

# Civic Learning and Engagement

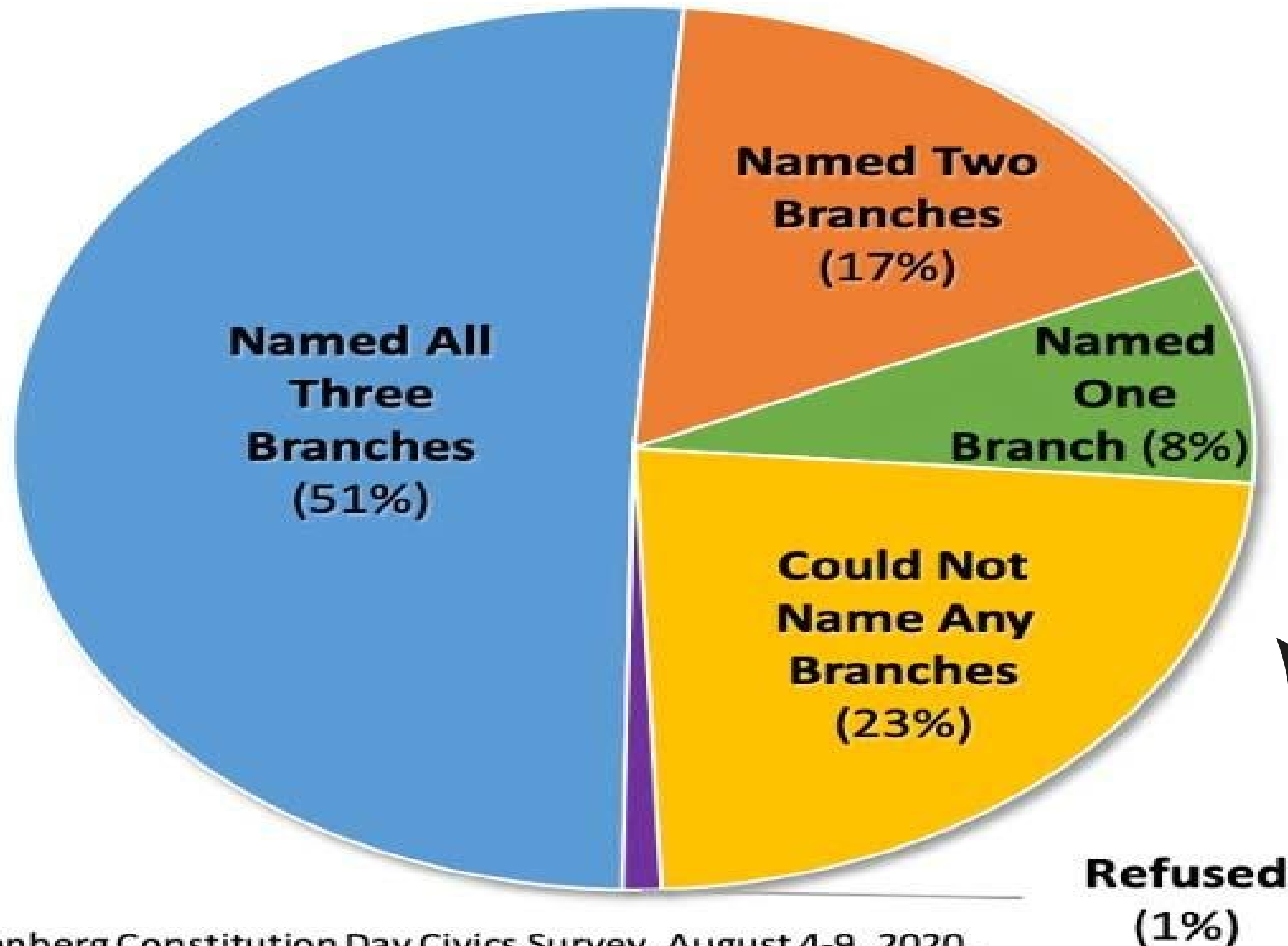




# **Why** is Civic Education and Engagement Important?



## **% of Americans who can name the three branches of government**



Source: Annenberg Constitution Day Civics Survey, August 4-9, 2020.

