

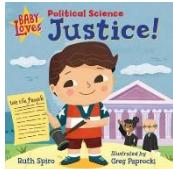


Inclusive Literature Lists

The Billings Public Library supports and values and celebrates diversity and inclusion. We strive to curate a collection of resources that represents all demographics in our community's tapestry. We believe an inclusive and welcoming community is a stronger community.

This list of inclusive and diverse literature that the youth of our community can see themselves in as well as use as a conduit to build compassion for others is brought to you on behalf of collaboration between the Human Relations Commission of the City of Billings, the Billings Public Library, and a children's literature assistant professor from Montana State University Billings.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive. We welcome your feedback, suggestions, and any recommendations for this list. We will take these into consideration as we continue to develop these lists.



Baby Loves Political Science: Justice!

By [Spiro, Ruth](#)

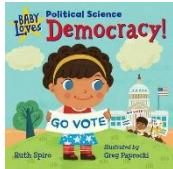
Illustrator [Paprocki, Greg](#)

2020-09 - Charlesbridge Publishing

9781623542283 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Clever and clear political science for the littlest listeners.

When Baby sees that it's Mom who arbitrates the rules at home, he gets a glimpse at how his judge-mother interprets the laws when he goes with her to court. A funny and gentle introduction to the judicial branch of government and how justice is served. [...More](#)



Baby Loves Political Science

By [Spiro, Ruth](#)

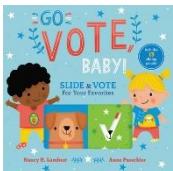
Illustrator [Paprocki, Greg](#)

2020-04 - Charlesbridge Publishing

9781623542276 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A new addition to the beloved and bestselling Baby Loves series This cute and clever introduction to political science is accurate and simple enough for baby, and ready to teach Baby what makes a great democracy.

Baby learns what it means to participate in a democracy where everyone has a voice in electing our leaders. There are many ways for all of us, including the youngest children, [...More](#)



Go Vote, Baby!

By [Lambert, Nancy](#)

Illustrator [Passchier, Anne](#)

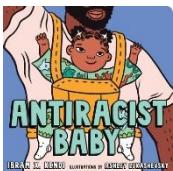
2020-06 - HarperFestival

9780062971197 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A fun, sturdy novelty board book with 13 sliding doors

Toddlers will love casting their vote as they slide-and-vote in everyday situations like striped or polka dot socks in the morning, vanilla or chocolate ice cream at snack time, and many more exciting choices every kid faces throughout the day.

This sturdy board book is a great way to encourage toddlers to [...More](#)



Antiracist Baby

By [Kendi, Ibram X.](#)

Illustrator [Lukashevsky, Ashley](#)

2020-06 - Kokila

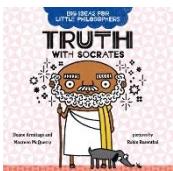
9780593110416 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A #1 New York Times Bestseller

Featured in its own episode in the Netflix original show *Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices*

Featured on Good Morning America, NPR's Morning Edition, CBS This Morning, and more

From the National Book Award-winning author of *Stamped from the Beginning* and *How to Be an Antiracist* comes a fresh new [...More](#)



Big Ideas for Little Philosophers: Truth with Socrates

By [Armitage, Duane](#)

Author [McQuerry, Maureen](#)

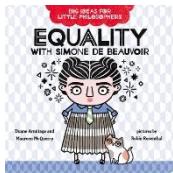
Illustrator [Rosenthal, Robin](#)

2020-07 - G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

9780593108758 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An exciting board book series that asks deep questions in a wonderfully accessible way.

Even little children have big questions about life. Socrates believed being truthful and asking questions about the world can make us wise, and *Truth with Socrates* brings his philosophy to the youngest thinkers. From the importance of being honest even if it's hard or makes you scared to [...More](#)



Big Ideas for Little Philosophers: Equality with Simone de Beauvoir

By [Armitage, Duane](#)

Author [McQuerry, Maureen](#)

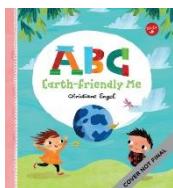
Illustrator [Rosenthal, Robin](#)

2020-07 - G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

9780593108840 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An exciting board book series that asks deep questions in a wonderfully accessible way.

