

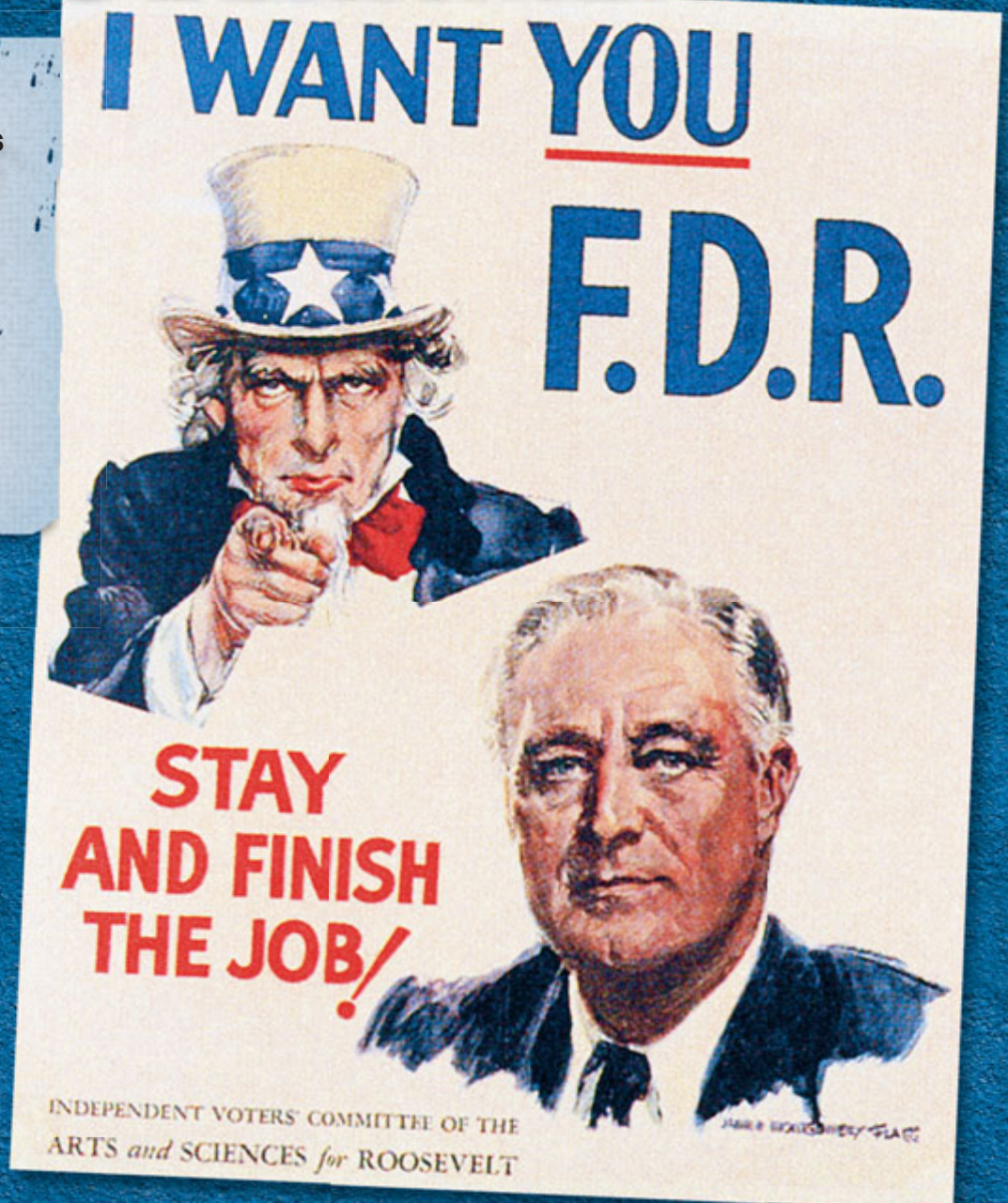
UNIT 4

THE CITIZEN IN GOVERNMENT

CHAPTER 10
Electing Leaders

CHAPTER 11
The Political
System

CHAPTER 12
Paying for
Government



In 1940, American voters elected Franklin D. Roosevelt to a third term as U.S. president.



FLORIDA...

