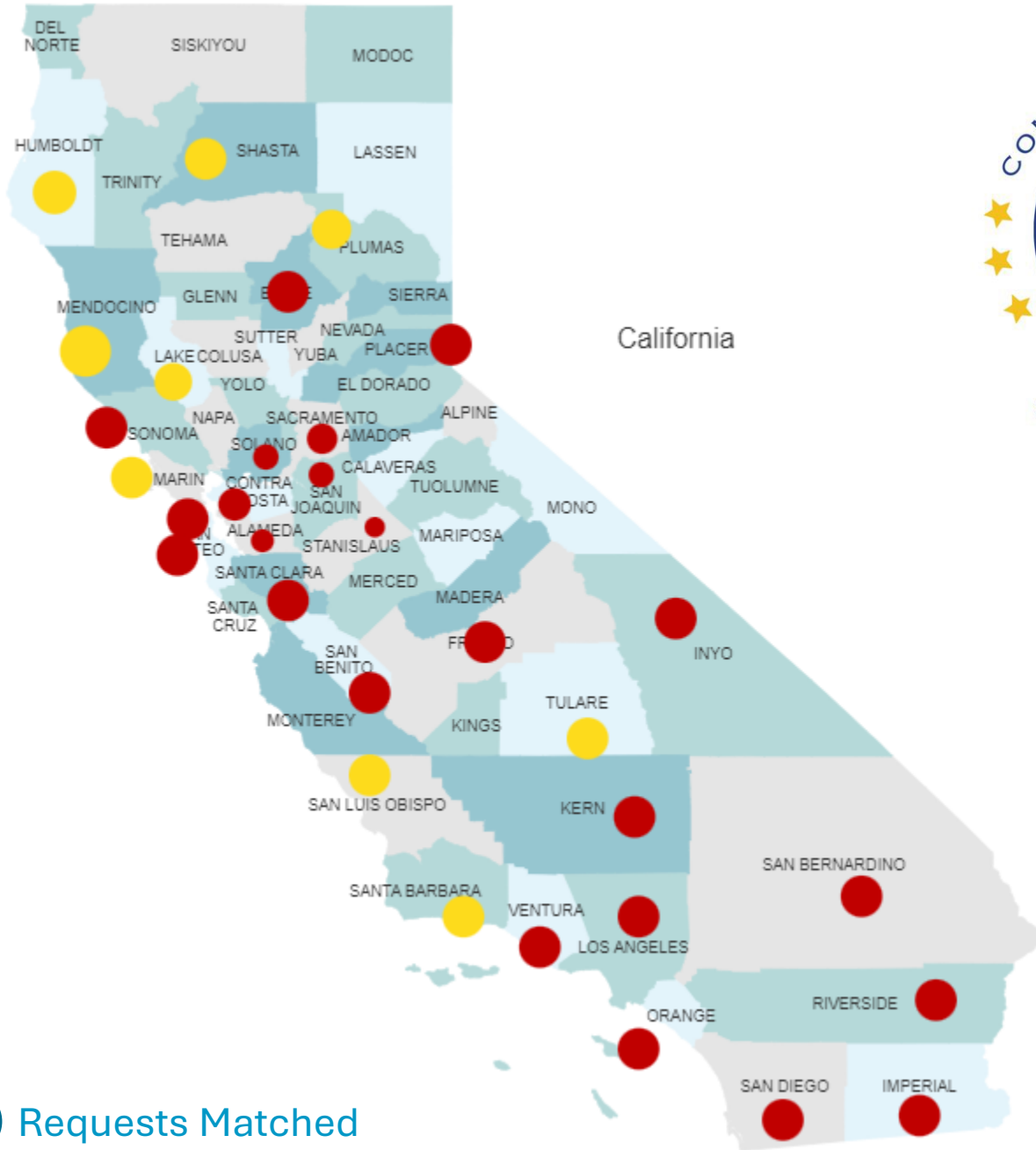
## The Constitution | Grades 5-8

Source: Superior Court of Santa Clara County Community Outreach Office

Invite a judge to meet with your students for a lesson on the U.S. Constitution, the supreme law of the land. Your students will learn:

- How the U.S. Constitution is different than our state Constitution;
- What the words in the Preamble mean;
- Where we find the Bill of Rights; and
- What is meant when the Constitution is amended.

