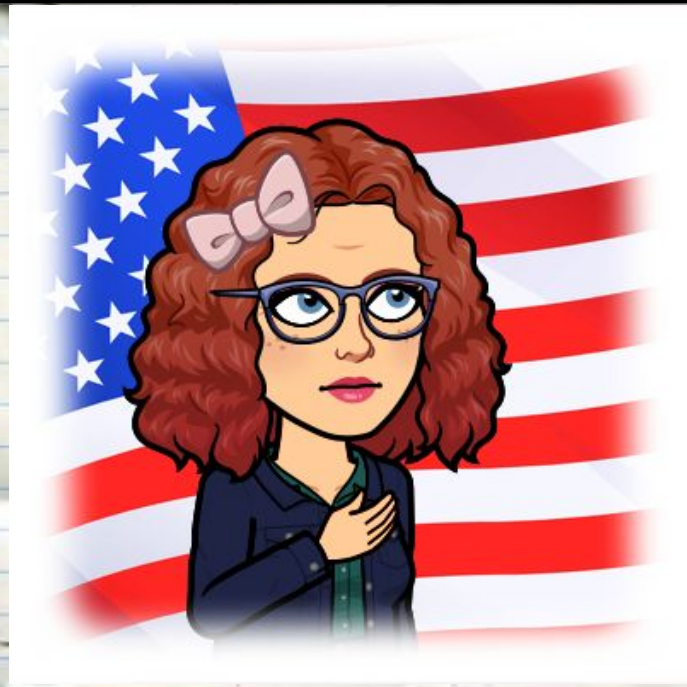


Miss Perkins' Merit Badge Class



You can reach me by email:
meritbadgesmrd@gmail.com

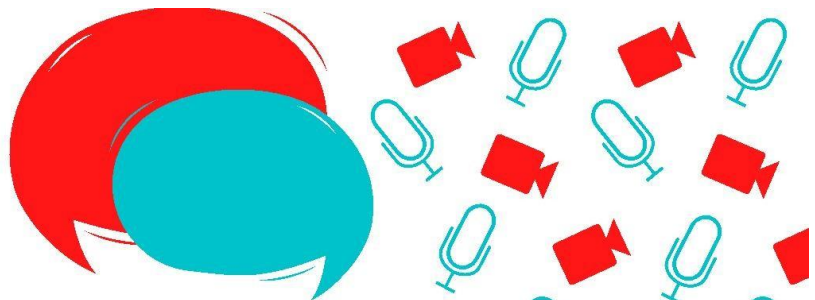
@M.Perkins 2020



Citizenship
in the Nation



**BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA-CIEC**



Zoom Class

BASIC ETIQUETTE
FOR AN ONLINE
CLASS

RULES

- Please show up on time at the scheduled time.
- Find a quiet place, free from distraction (siblings, pets, parents, televisions).
- Maintain RESPECT in both speaking, writing, and appearance.
- Stay on mute. Please click the "raise hand" button if you would like to contribute.
- Video needs to remain ON to promote focus. Eye contact should be maintained.
- Refrain from chewing gum, eating, or drinking in front of the camera.