The Story Continues

CHAPTER 10, Electing Leaders

EVENTS

2000: The 2000 presidential election reaches a deadlock in Florida. On November 7, 2000, Florida's votes for president were counted. Republican candidate George W. Bush had a lead of 327 votes over Democratic candidate Al Gore. In Florida, when election results are very close, candidates may ask for a recount. Gore asked for a recount of votes in four counties. Bush went to court to block the recount. The case, *Bush v. Gore*, went to the U.S. Supreme Court. Five of the nine justices decided to end the recount. As a result, Bush won the election and became president.

PEOPLE

2000: Katherine Harris oversees a historical recount of votes in Florida. Florida's Secretary of State is also the Chief of Elections. This duty requires the Secretary to announce election results. On November 7, 2000, however, Secretary of State Katherine Harris could not announce the results of the presidential election. It was too close to call. Harris then became responsible for overseeing a recount of many Florida votes. She made sure it was done fairly and according to the law. On November 26, 2000, Harris announced the results. George W. Bush had a 537-vote lead.

PLACES

2006: An election in Sarasota is upset by voting machines. An election in the 13th congressional district in Sarasota, Florida, may have been decided by voting machines, not voters. After candidate Christine Jennings lost the election by 369 votes, people raised questions about the voting machines. The machines had touch screens and did not create paper records. As a result, the votes could not be checked.

EVENTS**2007: New laws give voting rights back to former prisoners.**

In Florida, people who are convicted of serious crimes lose their right to vote. Once out of prison, former prisoners have often had to fight to get back their voting rights. In 2007, Florida put in place new laws to make it easier for people who have served time to regain the right to vote. Between April 2007 and March 2008, nearly 150,000 people regained the right to vote after getting out of prison.

EVENTS**2008: Florida holds presidential primary in January.**

The state of Florida broke rules established by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) when it held its presidential primary before February 5, 2008. The DNC debated how to respond. It considered keeping Florida's delegates from voting at the Democratic convention in the summer. In the end, however, the DNC decided to count Florida delegates' votes as half-votes.

PEOPLE**2004: Susan Pynchon founds the Florida Fair Elections Coalition.**

In 2004, Susan Pynchon was upset by elections in Florida that had been affected by faulty or unreliable voting machines. The goal of the organization she founded is to give all Florida voters access to accurate voting machines. These machines create paper ballots that can be double-checked.



Unpacking the Florida Standards <...>

Read the following to learn what this standard says and what it means. See FL8-FL20 to unpack all the other standards related to this chapter.

Benchmark SS.7.C.2.8 Identify America's current political parties, and illustrate their ideas about government.

What does it mean?

Identify the major political parties currently active in the American political process. Show an understanding of each party's beliefs about government. Go to Chapter 10, Electing Leaders, for help.



CHAPTER 10

ELECTING LEADERS

Essential Question How does the two-party system work in the United States? How do voters elect their political representatives?



Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

SS.7.C.2.7 Conduct a mock election to demonstrate the voting process and its impact on a school, community, or local level. **SS.7.C.2.8** Identify America's current political parties, and illustrate their ideas about government. **SS.7.C.2.9** Evaluate candidates for political office by analyzing their qualifications, experience, issue-based platforms, debates, and political ads. **SS.7.C.2.10** Examine the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing government. **SS.7.C.2.11** Analyze media and political communications (bias, symbolism, propaganda). **SS.7.C.2.13** Examine multiple perspectives on public and current issues. **LA.7.1.6.1** The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly. **LA.7.1.7.1** The student will use background knowledge of subject and related content areas, prereading strategies, graphic representations, and knowledge of text structure to make and confirm complex predictions of content, purpose, and organization of a reading selection.



**HISTORY**

**FLORIDA**
WINNER
Al Gore

The Electoral College

 hmhsocialstudies.com **VIDEO**

WHY CIVICS Matters

Will you be ready to vote when you turn 18? Voting is a responsibility that all citizens should take seriously. Study the U.S. political process carefully. What you learn now will help you become a well-informed and intelligent voter later.



STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

STUDENTS GET A NEW LIBRARY FOR THEIR SCHOOL What would you do if your school did not have a library? How would you approach the elected leaders on your school board and convince them to establish a library?

FOCUS ON SPEAKING

CAMPAIGN PROMISES In this chapter you will read about how we elect our leaders and how candidates run for office. Then you will create and present a list of campaign promises that you would make if you were running for student body president. You must convince voters that you should be the one to tackle the important issues your school faces.