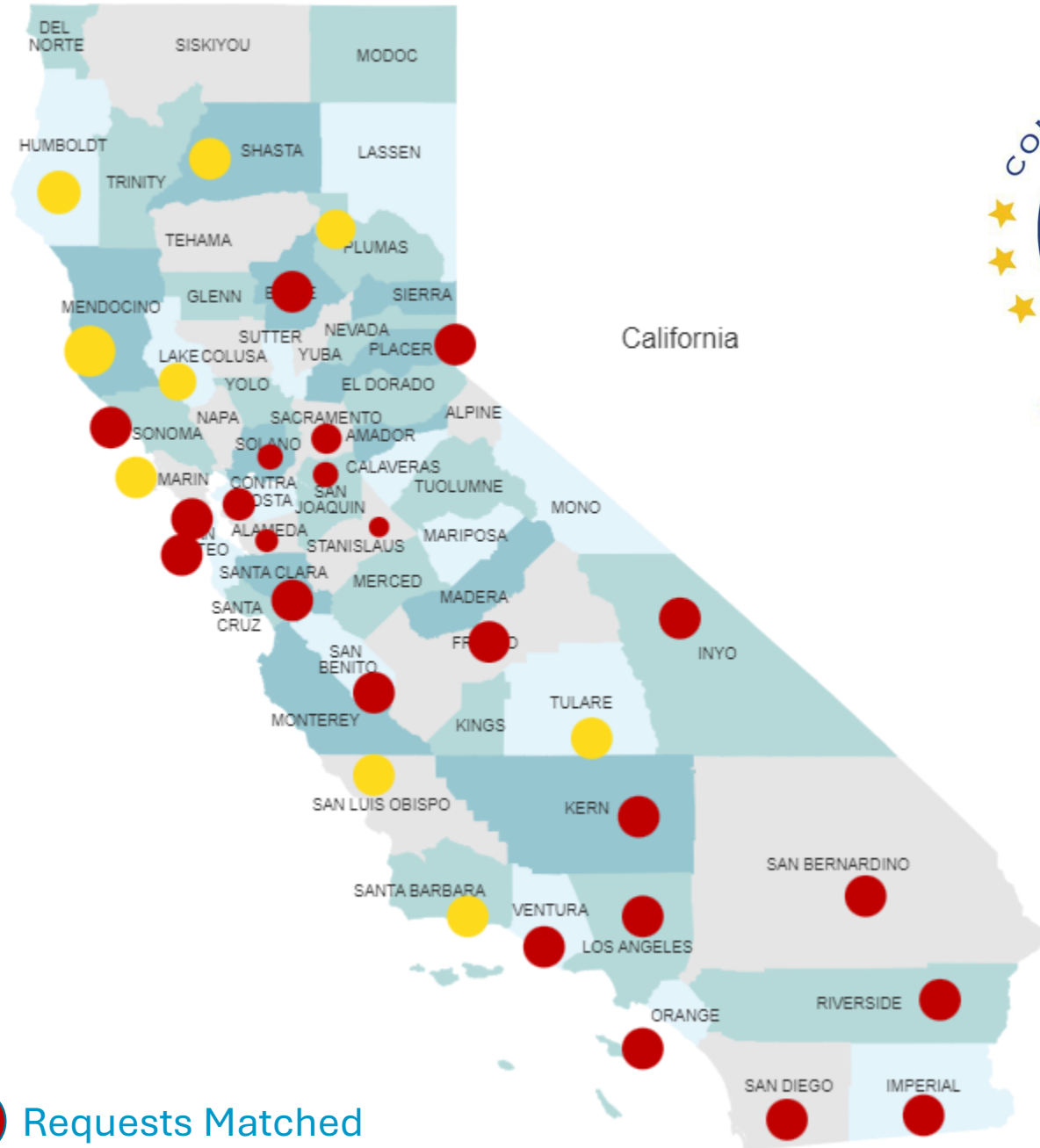
[INVITE](#)