©2020 Annenberg Public Policy Center



# Students' understanding of history and civics is worsening



By Donna St. George

May 3, 2023 at 12:00 a.m. EDT



Teacher Natalie O'Brien hands out papers during a civics class called "We the People" at North Smithfield High School in Rhode Island. (Steven Senne/AP)

CALIFORNIA

# Amid growing polarization, most Californians want to see stronger civics courses for youth



Tom Coulter

Palm Springs Desert Sun

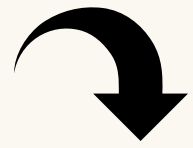
Published 5:01 a.m. PT April 14, 2023



After having moderated discussions, Californians even more strongly supported stronger civics classes in school. Erin Woodiel / Argus Leader



# Public trust in the judicial branch



Only 49% of American people express trust and confidence in “the judicial branch” (as low as 47% in 2022)

Source: Gallup polls  
<https://news.gallup.com/poll>









“Civic learning teaches students about their democracy and develops skills for their future lives—such as critical thinking and problem solving; it teaches them how to be engaged, to communicate and collaborate with one another, and to demonstrate creativity, initiative, and innovation. And it promotes academic achievement—helping students remain involved and committed to ongoing learning.”

Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero



*Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero at the State of the Judiciary 2024*



▶ Chief Justice Guerrero announced to our Legislative Branch the next phase of the *Power of Democracy (POD) Civic Learning Initiative*, with the effort led by Justice Judith McConnell of the Fourth District Court of Appeal, together with Judge Julia Alloggiamento with the Santa Clara Superior Court.

▶ The vision of the initiative is to expand civic learning about our three branches of government, but I confess, with a focus on the judicial branch, in every district, in every school, for every child in California. We want all kids sitting in the classrooms today to be actively engaged in our democracy.







Outreach events help the community view the diversity of the bench and encourage youth at an early age to envision a career in justice.

"I HOPE OUR EFFORTS INSPIRE STUDENTS EARLY ON TO THINK ABOUT A FUTURE CAREER IN LAW."

★★★★★

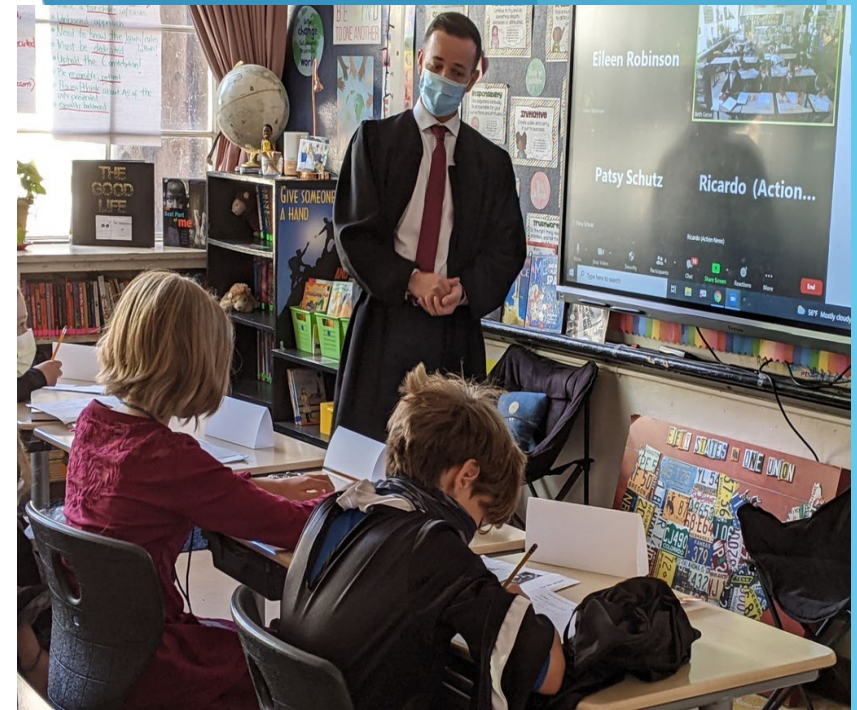
Associate Justice Tari L. Cody

JUDGESINTHECLASSROOM.ORG



# Opportunities for Students

Students, Teachers, Community



Constitution Month

Young Women's  
Power Lunch

Color of Justice Program

Mock Trials

Judges in the Classroom



Read Across  
Your County

VOTING  
PROJECT





How do I get started?

*What Civic Learning opportunities can I bring to my school?*



# Power of Democracy

[powerofdemocracy.org](https://powerofdemocracy.org)

## Judges in the Classroom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIYcKgg6rLQ>

## Civic Learning Award



The California judicial branch's Power of Democracy Civic Learning Initiative promotes a greater public understanding of the three branches of government, with concentration on the third and equal judicial branch. Every California public school teacher is invited to connect with their local court. Get started by [inviting a judge](#) to your classroom this September for Constitution Month!



