Christian Calderon, 10, casts his vote as Hillandale Elementary students learned about the voting process Thursday. [PHOTOS BY PATRICK SULLIVAN/TIMES-NEWS]

Students cast votes in mock elections

From staff reports

The "Students Voting for Democracy" civics program kicked off in all 23 schools on Oct. 17.

Students used the Double-Click Democracy platform from KidsVoting USA to digitally cast votes.

The number of races and types of issues on the ballots varied by grade level.

Students in grades 3-5 voted "for" or "against" having the time of the regular school day changed to 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., while students in grades 6-12 voted on whether presidents and vice presidents should be elected by the United States Electoral College.

All students in grades K-12 had the opportunity to vote on whether or not school uniforms should be implemented.

The goal of the Students Voting for Democracy program is to have all HCPS K-12 students cast informed nline votes, and practice researching candidates and issues in preparation for the day they can actually vote in an election.

Students at Hendersonville Middle vote Thursday during their lunch period.

In 2014, almost 6,000 students voted; that number grew to 10,000 in 2016.

Hosted locally by Henderson County Public Schools, the program is supported by the Henderson County League of Women Voters and the Community Foundation.

Students at Hillandale Elementary learn about the voting process Thursday.