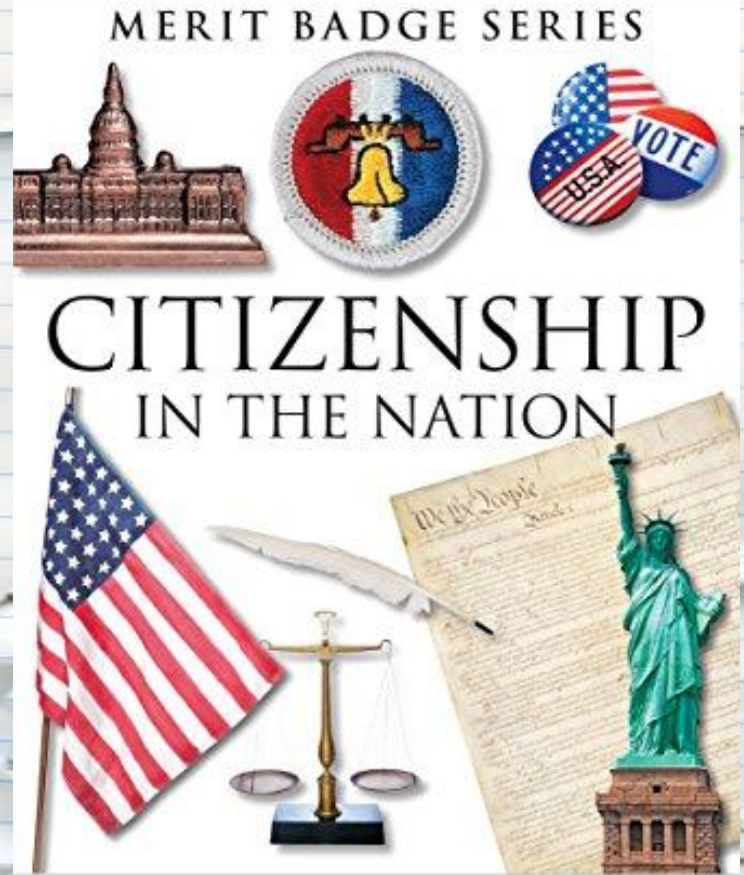
REMEMBER, THIS IS A CLASS,
SO TREAT IT AS SUCH!





Please
take out
your
workbook
or piece of
paper in
order to
take notes.

@M.Perkins 2020



Requirement #1

What does citizenship in the nation mean?

What it takes to be a good citizen of this country?

What are the rights, duties, and obligations of a responsible and active American citizen?

Requirement #1

What is a citizen?

A citizen is a person who legally belongs to a country and has the rights and protection of that country.

Requirement #1

What makes an American citizen?



Parents are American and baby is born in America.



Parents are Italian visiting America and baby is born in America.



Parents are American visiting Africa and baby is born in Africa.

Requirement #1

What it takes to be a good citizen of this country?

- Belief in majority rule and minority rights
- A need for compromise
- States and People have more authority than the Federal government.
- Vote in elections.
- Attend public hearings.
- Serve on juries.
- Pay Taxes
- Help defend your country
- Stand up for the rights of all people.

Requirement #1

What are the rights, duties, and obligations of a responsible and active American citizen?

Rights:

Free Speech
Fair Trial by Jury
Vote
Own a Gun
Assemble in Groups
Complain to President or Senator

Duties:

Serve in Military
Vote
Serve on a Jury
Attend School



Obligations:

Pay Taxes
Obey the Law
Register for Selective Service
Participate in US Census



Requirement #2

Do the following:

- b. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and its history.

- d. Choose a national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the Internet (with your parent's permission), and other resources, find out more about the monument. Tell your counselor what you learned, and explain why the monument is important to this country's citizens.

Requirement #2b

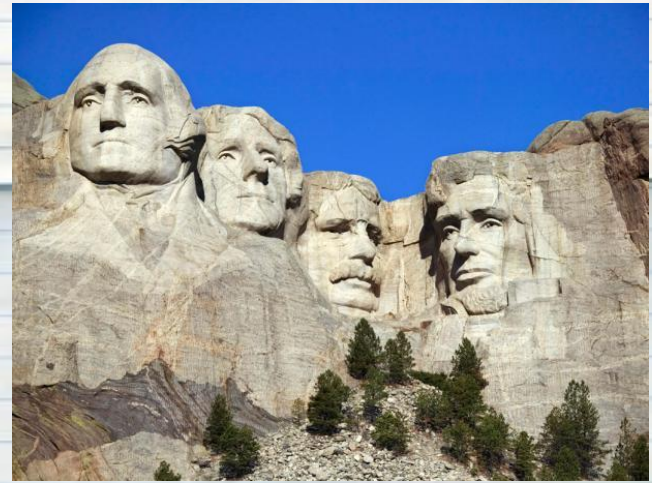


Do the following:

b. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and its history.