116 requests

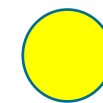
Requests Matched

Volunteers not yet matched this year



**116 requests**  
**213 volunteers**

 Requests Matched

 Volunteers not yet matched  
this year





**Alameda County**

**Butte County**

**Contra Costa County**

**Fresno County**

**Imperial County**

**Kern County**

**Los Angeles County**

**Mendocino County**

**Napa County**

**Orange County**

**Placer County**

**Riverside County**

**San Bernardino County**

**San Diego County**

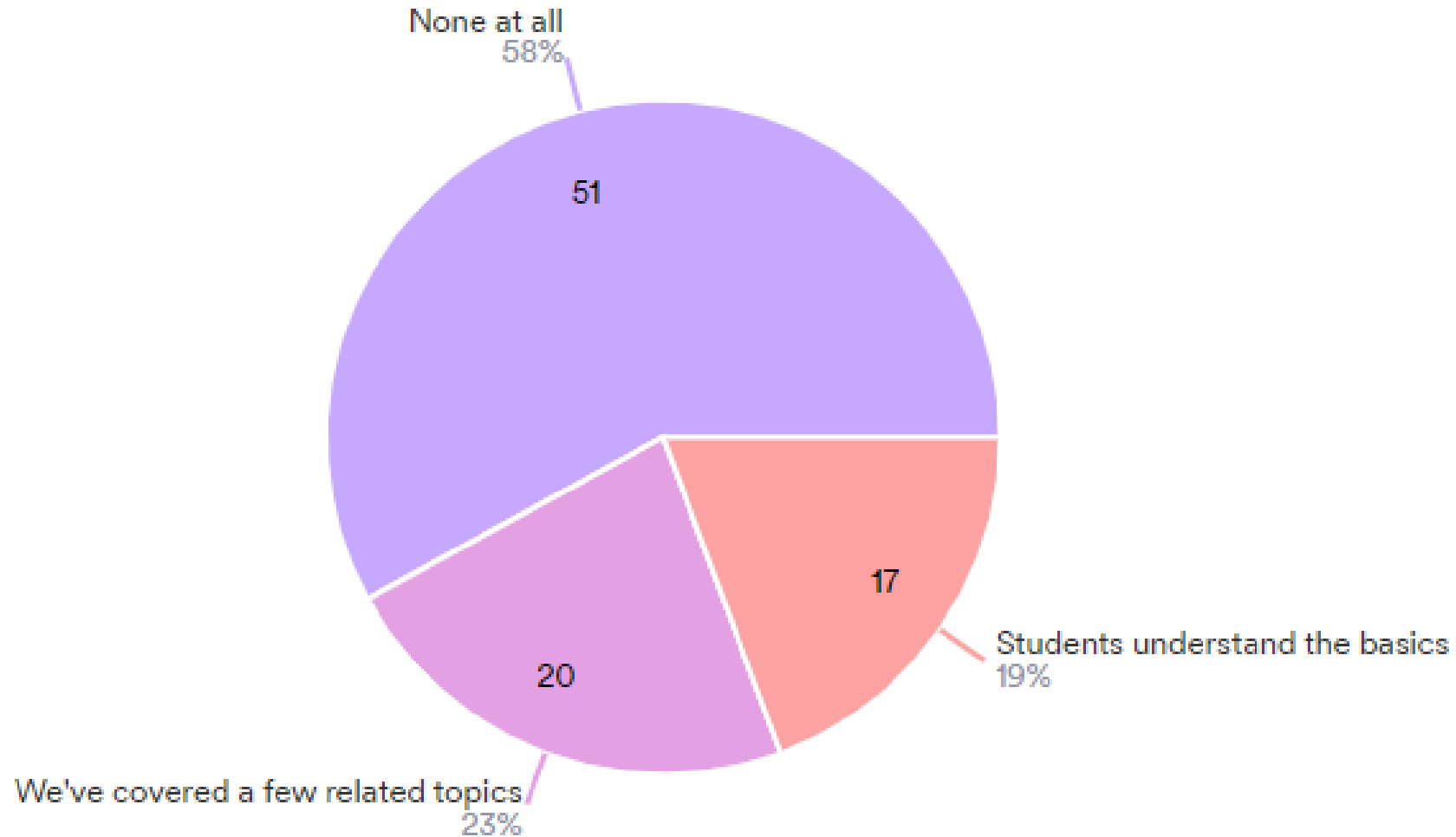
**San Francisco County**

**Stanislaus County**

**Tulare County**

**Ventura County**

How well would you say your class understands the origins and provisions of the Constitution?



Only 1/3 of Americans can  
name the 3 branches of  
government



1/3 can't name any.

Will the next  
generation do  
better?

[powerofdemocracy.org](http://powerofdemocracy.org)