Celebrate our American democracy

Learn about its important principles and tell us what democracy means to you.

A founding principle of the United States is that it's a democracy—meaning that citizens hold the power to elect the people who govern them. As President Abraham Lincoln said in his Gettysburg Address in 1863, democracy is the rule "of the people, by the people, for the people."

Elections are an important way for citizens to exercise their rights. On November 8, voters will participate in what are known as the midterm elections. Every seat in the House of Representatives (one half of Congress) will be up for election, along with some Senate seats. Voters in some areas may also be electing state and local leaders.

What do you think about democracy? You can use the form at right to write down or draw your ideas. To share it with us, ask an adult to email it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Extra forms can be found at theweekjunior.com/activities. We will publish some submissions in future issues.

"The experience of democracy is like the experience of life itself—always changing, infinite in its variety, sometimes turbulent, and all the more valuable for having been tested by adversity."
—Jimmy Carter, former US President

"Democracy is the most realistic way for diverse peoples to resolve their differences, and share power, and heal social divisions."
—Condoleezza Rice, political scientist and former US secretary of state

"Democracy is not a spectator sport. It is a difficult, hard, full-contact, participatory endeavor."
—Cory Booker, US senator representing New Jersey

"What saves our democracy always is involved citizens."
—Sonia Sotomayor, US Supreme Court justice

"A healthy democracy requires a decent society; it requires that we are honorable, generous, tolerant, and respectful."
—Charles W. Pickering Sr., former US district judge in Mississippi