<https://capitolmuseum.ca.gov/the-museum/virtual-tours>

Requirement #2d



Do the following:

d. Choose a national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the Internet (with your parent's permission), and other resources, find out more about the monument. Tell your counselor what you learned, and explain why the monument is important to this country's citizens.

Requirement #3



Watch the national evening news five days in a row OR read the front page of a major daily newspaper five days in a row.

Discuss the national issues you learned about with your counselor. Choose one of the issues and explain how it affects you and your family.

Ideas or Examples:

- **Oil prices dropped \$3 a barrel**
- **Covid-19**
- **2020 Election**

Requirement #4

Discuss each of the following documents with your counselor. Tell how you feel life in the United States might be different without each one.

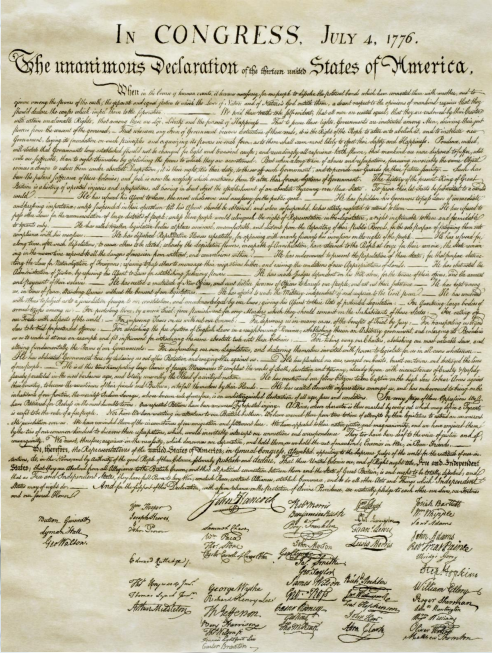
Then choose one document and explain how it impacts you and your family.

- a. Declaration of Independence
- b. Preamble to the Constitution
- c. The Constitution
- d. Bill of Rights
- e. Amendments to the Constitution

Requirement #4

Declaration of Independence

The thirteen colonies in the America's had been at war with Britain for around a year when the Second Continental Congress decided it was time for the colonies to officially declare their independence. This meant that they were breaking away from British rule. They would no longer be a part of the British Empire and would fight for their freedom. On June 11, 1776 the Continental Congress appointed five leaders, called the Committee of Five, to write a document explaining why they were declaring their independence. The five members were Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Robert Livingston, Roger Sherman, and Thomas Jefferson. The members decided that Thomas Jefferson should write the first draft. Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft over the next few weeks and, after some changes made by the rest of the committee, they presented it to Congress on June 28, 1776. It took awhile for everyone to agree to all the term and become unified. On July 4, 1776 the Congress officially signed the Declaration of Independence. This day is still celebrated in the United States as Independence Day.



Requirement #4

Preamble to the Constitution

The Preamble is the table of contents for the Constitution. It outlines the most important aspects of the document and explains the reason for having a Constitution.



Requirement #4

The Constitution



The United States Constitution is our Nation's supreme law. It creates political institutions, assigns or divides power in government, and provides certain rights and guarantees to our citizens. The Constitution is the single most important document in US politics.

Requirement #4

Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights are the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution. These are the basic rights of citizens of the United States. The idea behind the Bill of Rights was to insure certain freedoms and rights to the citizens of America. It put limits on what the government could do and control. These basic rights are vital for a truly FREE country.



