

Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #46 - Voting Age



Maggie says ...

In these difficult times, as our nation and the world pull together, it is more important than ever to understand our role as a citizen.

Today's lesson is about the VOTING AGE. When I was a puppy, I wanted to do things that older dogs could do. First, I had to learn to walk, obey orders, and then, keep up with whoever was walking me. Young people have the same dilemma. Many want to know when they will be able to vote for President.

Sticky Situation: Dogs and people often have a problem when others think they are too young to play with them. I remember watching a group of 3rd and 4th graders playing softball. I was with a 2nd grader who happened to be a very good athlete, and he wanted to play with the “big” boys. They said, “No!” If I could have talked, I would have helped him. What would you have done to help my friend? Explain your answer.

Activity: In 1971, the 26th Amendment changed the age that a citizen is eligible to vote for president from 21 to 18. Young citizens had argued that they could be drafted to fight a war when they were 18, but they could not vote for president, and they didn't think that was right. Would you like to see the current age at which you can vote to stay the same - 18; be lowered; or, be raised? Be prepared to give at least three (3) good reasons for your answer. Consider writing a letter expressing your opinion to one of your local officials. That is a way to have your voice heard, even at a young age!

Civics Resources: View a video to learn more about the [26th Amendment & Voting Age](#)