

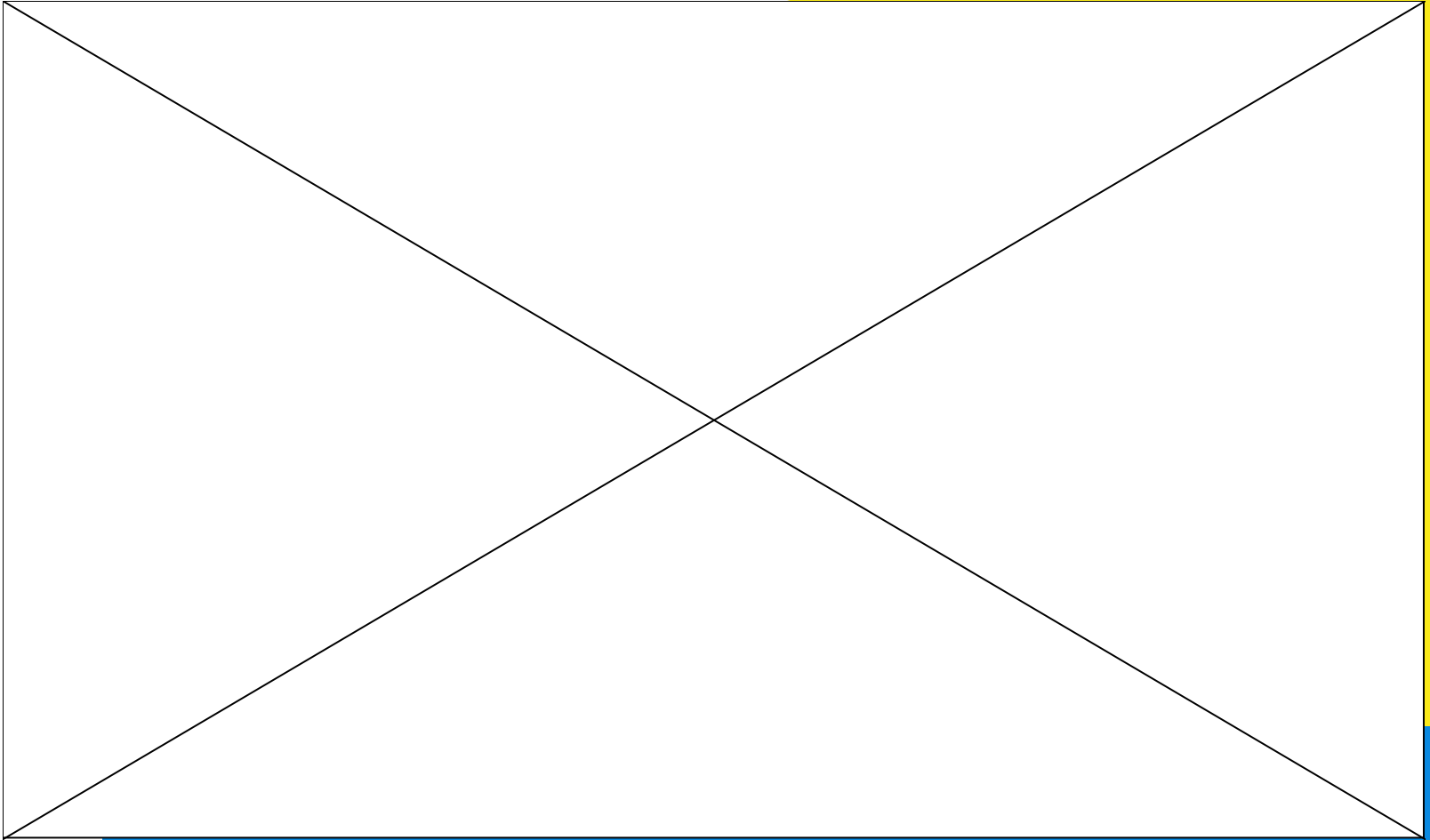
# Obligations and Responsibilities

The critical role of civic participation!

## Benchmarks

**SS.7.C.2.2** Evaluate the obligations citizens have to obey laws, pay taxes, defend the nation, and serve on juries.





# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PARTICIPATORY CITIZEN?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhAV-Z7thbc>

# Obligations and Responsibilities of Citizens

**HOW DO CITIZENS  
PARTICIPATE?**

# What does that mean?

## Obligation/Duty

- An obligation or duty is something you *must* do because of legal requirement

Can you think of some examples?

## Responsibility

- A responsibility is something that you are *expected* to do

Can you think of some examples?

# Examples of **Obligations/Duties**



- Obey the law
- Pay taxes
- Defend the nation
  - Register for **selective service**: draft; required military service during times of need
- Serve on juries



# Examples of **civic responsibilities**:



- Voting
- Attending civic meetings
- Petitioning the government
  - Petition: to make a formal request of government
- Running for office



# Fulfilling Our Obligations and Responsibilities

What do we achieve by fulfilling our obligations and responsibilities in our communities?