Requirement #4

Bill of Rights

1. It provides freedom of religion, speech, press, and assembly, plus the right to petition the government on laws that are unfair.
2. Guarantees the right to keep and bear firearms and to form a militia.
3. It provides freedom from forced housing of soldiers in homes.
4. Provides freedom from warrantless search and seizure and promotes the general welfare.
5. It provides freedom from double jeopardy, self-incrimination, and property seizures, and a guarantee of a fair trial by jury.
6. The right to a lawyer and a speedy trial.
7. Guarantees the right to a jury trial in civil cases and prevents courts from overturning a previous jury's findings of fact.
8. It provides freedom from excessive court bail, fines and "cruel and unusual punishments."
9. Provides that other rights may exist in addition to those defined in the Constitution.
10. Provides that those powers not defined in the Constitution may be defined by the states or the people.

Requirement #4

Amendments to the Constitution

An amendment is a change or addition to the Constitution. The first 10 amendments are called the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights was ratified in 1791, only a short time after the Constitution was first ratified. This is because some states only agreed to ratify the Constitution once they knew a Bill of Rights would soon be added. Over the years additional amendments have been added to the Constitution.

Today there are 27 total amendments. Below is a brief description of each.

- 1st through the Tenth - See the Bill of Rights.
- 11th (February 7, 1795) - This amendment set limits on when a state can be sued. In particular it gave immunity to states from lawsuits from out-of-state citizens and foreigners not living within the state borders.
- 12th (June 15, 1804) - Revised the presidential election procedures.

Requirement #4

Amendments to the Constitution

- 13th (December 6, 1865) - This amendment abolished slavery and involuntary servitude.
- 14th (July 9, 1868) - Defined what it means to be a US citizen. It prohibits states from reducing the privileges of citizens and ensures each citizen the 'right to due process and the equal protection of the law'.
- 15th (February 3, 1870) - Gave all men the right to vote regardless of race or color or whether they had been slaves.
- 16th (February 3, 1913) - Gave the federal government the power to collect income tax.
- 17th (April 8, 1913) - Established that senators would be directly elected.
- 18th (January 16, 1919) - Prohibition of alcohol making alcoholic drinks illegal. (It would later be repealed by the Twenty-first Amendment)
- 19th (August 18, 1920) - The 19th amendment gave women the right to vote. It's also called women's suffrage.
- 20th (January 23, 1933) - Gave details on the terms of office for Congress and the President.

Requirement #4

Amendments to the Constitution

- 21st (December 5, 1933) - This amendment repealed the Eighteenth Amendment.
- 22nd (February 27, 1951) - Limited the president to a maximum of two terms or 10 years.
- 23rd (March 29, 1961) - Provided that Washington, DC be allowed representatives in the Electoral College. This way the citizens of Washington DC would have a vote for the president even though they are not officially part of a state.
- 24th (January 23, 1964) - Said that people don't have to pay a tax, called a poll tax, in order to vote.
- 25th (February 10, 1967) - This amendment defined the presidential succession if something should happen to the president. The first in line is the Vice-President.
- 26th (July 1, 1971) - Set the national voting age at 18.
- 27th (May 5 or 7, 1992) - States that Congressional salary changes can not take effect until the beginning of the next session of Congress.

Requirement #5



LIST THE SIX FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT AS NOTED IN THE PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION.
DISCUSS WITH YOUR COUNSELOR HOW THESE FUNCTIONS AFFECT YOUR FAMILY AND LOCAL COMMUNITY.

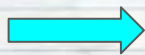
SIX FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT:

1. TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION
2. TO ESTABLISH JUSTICE
3. TO INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY
4. TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE
5. TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE
6. TO SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY

Requirement #5

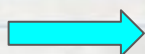


FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION...



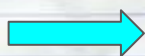
... STATES WORKING TOGETHER

ESTABLISH JUSTICE...



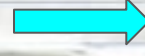
... MAKE AND ENFORCE LAWS

ENSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY...



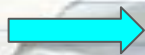
... PEACE IN OUR COUNTRY

PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE...



