

Lesson Plan Research Study Group Questions (Local Politics)

RESEARCH STUDY GROUP #1 (VOTING STATISTICS A)

1. According to the document *Voter Registration Statistics By County*, in Los Angeles, how many more **registered** Democrats are there compared to Republicans?
2. According to the document *Voter Registration Statistics By County*, in Los Angeles, how many **registered** voters are there compared to the number of people that are **eligible** to vote?
3. According to the document *Voter Participation Statistics By County*, in Los Angeles, how many total voters were there in the last election compared to the number of people **eligible** to **register** to vote?
4. According to the document *Voter Participation Statistics By County*, in Los Angeles, how many total voters were there in the last election compared to the number of **registered** voters?
5. According to the *Voter Participation Statistics By County*, in Los Angeles what was the percentage of **Turnout Registered** voters in the last election?

RESEARCH STUDY GROUP #2 (VOTING STATISTICS B)

1. According to *Voter Participation Statistics by County*, what was the **Turnout Eligible** percentage of voters for the last election in Los Angeles?
2. According to the *Voter Registration Statistics by County*, how many **registered** Democrats and Republicans are there; and what political party besides Democrats and Republicans had the highest number of **registered** voters?
3. According to *Historical Voter Registration and Participation in Statewide General Elections from 1910-2014*, what conclusions can you make about voter participation among the people of California?
4. According to *Voter Participation Statistics By County*, why do you think the **Turnout Eligible** percentage is at the number it is today in Los Angeles?
5. According to the *Voter Participation Statistics By County*, in Los Angeles what was the percentage of **Turnout Registered** voters in the last election?

RESEARCH STUDY GROUP #3 (LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES A1)

1. What Congressperson represents the area in and around Compton?
2. Who is the Congressperson for the House of Representatives' 43th District?
3. For Maxine Waters' last 3 elections, what was the difference between how much money she raised **versus** how much money her opponents raised?
4. When was the information regarding Maxine Waters' **Congressional campaign funders** downloaded from the internet?
5. According to the document *Statement of Vote Summary Pages*, what percentage of the vote did Maxine Waters win her last election by, and how many votes did she receive?
6. Who are the top 5 **contributors** to Maxine Waters' **candidacy** since 1989?

RESEARCH STUDY GROUP #4 (LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES A2)

1. According to the election data that you have on Maxine Waters, how many times did the **incumbent** win re-election to Congress? (Give your answer in terms of percent, e.g. 10%, 25%, 70%, et cetera)
2. How long has Maxine Waters represented the 43rd Congressional District?
3. On what committee(s) is Maxine Waters a **ranking member**?
4. In what issue area does Maxine Waters primarily **sponsor** bills?
5. Based on Maxine Waters' voting record in the past 10 months, as well as her campaign **funders/donors**, what conclusions can you draw?
6. Why do you think being an **incumbent** helps a politician get re-elected at such a high rate of success?

RESEARCH STUDY GROUP #5 (LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES B1)

1. What Congressperson represents the area located around Washington Prep High School?
2. Who is the Congressperson for the House of Representatives' 44th District?
3. For Janice Hahn's last two elections, what was the difference between how much money she raised **versus** how much money her opponents raised?
4. When was the information regarding Janice Hahn's **Congressional campaign funders** downloaded from the internet?
5. According to the *Statement of Vote Summary Pages*, what percentage of the vote did Janice Hahn win her election by, and how many votes did she receive?
6. Who are the top 5 **contributors** to Janice Hahn's **candidacy** since 1989?

RESEARCH STUDY GROUP #6 (LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES B2)

1. According to the data that you have on Janice Hahn, how many times did the **incumbent** win re-election to Congress? (Give your answer in terms of percent, e.g. 10%, 25%, 70%, et cetera)
2. How long has Janice Hahn represented the 44th Congressional District?
3. On what committee(s) is Janice Hahn a member?
4. In what issue area does Janice Hahn primarily **sponsor** bills?
5. Why do you think being an **incumbent** helps a politician get re-elected at such a high rate of success?
6. Based on Janice Hahn's voting record in the past 10 months, as well as her campaign **funders/donors**, what conclusions can you draw?