**COMMON GOOD!**

**Common good is supporting the good of the community as a whole.**

In your group, come up with 5 ways you support the common good in your school or local community.

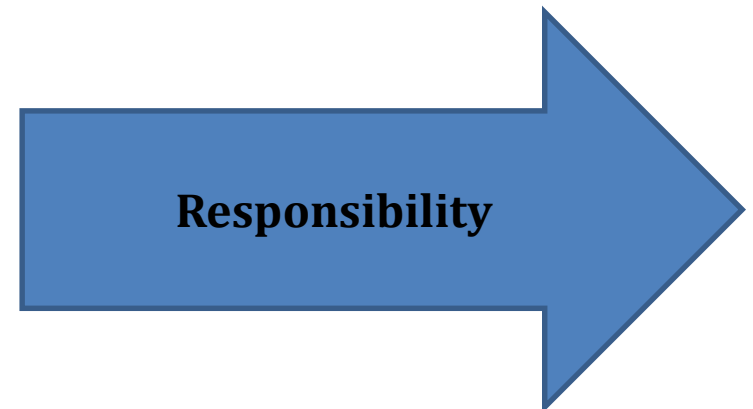
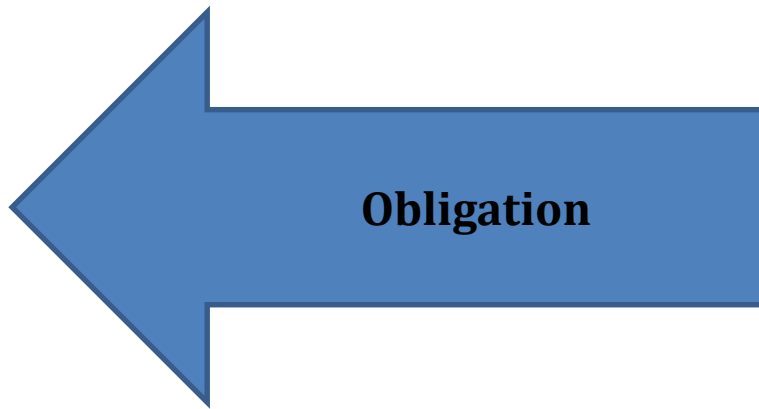
**HOW DO YOU SUPPORT THE  
COMMON GOOD?**

# What do you think?

What would be the consequences or outcome on society if citizens did not fulfill their responsibilities?


# Test your knowledge...

1. Read the situation on the slide.
2. If you think it is a responsibility, you will go to the right side of the room.
3. If you think it is an obligation, go to the left side of the room.



# Scenario 1

Mark receives a **summons** for jury duty. He serves on a jury for two weeks listening to testimony about a robbery that took place and determining the verdict for the case along with his fellow jurors.

DISTRICT COURT	SUMMONS FOR JURY SERVICE	PLEASE READ FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS IN THE INFORMATION INCLUDED WITH THIS SUMMONS.
TO:  Participant Number:		
PLEASE BRING THIS UPPER SECTION WITH YOU WHEN YOU REPORT FOR JURY DUTY	THE COURT SUMMONS YOU TO APPEAR FOR JURY DUTY BEGINNING ON THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW.  LOCATION:	

**Is Mark's service on a jury a responsibility or an obligation?**

# Is Mark's service on a jury a responsibility or an obligation?

## Obligation!

Florida law states that any person who is summoned to attend as a juror in any court and who fails to attend without any sufficient excuse shall pay a fine not to exceed \$100.



# Scenario 2

On his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, Marshall went online and registered for the selective service. This means that in a crisis requiring a draft, men would be called in sequence determined by random lottery number and year of birth.

**Is Marshall's registering the selective service a responsibility or an obligation?**

# Is Marshall's registering for the selective service a responsibility or an obligation?

## Obligation!

The Military Selective Service Act states that "it is **the duty of every male citizen of the United States**, and every other male person residing in the United States, who, on the day or days fixed for the first or any subsequent registration, **is between the ages of eighteen and twenty-six, to present himself for and submit to registration.**"



**Obligation**

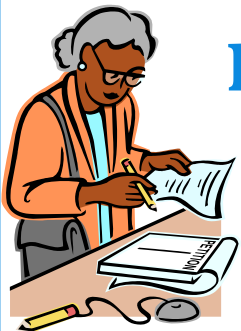


**Responsibility**

# Scenario 3

Shauna did not like a policy that was recently passed by the state legislature. She decided to create a petition supported by members of her community and included a copy of the petition in a letter to her Representative.

**Is petitioning the government a responsibility or an obligation?**



# Is petitioning the government a responsibility or an obligation?

## Responsibility!

Why is petitioning the government an important civic responsibility?