Reading Skills

In this chapter you will read about political parties and how the United States developed a strong two-party system. As you read, you will learn how political parties are organized and funded, and how they work to get candidates

elected. You will read about the right to vote and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which ensures the voting rights of all citizens. You will also read about presidential elections and how each party's candidates are chosen.

Identifying Bias

FOCUS ON READING

Citizens often disagree about political and social issues. As you consider various viewpoints, you need to learn to recognize bias. Bias is a personal judgment not based on reason. People who see only one side of an issue or situation may become biased, or prejudiced against other points of view.

Recognizing Bias Bias is a negative attitude that keeps a person from being objective or fair. Bias sometimes leads people to see other viewpoints as completely wrong or bad without fully considering the issue. Recognizing a speaker or writer's bias will help you to evaluate how reliable their views are. For example, read the passage below. Do you think the author was biased?

Helpful Hints for Identifying Bias

1. Look at the words or images a writer uses. Do they present only one side? Are they emotionally charged?
2. Look at the writer's background to see if it would affect a particular point of view.
3. Look at the information. How much is opinion, and how much is fact?

"[Party loyalty to political parties] agitates the Community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms; kindles the animosity of one part against another, foment[s] occasionally riot and insurrection [revolt]. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption."

—President George Washington's Farewell Address, 1796

Emotionally charged words: the words *agitates*, *animosity*, and *corruption* are negative.

The speaker's background: Washington feared that political parties would weaken the new government.

Facts or opinions: This statement is all opinion.

George Washington appears to be biased against political parties.

SS.7.C.2.11 Analyze media and political communications (bias, symbolism, propaganda).



LA.7.1.7.1

21ST
CENTURY

You Try It!

The following passage is from the chapter you are about to read. Read it and then answer the questions below.

Political Party Finances

*From Chapter
10, p. 257*

The BCRA requires every political candidate in federal elections to report the name of each person who contributes \$200 or more in a year. The law limits individual contributions to candidates to \$2,100 for primary elections and another \$2,100 for general elections. The Federal Election Commission enforces these laws. However, individuals and groups can still make unlimited contributions to activities, such as advertisements about issues, that are not part of a federal candidate's campaign. These are called "soft money" contributions.

After you have read the passage, answer the following questions.

1. You are the editor of your town's newspaper. You think the Federal Election Commission Act should be changed to prohibit contributions of soft money to political parties. You decide to write an editorial to express your opinion. Which of the phrases below would reveal your personal bias to your readers? Why? What words in each statement create bias?
 - a. greedy politicians selling their votes
 - b. ensuring equal opportunities for all candidates
 - c. spineless Federal Election Commission
 - d. concerned voters
2. If you were going to write the editorial described in question 1, how could you avoid biased statements? How do you think this might affect people's reactions to your writing?

As you read Chapter 10, think about how bias might creep into the campaign and election process.

SS.7.C.2.11 Analyze media and political communications (bias, symbolism, propaganda).

KEY TERMS

CHAPTER 10

Section 1

political party (p. 252)
nominate (p. 252)
candidate (p. 252)
political spectrum (p. 252)
two-party system (p. 252)
multiparty system (p. 253)
coalition (p. 253)
one-party system (p. 253)
third parties (p. 254)

Section 2

precincts (p. 256)
polling place (p. 256)

Section 3

independent voters (p. 259)
primary election (p. 259)
general election (p. 259)
closed primary (p. 259)
open primary (p. 259)
secret ballot (p. 261)

Section 4

popular vote (p. 263)
elector (p. 263)
electoral college (p. 263)
electoral votes (p. 263)
platform (p. 264)
plank (p. 264)

Academic Vocabulary

Success in school is related to knowing academic vocabulary—the words that are frequently used in school assignments and discussions. In this chapter, you will learn the following academic words:

impact (p. 252)
process (p. 264)

SECTION 1



SS.7.C.2.8; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

A Two-Party System

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

Political parties play an important role in the American democratic process. Party supporters put their political ideas to work at all levels of government.

Reading Focus

1. What is the role of political parties in the United States?
2. What are the differences between two-party and one-party political systems?
3. What impact have third parties had on the United States?

Key Terms

political party, p. 252
nominate, p. 252
candidate, p. 252
political spectrum, p. 252
two-party system, p. 252
multiparty system, p. 253
coalition, p. 253
one-party system, p. 253
third parties, p. 254



Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the similarities and differences between the two main political parties in the United States.