Even little children have big questions about life. Simone de Beauvoir focused much of her work on the concept of equality, insisting that girls and boys and women and men should have the same opportunities to be happy. Everyone should have the right to be themselves and be treated with respect no [...More](#)



ABC for Me: ABC Earth-Friendly Me: From Activism to Zero Waste, Here Are 26 Things a Kid Can Do to Care for the Earth!

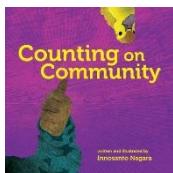
By [Walter Foster Jr Creative Team](#)

2020-07 - Walter Foster Jr

9781600588808 [Check Our Catalog](#)

ABC Earth-Friendly Me presents 26 things--from Action to Zero waste and everything in between--that eco-conscious kids and their families can do to help care for the earth.

Pairing aspects of **eco-friendly living** with each letter of the alphabet, *ABC Earth-Friendly Me* is not only perfect for **teaching young children their ABCs**, but also for encouraging [...More](#)



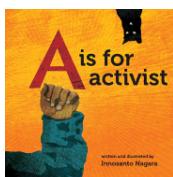
Counting on Community

By [Nagara, Innosanto](#)

2015-09 - Triangle Square

9781609806323 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Counting on Community is Innosanto Nagara's follow-up to his hit ABC book, *A is for Activist*. Counting up from one stuffed piata to ten hefty hens--and always counting on each other--children are encouraged to recognize the value of their community, the joys inherent in healthy eco-friendly activities, and the agency they posses to make change. A broad and inspiring vision of [...More](#)



A is for Activist

By [Nagara, Innosanto](#)

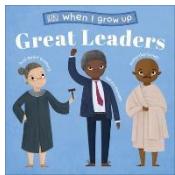
2013-11 - Triangle Square

9781609805395 [Check Our Catalog](#)

One of NPR's Top 100 Book for Young Readers

"Reading it is almost like reading Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*, but for two-year olds--full of pictures and rhymes and a little cat to find on every page that will delight the curious toddler and parents alike."--*Occupy Wall Street*

A is for Activist is an ABC board book written and illustrated for [...More](#)



When I Grow Up...Great Leaders: Kids Like You That Became Inspiring Leaders

By [DK](#)

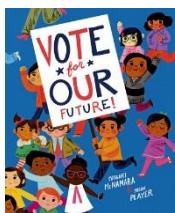
Illustrator [Semple, Lucy](#)

2020-03 - DK Publishing (Dorling Kindersley)

9781465491404 [Check Our Catalog](#)

How do little kids grow up to become inspiring leaders? Find out in this beautiful board book for little ones with big dreams.

Everyone, from Nelson Mandela to Ruth Bader Ginsburg, was once a small child learning about the world. Read how a diverse array of kids discovered what they were passionate about, worked hard, and followed their dreams to make a positive difference as adults. [...More](#)



Vote for Our Future!

By [McNamara, Margaret](#)

Illustrator [Player, Micah](#)

2020-02 - Schwartz & Wade Books

9781984892805 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In this charming and powerful picture book about voting and elections, the students of Stanton Elementary School learn how we can find--and use--our voices for change.

Every two years, on the first Tuesday of November, Stanton Elementary School closes for the day. For vacation? Nope For repairs? No way Stanton Elementary School closes so that it can [...More](#)



Shirley Chisholm Is a Verb

By [Chambers, Veronica](#)

Illustrator [Baker, Rachelle](#)

2020-07 - Dial Books

9780803730892 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A timely picture book biography about Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman in Congress, who sought the Democratic nomination to be the president of the United States.

Shirley Chisholm famously said, "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." This dynamic biography illuminates how Chisholm was a doer, an active and vocal participant in our nation's democracy, [...More](#)



V Is for Voting

By [Farrell, Kate](#)

Illustrator [Kuhwald, Caitlin](#)

2020-07 - Henry Holt & Company

9781250231253 [Check Our Catalog](#)

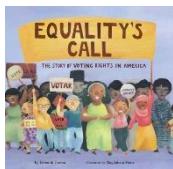
V Is for Voting is an ABC book that introduces progressive families to concepts like social justice and civil rights and reminds readers that every vote counts

A is for active participation.

B is for building a more equal nation.

C is for citizens' rights and our duty.

