

**Elaborate** Analyze the visual as a class, and ask students the following questions:

- How does this picture illustrate who has the right to vote in this country? (*The picture illustrates this by showing different types of people walking into the polling place. They include a woman and an African American. There was a time when women and African Americans could not vote in this country.*)
- What are the people and signs in the foreground of the picture attempting to do? (*They are attempting to influence people who are about to vote.*)
- How do the signs “More Money for Schools” and “No New Taxes” show opposite sides of an issue? (*If there is to be more money for schools, there will probably have to be new or higher taxes. The people who want more money for schools are probably willing to pay an increased tax. On the other side of the issue are people who do not want any new taxes.*)

**Extend** How were political decisions shaped in the last election? Have students choose the most recent national, state, or local election and gather newspaper or Internet articles about how public opinion, interest groups, and citizen participation shaped the election and helped determine its outcome. Students may choose one issue, or look at the election as a whole. Have them collect articles that trace the emergence of an issue, attempt to sway voters, and include the election results. Have students create a visual display using these articles and take turns sharing them and their findings with the class.