... KEEP COUNTRY SAFE FROM AN ATTACK

PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE...



... CONTRIBUTE AND PROMOTE HAPPINESS

SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY...



... MAKE SURE WE STAY FREE AND KEEP OUR RIGHTS TODAY

Requirement #6

With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance.

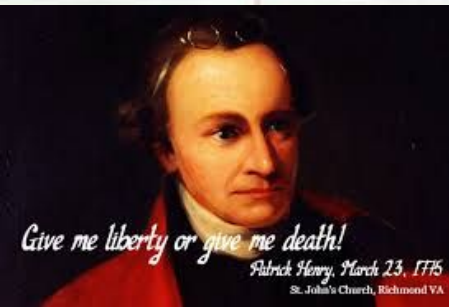
Find out about the author, and tell your counselor about the person who gave the speech.

Explain the importance of the speech at the time it was given, and tell how it applies to American citizens today.

Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.

Requirement #6

Public speaking has played an important role in our country's story. Here is a quick look at some of the landmark speeches. Most speeches are revered on the basis of their social and political impact, and rhetorical artistry.



In March 1775, Henry spoke to a Virginia convention considering a breakaway from British rule. Many were opting for a peaceful resolve but Henry urged the Colonies to move to war. You may view the entire speech by clicking this link: <https://youtube.com/DbghWFMLyiA>



In 1789, the First President addressed the First Congress after his inauguration, setting the precedent for all inaugural speeches to follow.



"The Gettysburg Address." The best known of Lincoln's speeches was one of his shortest. Lincoln was asked to make a few remarks in November 1863 after featured speaker Edward Everett spoke for about two hours. Lincoln only spoke for 2 minutes.



King's speech at the Lincoln Memorial in August 1963, in front of 250,000 people, is also one of the most-analyzed speeches in modern history. But King hadn't included the sequence about the "Dream" in his prepared remarks. Singer Mahalia Jackson yelled for King to speak about "the Dream," and King improvised based on remarks he had made in earlier speeches.

Requirement #6

Public speaking has also transformed as we have evolved as a society. In the past, many famous speeches were political in nature but many well known orators are also celebrities, athletes, notable figures, etc...