**Constitution Day and Week** are celebrated nationally every September. In 2023, California's judicial branch extended and introduced **Constitution Month!** If you're a K-12 public school, consider requesting:

- A swearing-in ceremony; oath administration for student councils or government
- A one-hour lesson on the Constitution
- A visit to your local courthouse

Note: each court supports a local outreach plan and may not be able to fulfill every request. Submit your request early for consideration.

[Learn More](#)



About POD



Judges in the Classroom



2024 Civic Learning Awards

### CONTACT US

Judicial Council Public Affairs  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: 1-415-865-4546



[judicialoutreach@jud.ca.gov](mailto:judicialoutreach@jud.ca.gov)

Did you know students as young as 16 may pre-register to vote? If they meet the qualifications and register online, they'll automatically be eligible to vote on their 18th birthday.

[Register to Vote Now](#)



CALIFORNIA  
LAWYERS

FOUNDATION



*What opportunities are there to have Judges visit our school?*



**Constitution Month: September 3,776 students – 42 judicial officers**







# Read Across Santa Clara County

[Read Across Santa Clara County \(video\)](#)

<https://vimeo.com/934326123>





*How can I participate in civic learning at the court?*

## Court Visits

### Mock Trials





*What opportunities are there for my students to engage with the court and community?*











# ***Color of Justice Program***



# Law Day Video Contest



Law Day Art Contest

1st Place (2024): James Weaver (9th grade) (video) –

<https://youtu.be/LkyqZYH7IHY>

Honorable Mention (2023) (Ranch rap): <https://youtu.be/99Eclia6SZk>

Honorable Mention (2023 Poetry)  
[https://youtu.be/hiZXV\\_TxS-A](https://youtu.be/hiZXV_TxS-A)

Law Day Video



# *How do I motivate?*



**Chief Justice's  
Statewide Award**



**State Seal of Civic  
Engagement Santa Clara  
County**





Thank you for taking time from your day to teach us. My favorite part was that you told us about that there is one constitution for California. I liked how you brought your gown in and showed us. Thank soooooo much

Love Macey



**THANK YOU!**

I would like to thank you for sending time on our school to teach us about the Constitution and the history behind it. It was very meaningful to me because from 5 years old I have always wanted to be a lawyer. Now I know lots more about politics and life as a judge. Thank you for teaching me more about history.

*Thank you from Ariana*

Dear Justice Greenwood,



When I heard that you were coming.

*It was an honor to meet with you. It's not that everyday you get the opportunity to meet a justice in real life who actually took the time to talk with us all (And reading this whole entire slide show). I hope that you can come again at this school for the next fifth graders to come. I gained a lot of knowledge about congress, especially about learning some of the amendments. Like how the 19th amendment gave women the right to vote and impeach the president. I have a great passion for the women suffragist movement so I was very hooked onto that. The best thing was that we could actually get real live answers instead of searching it up on the internet. I was always in awe of my pediatrician and any other doctor. Today you inspired me. Now I want to be a justice like you. Once again I give you a lot of credit and thanks for coming.*

Regards,

Ariana



# Community Outreach Committee

Judicial Officers

Attorneys - Justice Partners, Bar Association

Probation - especially Juvenile Justice

Community Organizations (youth focused)

**Educators --- JOIN US!**

Local Leaders

School board members

Self-Help Center

Counselors

Debate Clubs

Office of Women's Policy

Office of LGBTQ+



# Connect with Us...

- ▶ Santa Clara County Superior Court Website

- ▶ <https://santaclara.courts.ca.gov/general-information/court-community>

- ▶ Santa Clara County Superior Court Facebook

- ▶ <facebook.com/SCSCOURT/>



- ▶ Santa Clara County Superior Court X (formerly Twitter)

- ▶ <twitter.com/SCSCourt>



- ▶ Santa Clara County Superior Court LinkedIn

- ▶ <linkedin.com/company/santaclaracountysuperiorcourt>



- ▶ Chair Court Community Outreach Committee,  
Judge Julia Alloggiamento LinkedIn





# Questions?

Judge Julia Alloggiamiento  
[jaloggiamiento@scscourt.org](mailto:jaloggiamiento@scscourt.org)

Rafael Jimenez  
[events@scscourt.org](mailto:events@scscourt.org)

