

Q: Who is your favorite U.S. president, and why?



As an American one of my rights is to vote at age 18. Election Day 1992 was one I will never forget. I was finally able to pull the lever in the polling booth for a presidential election! On that day I voted for my favorite president, William Jefferson Clinton.

— Kandi Antonetti, sixth-grade social-studies teacher, Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School



My favorite president is Barack Obama because he is the first black president and he wants to treat everyone the same. I saw a sign that said, “I have a dream...” by Martin Luther King Jr., and Obama says, “I AM the dream!” And he is right!

— Azsjenny Brown, sixth grade, William S. Hackett Middle School



My favorite president of the United States of America would have to be our current president, Barack Obama. He is my favorite because he is the first African-American president, and because he stayed strong through adversity and tough times in his own life. He gives people hope that they can also make it through adversity, stay strong and become somebody. I feel that Barack Obama has a lot to offer this country and I believe he will be a very successful president.

— Corey Buckner, senior, Albany High School



My favorite president is George Washington because he was a great leader and a great general. He was a great general because of his actions in the Battle of Trenton. He cared about his troops and did not leave them in battle. In the end he won, and I believe they persevered because of his brilliant tactics. He was a great leader because in the winter at Valley Forge his troops did not give up even though they were barefoot, close to death and starving. He lived with them and worked alongside them. He is my favorite president because he was a great American hero.

— Keishla Hernandez, fifth grade, Thomas O’Brien Academy of Science and Technology (TOAST)



My favorite president is Thomas Jefferson. I picked Thomas Jefferson because he is a wonderful person who wrote the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence is important to us today because it is the basis and foundation for everything in America. Also, if there was no Declaration of Independence we would not have a Constitution or Bill of Rights.

— Kayla Hemingway, fifth grade, Giffen Memorial Elementary School



Abraham Lincoln is a magnificent person who led our country through one of the greatest internal crises. His mission was to preserve the union and abolish slavery. As an immigrant, it means so much to me that Lincoln was successful in both. Without Lincoln can you picture our country? We probably would not have the rights we have now. Instead, our country would be divided in two. We should never take this amazing country for granted. “America will never be destroyed from outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.” — Abraham Lincoln.

— Thanh Nguyen, eighth grade, North Albany Academy



My favorite president is Thomas Jefferson. Having participated in Colonial Williamsburg’s Teacher Institute and being submerged in the 18th century I found Jefferson to be intriguing. Besides the writing of the Declaration of Independence, I’m fascinated with his political, leadership and governing ideas, his many inventions and his travel to and quote about Lake George, “The most beautiful water I ever saw.”

— Lynn Willigan, fifth-grade teacher, Eagle Point Elementary School



My favorite president is Barack Obama. He might not have done much yet, but it is going to take time. I love the speeches he gives, and how he and his wife are actually trying to change our country. And he’s black!

— K-Von Williams, freshman, Harriet Gibbons High School