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY WORD BANK

1. **Campaign** – competition by rival political candidates and organizations for public office
2. **Candidacy** – the process of seeking an elective political office
3. **Congressional** – of or pertaining to Congress (US Legislative Branch consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate)
4. **Contributors** – people or organizations that give money to a politician or a campaign
5. **Eligible** – meeting the appropriate requirements
6. **Funders/Donors** – a person or organization who gives money to a politician or campaign
7. **Incumbent** – a politician currently holding a specified office
8. **Ranking Member** – second-most senior member of a congressional committee
9. **Registered** – officially or legally certified by a government
10. **Sponsored** – a pledge or promise on behalf of another
11. **Statistics** – the science that deals with the collection, classification, analysis, and interpretation of numerical facts or data
12. **Turnout** – a gathering of people for an event
13. **Turnout Eligible** – total number of people who voted versus total number of people who are **eligible** to vote
14. **Versus** – against; compared to

Name: _____

Class: _____

Period: _____

HOMEWORK: MONEY AND LOCAL POLITICS

1. What are 3 questions you have after examining the data?

2. What are 3 conclusions you can draw from the data?

Key pieces of data to be reported for group discussion:

GROUP #1

1. According to the document *Voter Registration Statistics By County*, in Los Angeles, how many **registered** voters are there compared to the number of people that are **eligible** to vote?

Eligible = 6,096,320

Registered = 4,897,915

2. According to the document *Voter Participation Statistics By County*, in Los Angeles, how many total voters were there in the last election compared to the number of **registered** voters?

Registered Voters = 6,096,320

Total Voters = 1,518,835

GROUP #2

3. According to *Voter Participation Statistics by County*, In Los Angeles, what was the **Turnout Eligible** percentage of voters for the last election?

Turnout Eligible = 24.91%

4. According to the *Voter Participation Statistics By County*, in Los Angeles what was the percentage of **Turnout Registered** voters in the last election?

Turnout Registered = 31.01%

GROUP #3

5. Who is the Congressperson for the House of Representatives' 43th District?

Maxine Waters

6. For Maxine Waters' last 3 elections, what was the difference between how much money she raised **versus** how much money her opponents raised?

2014: Waters – \$1,301,923 / Opponent – \$11,173

2012: Waters – \$729,887 / Opponent – \$4,204

2010: Waters – \$694,021 / Opponent – \$17,340

7. Who are the top 5 **contributors** to Maxine Waters' **candidacy** since 1989?

American Association for Justice

National Association of Realtors

United Auto Workers

Teamsters Union

Service Employees International Union

GROUP #4

8. According to the election data that you have on Maxine Waters, how many times did the **incumbent** win re-election to Congress? (Give your answer in terms of percent, e.g. 10%, 25%, 70%, et cetera)

100%

9. On what committee(s) is Maxine Waters a ranking member?

House Committee on Financial Services

10. In what issue area does Maxine Waters primarily **sponsor** bills?

Health

GROUP #5

11. Who is the Congressperson for the House of Representatives' 44th District?

Janice Hahn

12. For Janice Hahn's last two elections, what was the difference between how much money she raised **versus** how much money her opponents raised?

2014: Hahn – \$733,850 / Opponent – \$0

2012: Hahn – \$2,521,898 / Opponent – \$599,696

13. Who are the top 5 **contributors** to Janice Hahn's **candidacy** since 1989?

EMILY's List

Carpenters & Joiners Union

United Food & Commercial Workers Union

American Federation of State, City, Municipal Employees

Machinists/Aerospace Workers Union

GROUP #6

14. According to the election data that you have on Janice Hahn, how many times did the **incumbent** win re-election to Congress? (Give your answer in terms of percent, e.g. 10%, 25%, 70%, et cetera)