Lou Gherig

Kobe Bryant



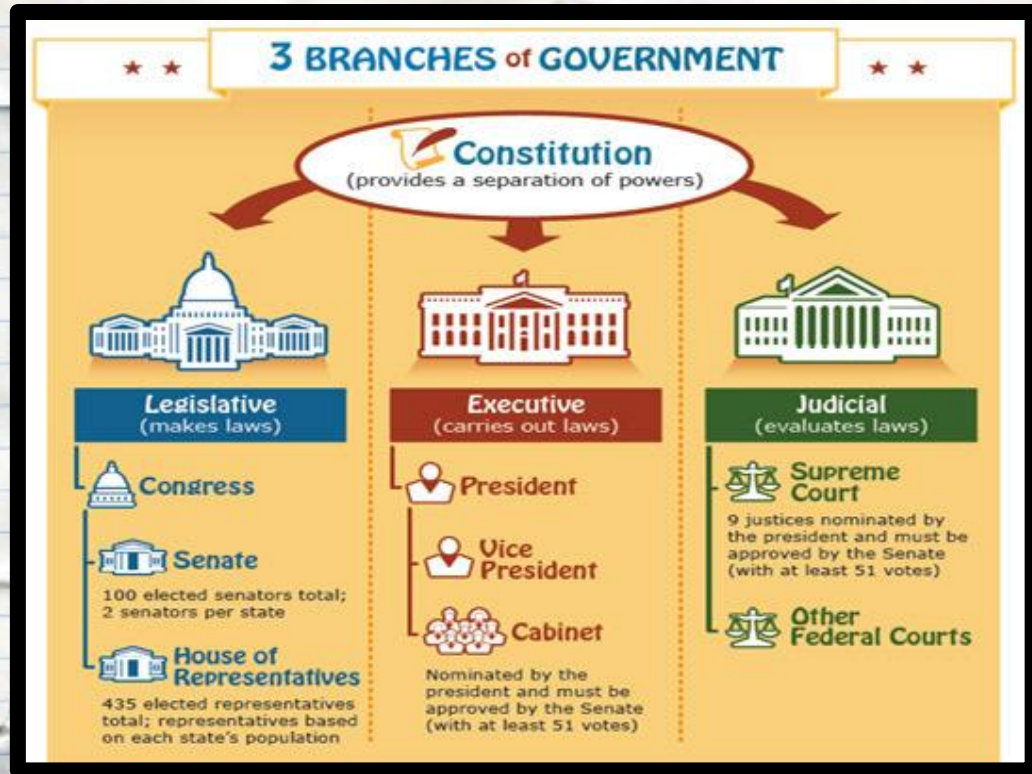
Steve Jobs

Admiral McRaven



Requirement #1

- Name the three branches of our federal government and explain to your counselor their functions.
- Explain how citizens can be involved in each branch.
- Explain the importance of our checks and balances system.
- Describe how each branch “checks” and “balances” the others.



Requirement #1

...applies the laws

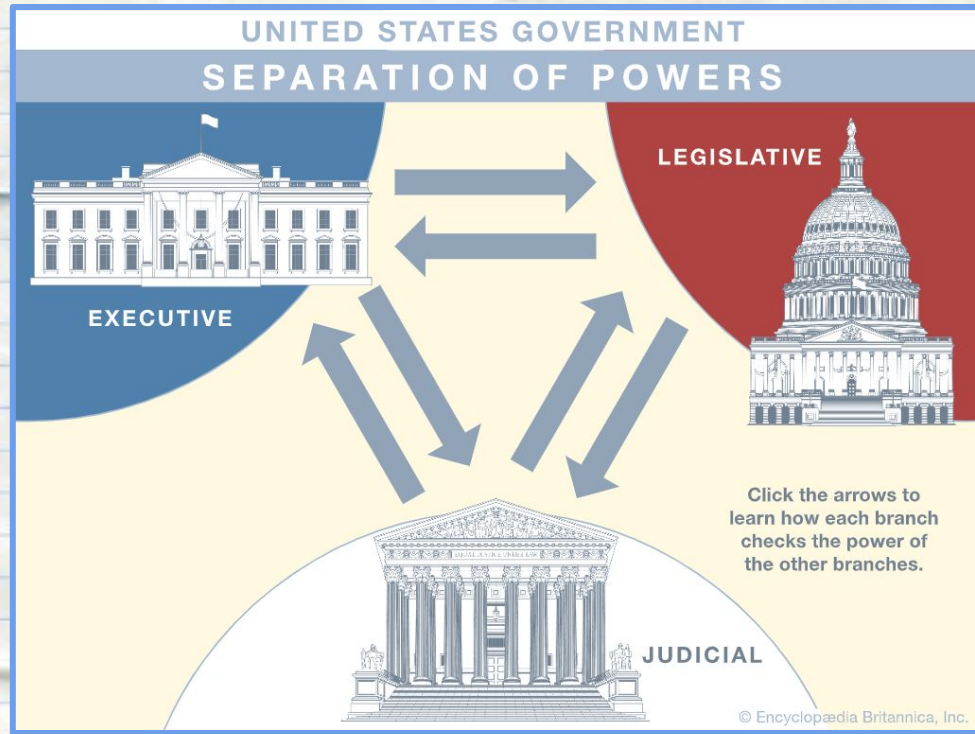
...interprets the law

...makes the laws

Citizens have the right to vote on who takes up office in the Legislative Branch, and through the electoral college in the Executive Branch. However, citizens do not elect members of the Judicial Branch. The Judicial Branch is nominated by the Executive and approved by the Legislative Branch. Citizens can also suggest laws and bills that the Legislative Branch can vote to put into action, as well as petition the government to put a vote to the floor of Congress without any members approval. This is how citizens can participate in the government.

