

Responsibilities of Citizenship

Word List:

all people

email

petition

calling

good

press

candidates

informed

speech

citizens

jury duty

vote

community service

opinions

voting

contact

person

The first three words of the United States Constitution are “**We the People**”. What does this tell us about our government? It tells us that the power of leadership is in the hands of the “people” or _____ of our country.

Citizens have several ways to **cause changes in the government**.

- One main way to cause a change in government is to _____ for different leaders if citizens do not agree with the decisions of the current leaders. Before doing this, it is very important that citizens learn about the _____ (possible leaders) so that they will be _____ voters and make good choices.
- Another way to cause a change in government is to _____ for a change in laws. This usually involves getting many people to sign your request for the change, then officially sending it to the government leaders that are in charge.
- Individual citizens should also _____ their representatives in government to let them know what the citizen thinks about changes that are being considered. Citizens can do this by writing letters, _____ on the phone, sending _____, or meeting with their representatives in _____.
- Using the rights in the Constitution, freedom of _____ allows citizens to protest or support government choices. Newspapers, websites, radio, and TV stations can publish citizens’ _____ about government because of freedom of the _____.

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Government is meant to serve the “**common good.**” This means that the goal of all the laws and actions of the government should be that they are made for the

_____ of _____.

The government’s job is also to be sure that laws are fair and are enforced equally.

Citizens should also do things for the “common good” of their communities. There are many ways that individuals and groups of citizens can serve the common good. Some important examples are serving on _____ to be sure that trials are fair and follow the rules of the Constitution, volunteering for

_____, and learning about and

_____ for government leaders or changes to local laws.

Respond:

Write your answers as complete, restating sentences.

Why does the United States Constitution begin with the words, “We the People”?

What is one way that citizens can cause a change in government?

Explain what the phrase “common good” means.