100%

15. On what committee(s) is Janice Hahn a member?

House Committee on Small Business

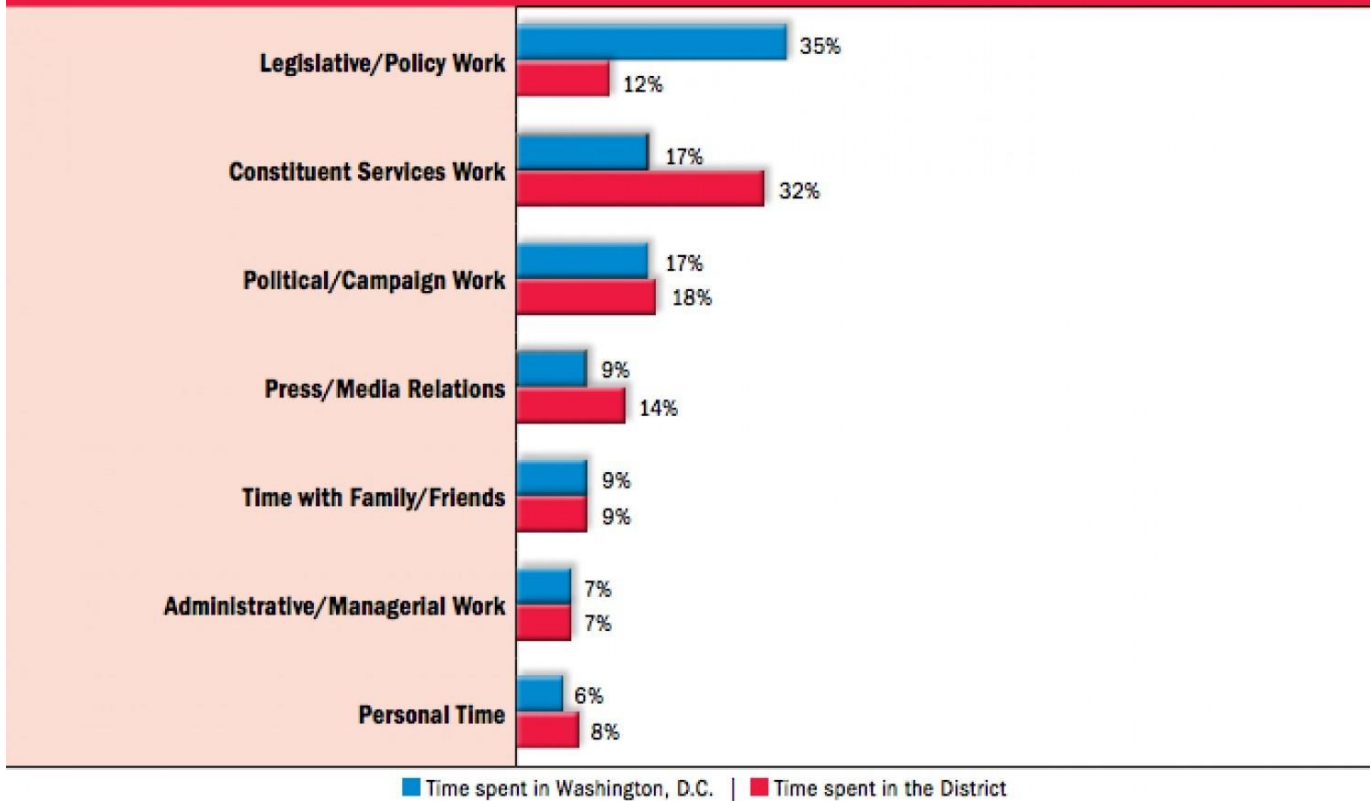
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

16. In what issue area does Janice Hahn primarily sponsor bills?

Transportation and Public Works

WHAT IS THE REALTIONSHIP BETWEEN MONEY AND LOCAL POLITICS?

Figure 6 | Member Time Spent on Major Activities in Washington, D.C., and In the District



Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2013/07/29/congress-spends-too-much-time-fundraising-but-its-less-time-than-you-think/>