Requirement #1

- **Explain the importance of our checks and balances system.**
- **Describe how each branch “checks” and “balances” the others.**



With checks and balances, one branch can check another to keep power balanced. For instance, a president can veto laws that Congress votes for, but if Congress can get two thirds of the states to vote yes for the bill, then that surpasses the veto. Also, if the Judicial Branch finds a law unconstitutional, then they can make the law null and void.

Requirement #8

- Name your two senators and a member of Congress from your congressional district.
- Write a letter about a national issue and send it to one of these elected officials, sharing your view with him or her.
- Show your letter to your counselor, along with any response you might receive.



Requirement #8



Dear Mrs. Feinstein,

Hi! My name is [REDACTED], I am a Boy Scout, and I am trying to earn my "Citizenship in the Nation" merit badge. One of the requirements to get the merit badge is to send a message about an issue in the nation to one of our California senators. So, I would like to talk to you about the use of cigarettes and E-cigarettes. I feel that the use of these narcotics should be illegal because it not only can harm the person smoking it, but it can harm people around the person smoking. This is because of something called "second-hand smoking." Second-hand smoking is when the people next to a person smoking unintentionally inhales the smoke. This could be fatal to the smoker and the people around them. Smoking can cause lung damage, varieties of cancer, and many more harmful effects. These are the reasons why I think that the use of cigarettes and E-cigarettes should be classified as illegal.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

The Honorable Senator Feinstein-

As part of an assignment for my Boy Scout Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge course, I've been tasked to write to you about a current event. With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting us all directly, I wanted to find out from you what plans you have to address the following:

Plans to support our unemployed California workforce and steps you will take to get our economy going again after the virus has passed.

Thank You,
[REDACTED]



April 10, 2020

The Honorable Kamala Harris
7-800, State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Homeless people

Dear Senator Harris

My name is [REDACTED], I am a California youth resident who lives with my family in your district.

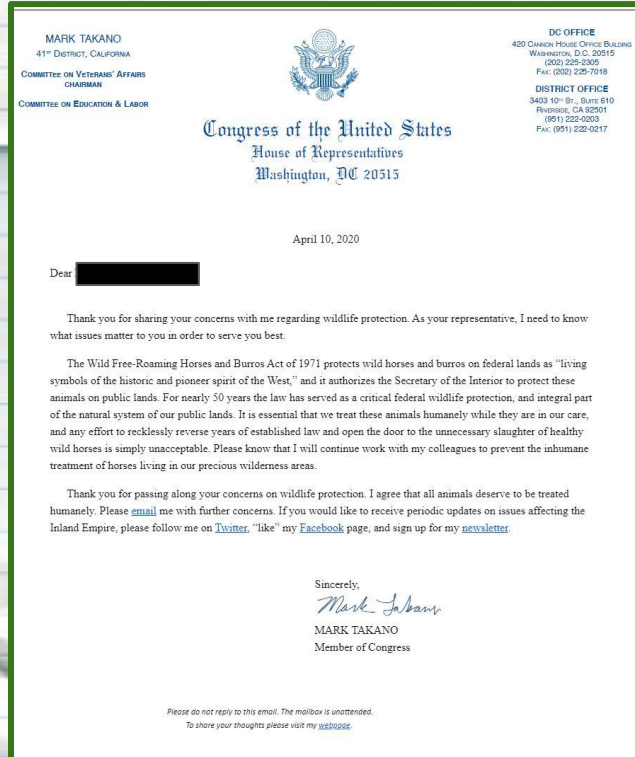
I am concerned with the homeless issue as a nationwide issue. My first concern is the large amount in my location. My second concern is the drug activity amongst the homeless population. Most importantly their behavior and actions may spread diseases.