D is for difference, our strength and our beauty. [...More](#)



Equality's Call: The Story of Voting Rights in America

By [Diesen, Deborah](#)

Illustrator [Mora, Magdalena](#)

2020-02 - Beach Lane Books

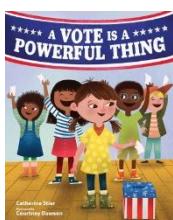
9781534439580 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Learn all about the history of voting rights in the United States--from our nation's founding to the present day--in this powerful picture book from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Pout-Pout Fish*.

A right isn't right

till it's granted to all...

The founders of the United States declared that consent of the governed was a key part [...More](#)



A Vote Is a Powerful Thing

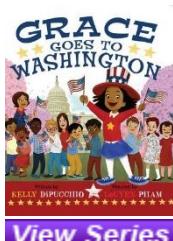
By [Stier, Catherine](#)

Illustrator [Dawson, Courtney](#)

2020-09 - Albert Whitman & Company

9780807584989 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Callie knows there's a presidential election coming up. Her class is having an election, too, about an issue that affects them all--the class field trip. She's about to witness firsthand what a difference a vote can make--even a single vote--and along the way will find out about the election process and why people have fought for the right to vote throughout history. A great kids'-eye look at the [...More](#)



Grace Goes to Washington

By [DiPucchio, Kelly](#)

Illustrator [Pham, LeUyen](#)

2019-09 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9781368024334 [Check Our Catalog](#)

2nd book in Grace series

In this follow-up to the *New York Times* bestseller *Grace for President*, award-winning duo Kelly DiPucchio and LeUyen Pham present a fun, kid-friendly introduction to the branches of American government as well as the struggle and joys that comes with being a public servant.

"Who's in charge here?"

When Grace learns about the three branches of the United [...More](#)



Sometimes People March

By [Allen, Tessa](#)

Illustrator [Allen, Tessa](#)

2020-09 - Balzer & Bray/HarperTeen

9780062991188 [Check Our Catalog](#)

With a spare, inspiring text and gorgeous watercolor illustrations, this is a timeless and important book for activists of all ages. This hardcover picture book is perfect for sharing and for gifting.

Sometimes people march

to resist injustice,

to stand in solidarity,

to inspire hope.

Throughout American history, one thing [...More](#)



Oh, the Things We're For!

By [Nagara, Innosanto](#)

Illustrator [Innosanto Nagara](#)

2020-10 - Triangle Square

9781644210147 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)

Knit a Hat, Take a Knee: Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights

By [Sanders, Rob](#)

Illustrator [Schorr, Jared Andrew](#)

2018-09 - Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

9781534429437 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A primer for peaceful protest, resistance, and activism from the author of *Rodzilla* and *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*.

Protesting. Standing up for what's right. Uniting around the common good--kids have questions about all of these things they see and hear about each day. Through sparse and lyrical writing, Rob Sanders introduces abstract concepts [...More](#)



What Is an Election?: DK Reader Level 2

By [Jenner, Caryn](#)

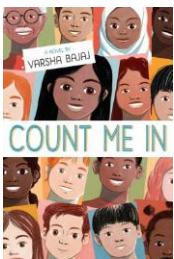
2020-07 - DK Publishing (Dorling Kindersley)

9780744021547 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Packed with facts, kids will love learning about elected leaders from around the world, from Barack Obama to Nelson Mandela, and how they came to power.

With this nonfiction politics book, children will learn about where and how democracy began and how it has developed over the years.

What is an Election? is a new Level 2 title in the engaging four-level DK Readers series, [...More](#)



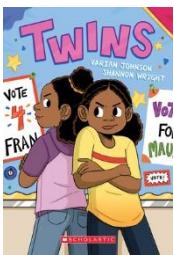
Count Me in

By [Bajaj, Varsha](#)

2019-08 - Nancy Paulsen Books
9780525517245 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An uplifting story, told through the alternating voices of two middle-schoolers, in which a community rallies to reject racism.

