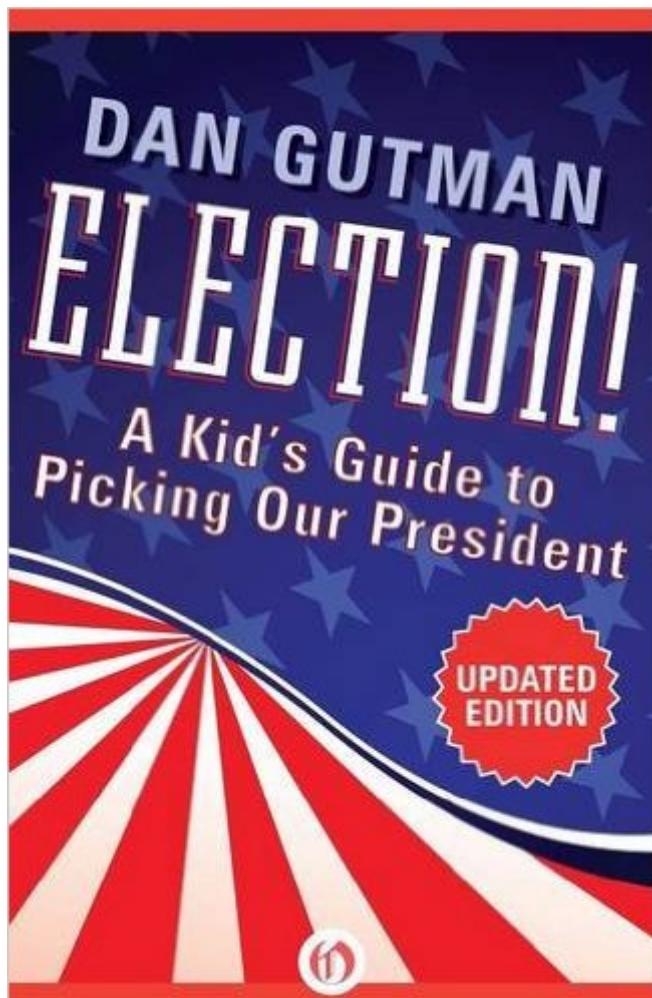


The book was found

Election!: A Kid's Guide To Picking Our President (Updated Edition)



Synopsis

A fun, funny, and informative guide to the weird world of American politics. How does the president get his job? How do people know who will win an election before everybody's voted? Do the candidates hate each other? Dan Gutman takes on his strangest subject ever: the American political system. Reaching through history from the days of the founding fathers to today's voting system, Gutman tackles complex subjects in a clear, easy-to-understand way. Even grown-ups will find something in here that they've never learned before. Politics are a crazy game, and with Dan Gutman teaching you the rules, you're going to have a blast learning how to play.

Book Information

Paperback: 162 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars. See all reviews. (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #84,113 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Government #204 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > United States #294 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States

Age Range: 7 - 12 years

Grade Level: 2 - 7

Customer Reviews

I had high hopes for this book from Dan Gutman. He also wrote a series of baseball time-travel novels for kids, our favorite of which is [Satch and Me]. I'm glad I got this Election! book for free; this book gets it wrong. America is not a democracy. America is a republic. Dan Gutman insists so often (pp 33-34, pp 36-38) in this book that America **IS** a democracy, that he must be doing it on purpose. America is not a democracy. America is a republic. In a republic, the power resides in the people, who elect representatives. In a democracy, the power resides in the majority. A republic protects the rights of the individual and the minority; a democracy lacks legal safeguards for individual rights. The Founders created a representative republic because they knew all too well that

democracy means the tyrannical (often violent) oppression of minority citizens by the majority. History bears this out. Dan Gutman could read all about this in the Federalist Papers numbers 10, 14, and 48. There is another error on page 114 -- the Bush-Gore election was held in 2000, not 2001. The author seems to advocate for the elimination of the electoral college, mocking the founders and calling the electoral college system a "formality" before going on to grudgingly admit that it is a system that is fair to all the states. The slant of the book seems wrong -- the focus of third-party candidates omits Nader (whose candidacy gave us Bush 43) and highlights various weak communist party candidates. Not especially helpful or relevant. The best part about this book is the glossary -- includes terms like ballot, bandwagon, benefit, bill, Bill of Rights, cabinet, campaign... it's a 6-page glossary. Well done!

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