



**News Release**  
For Immediate Release

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## **LIBERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 25 STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ARIZONA GOVERNMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**BUCKEYE (September 12, 2023)** – Liberty Elementary School District No. 25 is pleased to announce that seventh-grader Amir Gidado and sixth-grader Keeley Fallstrom, Westar Elementary School students in Connie Crowley’s multi-age gifted class, were selected to participate in a program sponsored by the Arizona State Bar called [Kids Voting Arizona](#). Founded in the 1980’s, Kids Voting Arizona is a nonprofit, nonpartisan education program for students who are interested in learning about the government. Amir and Keeley joined other valley students in the program to not only learn about our state’s democracy, but to also see how it works through meeting Arizona legislators.



“This program provides an exciting opportunity for our students to get an up-close look at the functions of our government,” said Dave Bogart, principal at Westar Elementary School. “I am proud Amir and Keeley are representing Westar and I look forward to hearing about their experiences in this program.”

Westar students Amir Gidado, seventh-grader, and Keeley Fallstrom, sixth-grader, participating in Kids Voting Arizona program



Crowley accompanied Amir and Keeley on their first visit on August 24 to meet Secretary of State Adrian Fontes. In preparation, Amir and Keeley researched the Secretary of State’s responsibilities, in addition to Fontes’ background, career journey, and his fundamental beliefs about our democracy. They came ready to ask questions, and Fontes answered candidly.

“Secretary Fontes reminded me that the diversity of ideas is good because it represents all people, and we have to open our minds to see from all of those views, not just our own,” Amir said.

Secretary of State Adrian Fontes granted Amir Gidado as Assistant Secretary of State for the day.

Fontes was so impressed that he named Amir the Assistant Secretary of the State for the day and officially sealed his certificate with the Arizona State Seal.

“We have symbols in our culture to remind us of the things we stand for. The Great Seal of Arizona helps to remind us

of our roots that cotton, cattle, citrus, copper and our climate are unique and all play an important part in our economy,” Keeley said.

After visiting the Secretary of State's office, Mrs. Crowley took the students on a tour of the Arizona Capitol Museum and shared with them the history and importance of preserving it. At their next meeting, the students will visit the Tabulation Center to see how votes are counted.

"Civic engagement is one of the most powerful ways we can guide the world around us," Crowley said. "We must be informed and educated to seek understanding of the world and this opportunity will open the eyes of those who participate in our democracy, and will ignite passion within them to share with others what they have learned."

### **About LESD25**

Founded in 1887, the Liberty Elementary School District No. 25 spans 285 square miles including rural and suburban settings. It has grown from a historic one-room schoolhouse, to seven kindergarten through eighth grade schools between Buckeye and Goodyear, educating more than 4,500 students. Each school is tailored to serve students based on their interests through unique signature programs. LESD25 prepares all students for success in high school and beyond with engaging and challenging learning environments. Through individual accomplishment, personal leadership, and contribution to their community, children flourish. Discover more at [liberty25.org](http://liberty25.org).

***Cultivating curious, confident, problem solvers prepared for tomorrow.***

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