

# AR Mini-Session

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Session Title: **Politics: A Matter of Survival**

Time: 15 minutes

Materials/Equipment Needed: newsprint, markers

Handouts: Is It Politics?

Political Activity Commitment



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## Script

Say → Are you one of those people who doesn't want to get involved in politics because you don't see the point? Consider this: When you are born, your birth is registered by someone appointed by an elected official, and when you die, someone else appointed by an elected official records your death. In between the cradle and the grave, elected officials and their appointees determine just about everything you do.

### Activity 1

*[Ask for the definition of politics. Get a few answers from members and write them on newsprint. Then give them the Webster's definition of politics. "1. (noun) the theory and practice of government, especially the activities associated with governing, with obtaining legislative or executive power, or with forming and running organizations connected with the government."]*

Say → Can we agree that politics is being actively involved in our government?

### Activity 2

*[Distribute handout "Is It Politics?" Ask participants to look at the list. Ask, "Does politics decide these issues?" Ask them to circle yes or no.]*

Say → There may be some argument on some of the finer points around decisions on these topics, but ultimately, they are ALL decided through some kind of government action. That makes them political. Do we have any say over these decisions? We do, if we are involved in politics. We do, if we are involved in electing those who make the laws, and if we influence how they vote on the items brought to them.

Say → It is imperative that we vote, otherwise we have no voice. If you are not registered to vote, you can register at your local Board of Elections. (If your local has gotten voter registration forms, you can have them register with you or they can send the form to the Board of Elections.) Be sure to vote on election day.

Say → Based on the information discussed and how legislatures impact us, isn't it worth it to have a hand in electing those persons who influence so strongly the decisions that affect your life and career?

Our local and state association interviews and recommends candidates who support public education and public school employees. If you would like to be involved in this process, please sign up for our Political Action Committee.

Our recommended candidates are always looking for volunteers. If you would like contact information, let me know and I will help you get in touch with someone who can use your time and efforts.

### **Activity 3**

***[Have participants fill out the “Political Activity Commitment Sheet” on the back of the “Is It Politics” handout.]***

Say → Choose one thing on the commitment sheet that you will do to become a political activist for your career and “Great Public Schools for Every Child.”

Say → Politics involves us all whether we are active or not. Become active. Get involved in whatever way you can. If you signed up for the Political Action Committee, the committee chair will be in contact with you directly. If you signed up to become involved, you will be contacted by someone in our association when your help is needed. Respond. Your voice and your help is needed.

***[Collect the political activity commitment sheets.]***