

**10 Things Parents Can Do to Raise Engaged, Informed, and Responsible Citizens**

- 1. Use the newspaper to find real-life examples of Bill of Rights in action today.**
- 2. Bring your child to vote with you.**
- 3. Encourage your child to participate in extra-curricular activities that provide opportunities for him/her to make decisions, work with peers to accomplish a task, and use problem-solving skills.**
- 4. Devote one family dinner a week to discussing current events YOUR CHILD identifies. Try to get your child to express his/her opinions before you share yours. Assist your child in identifying current events he/she is interested in by reading a newspaper, watching a televised newscast, or online news.**
- 5. Provide opportunities for your children to make choices. Provide options everyone can live with and have the whole family vote to decide...what's for dinner, what movie to watch, what game to play, etc. Take time to talk about "majority rule" and other democratic ideas.**
- 6. Tell your child an anecdote about a time when you took action to change something you did not like or agree with.**
- 7. As a dinnertime topic: When was the first time you realized that living in a free, democratic society is important to you.**
- 8. Select a movie with a topic relating to government or rights to view as a family and discuss the issues. Examples:**

<i>Legally Blonde II</i>	<i>Mr. Smith Goes to Washington</i>
<i>All the Presidents Men</i>	<i>Good Night, Good Luck</i>
- 9. Bring your child to a civic meeting:**

PTA	City Council
Neighborhood Watch	City/County Hearing
- 10. Do a family race to see which member can come up with a complete list of local, state, and national representatives:**

City Council person	County Board of Supervisors
Mayor	State Assembly
State Senate	Governor
U.S. Representative	U.S. Senate