Karina Chopra would have never imagined becoming friends with the boy next door-- after all, they've avoided each other for years and she assumes Chris is just like the boys he hangs out with, who she labels a pack of hyenas. Then Karina's grandfather starts [...More](#)

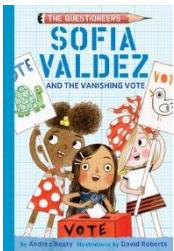


Twins

By [Johnson, Varian](#)
Illustrator [Wright, Shannon](#)
2020-10 - Graphix
9781338236132 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Coretta Scott King Honor author Varian Johnson teams up with rising cartoonist Shannon Wright for a delightful middle-grade graphic novel

Maureen and Francine Carter are twins and best friends. They participate in the same clubs, enjoy the same foods, and are partners on all their school projects. But just before the girls start sixth grade, Francine becomes Fran -- a girl [...More](#)

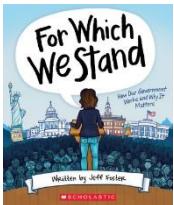


Sofia Valdez and the Vanishing Vote

By [Beaty, Andrea](#)
Illustrator [Roberts, David](#)
2020-10 - Amulet Books
9781419743504 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Just in time for the 2020 election, the bestselling chapter book series continues with the newest Questioner, Sofia Valdez

Miss Lila Greer announces it's time for Grade Two to get a class pet, and she wants the kids to participate in choosing which one. After all, they will all have to share the responsibility of caring for it. The class narrows it down to two options: Team Turtle and [...More](#)



For Which We Stand: How Our Government Works and Why It Matters

By [Foster, Jeff](#)
Illustrator [McLaughlin, Julie](#)
Foreword by [King, Yolanda Renee](#)
2020-09 - Scholastic Inc.
9781338643084 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Discover everything you ever wanted to know about how the government *really* works with this accessible, highly designed and illustrated handbook from Marjory Stoneman Douglas AP government teacher Jeff Foster.

Now more than ever, it's so important for everyone to understand our government: where it came from, how it works, and how we can bring about change. [...More](#)



Finish the Fight!: The Brave and Revolutionary Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote

By [Chambers, Veronica](#)

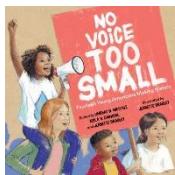
Author [The Staff of the New York Times](#)

2020-08 - Versify

9780358408307 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A New York Times bestseller

Who was at the forefront of women's right to vote? We know a few famous names, like Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, but what about so many others from diverse backgrounds--black, Asian, Latinx, Native American, and more--who helped lead the fight for suffrage? On the hundredth anniversary of the historic win for women's rights, it's [...More](#)



No Voice Too Small: Fourteen Young Americans Making History

By [Metcalf, Lindsay H.](#)

Editor [Dawson, Keila V.](#)

Editor [Bradley, Jeanette](#)

2020-09 - Charlesbridge Publishing

9781623541316 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Fans of *We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices* will love meeting fourteen young activists who have stepped up to make change in their community and the United States.

Mari Copeny demanded clean water in Flint. Jazz Jennings insisted, as a transgirl, on playing soccer with the girls' team. From Viridiana Sanchez Santos's quincea era demonstration against anti-immigrant policy to [...More](#)



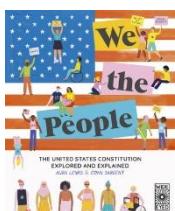
Our Future: How Kids Are Taking Action

By [Wilson, Janet](#)

2019-09 - Second Story Press

9781772601039 [Check Our Catalog](#)

These young people from across the globe are raising awareness about what issues matter to them most. Jaelun Parkerson from Texas kneels with his football teammates during the National Anthem to protest racial injustice; Canadian Autumn Peltier spoke in front of the United Nations to raise awareness about water pollution; and Melati Wijsen from Bali started working at twelve-years-old to convince [...More](#)



We the People: The Constitution Explored and Explained

By [Lewis, Aura](#)

Author [Sargent, Evan](#)

Illustrator [Lewis, Aura](#)

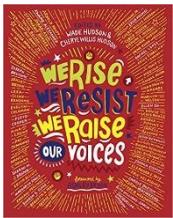
2020-07 - Wide Eyed Editions

9780711254046 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"An enlightening addition to upper elementary and middle school collections for its in-depth look at the Constitution and the U.S. government" - *School Library Journal*

See the U.S. Constitution in a new light with this bold, modern and accessible illustrated guide to the document that helped define democracy.

With the 2020 Presidential election around the [...More](#)



We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices

By [Hudson, Wade](#)

Editor [Hudson, Cheryl Willis](#)

- Crown Books for Young Readers

9780525580430 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Fifty of the foremost diverse children's authors and illustrators--including Jason Reynolds, Jacqueline Woodson, and Kwame Alexander--share answers to the question, "In this divisive world, what shall we tell our children?" in this beautiful, full-color keepsake collection, published in partnership with Just Us Books.

What do we tell our children when the world seems bleak, and [...More](#)