



Engaged Citizens: SS.7.CG.2.8
**Influencing and Monitoring
the Government**
READING #2

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.2.8 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will identify methods used by individuals to monitor, hold accountable and influence the government (e.g., attending civic meetings, peacefully protesting, petitioning government, running for office, voting).

Individual **citizens** impact the government. Citizens can also impact the government by staying informed of the issues in their community. Staying informed involves citizens attending civic meetings in their community, and if the government is not being transparent, citizens can petition the government or even peacefully protest. One of citizens' most fundamental rights is the power to **alter** government.

Citizens can alter government by simply carrying out one of their most important civic responsibilities – voting – individuals play a major role in changing the government by exercising this right. Whether by voting a candidate in or out of office, voting in favor of or against an amendment to the Florida Constitution, or even running for office, citizens can change the government during every election. Voting is one of the most important parts of a **democracy**.

alter – to change or modify

citizen - a legal member of a state and/or country

democracy - a system of government in which political power is held by the people