**Obligation**



**Responsibility**

# Scenario 4

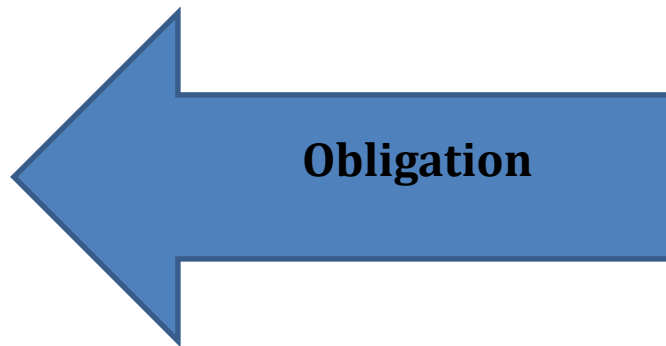
Tax returns are due by midnight April 15<sup>th</sup>, so long as April 15<sup>th</sup> is not a weekend. John forgot to complete a tax return and thought it really was not a big deal – he could just wait until next year.

**Is the filing of a federal tax return a responsibility or an obligation?**

# Is the filing of a federal tax return a responsibility or an obligation?

## Obligation!

- Federal law requires people to pay taxes.



# Scenario 5

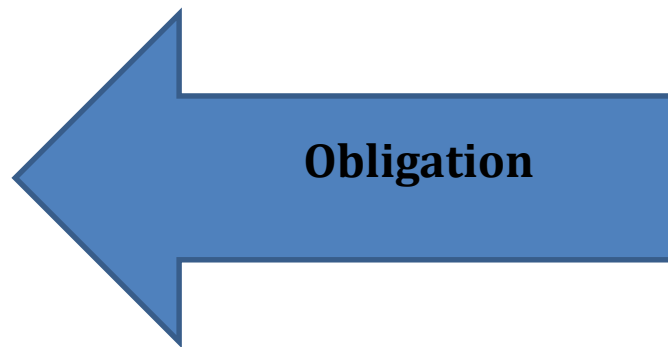
Sarah attends her city commission meetings each month so she can be informed about the issues impacting her community.

**Is attending civic meetings a responsibility or an obligation?**

# Is attending civic meetings a responsibility or an obligation?

## Responsibility!

Why is attending civic meetings an important part of civic participation?



# Scenario 6

Mariselle wakes up at 5:00am to go to the polls for the national elections so she can vote before she has to go to work.

**Is voting in an election a responsibility or an obligation?**



# Is voting in an election a responsibility or an obligation?

## Responsibility!

Why is voting an important form of civic participation?



**Obligation**



**Responsibility**

# Scenario 7

Jackie is going to the grocery store and puts her 2 year old in a car seat in the back seat of the car.



**Is using a car seat for a child a responsibility or an obligation?**

# Is using a car seat for a child a responsibility or an obligation?

## Obligation!

Florida law requires...children through age 3 must be secured in a separate carrier (child safety seat) or in a vehicle manufacturer's integrated child safety seat...Infants must ride rear-facing until they are at least one year old *and* weigh 20 pounds



**Obligation**



**Responsibility**

# Scenario 8

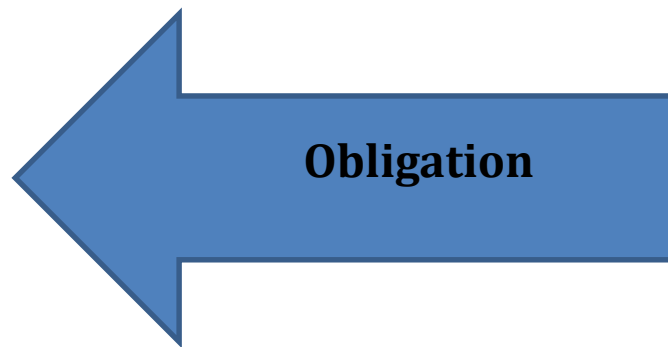
Juan doesn't think his neighborhood association is running efficiently. He decides to run for president of the association in order to correct problems in his neighborhood.

**Is running for an office in civic organization a responsibility or an obligation?**

**Is running for an office in civic organization a responsibility or an obligation?**

**Responsibility!**

Why is running for office an important part of civic participation?



# Civic Participation

- Why is civic participation, both required and voluntary, so important?
  - In society?
  - In government?
  - In the political process?

# Check for Understanding

The illustration below shows a legal document.


DISTRICT COURT

SUMMONS  
FOR JURY  
SERVICE

PLEASE READ  
FURTHER  
INSTRUCTIONS IN  
THE INFORMATION  
INCLUDED WITH THIS  
SUMMONS.

TO:

Participant Number:



PLEASE BRING THIS UPPER  
SECTION WITH YOU WHEN  
YOU REPORT FOR JURY  
DUTY

THE COURT SUMMONS YOU TO APPEAR FOR JURY DUTY  
BEGINNING ON THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW.

LOCATION:

Why are citizens obligated to respond to such documents?

- A. to guarantee court hearings remain public
- B. to guarantee courts provide probable cause
- C. to protect the constitutional right to be tried by one's peers
- D. to protect the constitutional right to confront one's accuser