Actions that could be taken, are relocating homeless to either temporary shelter or safer locations away from parks and recreation centers.

How it has affected me, is when I was on a urban hike in Los Angeles for scouts. There were homeless people bothering us. Also, my Dad rides his bike and when he does he finds a lot of homeless people.

Sincerely
[REDACTED]

Requirement #8



MARK TAKANO
41st DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & LABOR



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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425 CHAMBER HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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(202) 225-3305
Fax: (202) 225-7018
DISTRICT OFFICE
3403 10th St., Suite 610
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 222-0033
Fax: (951) 222-0217

April 10, 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for sharing your concerns with me regarding wildlife protection. As your representative, I need to know what issues matter to you in order to serve you best.

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 protects wild horses and burros on federal lands as "living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West," and it authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to protect these animals on public lands. For nearly 50 years the law has served as a critical federal wildlife protection, and integral part of the natural system of our public lands. It is essential that we treat these animals humanely while they are in our care, and any effort to recklessly reverse years of established law and open the door to the unnecessary slaughter of healthy wild horses is simply unacceptable. Please know that I will continue work with my colleagues to prevent the inhumane treatment of horses living in our precious wilderness areas.

Thank you for passing along your concerns on wildlife protection. I agree that all animals deserve to be treated humanely. Please [email](#) me with further concerns. If you would like to receive periodic updates on issues affecting the Inland Empire, please follow me on [Twitter](#), "like" my [Facebook](#) page, and sign up for my [newsletter](#).

Sincerely,

MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress

Please do not reply to this email. The mailbox is unattended.
To share your thoughts please visit my [website](#).

E-mailed to Kamala Harris on 3/3/2018:

Dear Kamala Harris,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Boy Scout in Corona, CA and I am 12 years old.

I would like to write to you about something that has been bothering me. The freeway traffic in Corona is really bad. The 91 freeway and 15 freeway in my city is too crowded. There are days where it can take a really long time for my Dad to get to work and I think something should be done to fix it.

There are three things I would like to see done in my community.

- 1) Add more lanes to the existing freeways
- 2) Build more forms of transportation, like trains.
- 3) Build more freeways or roads

Thank You for your time and for reading my letter.

Thank You,

Response:

KAMALA D. HARRIS
U.S. Senator for California

AB

Dianne Feinstein

United States Senator for California

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for writing to share your concerns about policies regarding "sanctuary cities." I appreciate hearing from you, and I welcome the opportunity to respond.

I understand you are concerned about so-called "sanctuary cities," in which local governments deny requests from federal authorities to detain undocumented immigrants or notify about the pending release of an undocumented immigrant. I recognize that you support penalizing these jurisdictions for not complying with immigration detainer and notification requests, and that you also support imposing greater Federal criminal penalties on individuals who unlawfully reenter the country.

Please know that I firmly believe local governments should notify federal authorities upon request before releasing dangerous individuals into our communities. In addition, I believe local governments should be required to comply with these requests for dangerous individuals.

You may be interested to know that I had been working with local jurisdictions to strengthen participation in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Priority Enforcement Program (PEP), which facilitated collaboration between local and federal law enforcement to take custody of individuals who pose a danger to public safety. Unfortunately, President Trump ended this program.

Protecting the safety of Americans is my top priority as a United States Senator, and I have strongly supported—and will continue to support—responsible policies that secure our border and prevent dangerous individuals from entering the United States. I also continue to believe that we can protect otherwise law-abiding immigrants who are here to work and provide their children with a better future without sacrificing the safety of our communities.

I will keep your views in mind should relevant legislation come before me for consideration.

Once again, thank you for writing. Should you have any other questions or comments, please call my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 224-3941 or visit my website at [feinstein.senate.gov](#). You can also follow me online at [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#), and you can sign up for my email newsletter at [feinstein.senate.gov/newsletter](#).

Best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