Do you consider yourself politically liberal or conservative? Are you conservative on some issues and liberal on other issues? Most of us fall somewhere in the middle. In any case, we can always change our minds. The strengths of our two-party system are that it offers choice and provides stability.

Political Parties

In democratic countries, citizens often join or support political parties. A **political party** is a group of citizens with similar views on public issues who work to put their ideas into effective government action. One job of political parties is to **nominate**, or select, candidates to run for political office. A **candidate** is a person who runs for government office.

The Role of Political Parties

Political parties try to convince voters to elect candidates who support the party's ideas. Most Americans who serve as public officials have been elected as candidates of a political party.

Political parties often take different positions on key issues. Some parties favor major

changes to government policy. Others want few changes. Parties are often labeled as "liberal" or "conservative." Depending on their views, parties can be placed along a political spectrum. The term **political spectrum** refers to the range of differences in such political views between parties.

The Two-Party System

In the United States today, we have a **two-party system**, which means that we have two main political parties. In fact, the United States has hundreds of parties. However, smaller political parties do not usually have a significant **impact** on national politics. The Democratic Party and the Republican Party are the two main parties. Generally, the Democratic Party is said to be more liberal. It favors a greater role for the federal government in providing social programs than the Republican Party does. In contrast, the Republican Party is said to be more conservative. It is more likely to support reducing the power of the federal government in operating social programs. Republicans generally believe that social programs should be created and

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

impact: effect, result

SS.7.C.2.8 Identify America's current political parties, and illustrate their ideas about government.

run by state and local governments and by nongovernmental organizations.

Advantages of the Two-Party System

Since the Civil War, the Democratic and Republican Parties have had almost equal strength, making the two-party system work remarkably well. Each party tries to attract as many voters as possible. So both parties tend to offer ideas and policies that are near the center of public opinion. Neither party wants to offer policies that might be considered too extreme. They know that if they fail to please a majority of voters, those voters may join the other party. This means that government policies are unlikely to change drastically in a short period of time.

Multiparty Systems

Several European countries have a **multi-party system**—one in which there are more than two strong political parties. If all the parties are of about equal strength, no one party can win a majority of votes. To run the government, two or more of the political parties must often agree to compromise and work together. This agreement between two or more political parties to work together is called a **coalition**. Coalition governments have worked well in some cases. However, this system has certain disadvantages. Often the political parties disagree. Then the coalition breaks apart, weakening both the government and the country.

One-Party Governments

In some countries voters have no choice between political parties. In countries with a **one-party system**, a single political party controls the government. In a one-party system, the law usually forbids the formation of all other political parties. Governments arising out of such a system are sometimes called dictatorships or totalitarian governments.

READING CHECK

Contrasting What is the major difference between one-party and two-party systems?

QUICK FACTS

Third-Party Candidates for President



Theodore Roosevelt

Election: 1912

Party: Progressive, or “Bull Moose”

Distinction: After serving as Republican president from 1901 to 1909, Roosevelt ran as a third-party candidate in 1912. He succeeded in taking votes from Republican William Taft, and Woodrow Wilson, the Democrat, won.



Lenora Fulani

Election: 1988, 1992

Party: New Alliance, Reform

Distinction: Fulani was the first woman and first African American person to appear on the ballot as a presidential candidate in all 50 states.

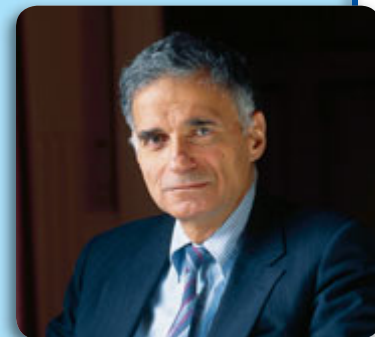


Ross Perot

Election: 1992, 1996

Party: United We Stand America, Reform

Distinction: Perot won 19 percent of vote in 1992—the highest of any third-party candidate since Roosevelt—and may have cost George H. W. Bush reelection. In 1996, he won 8 percent of the vote.



Ralph Nader

Election: 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008

Party: Green, Independent

Distinction: Many people believe that Nader split the liberal vote in the 2000 and 2004 elections, helping to ensure wins for George Bush.

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING INFORMATION

How can third-party candidates affect presidential elections even if they do not win?

Third Parties

The Democrats and Republicans dominate the U.S. political system. However, a number of **third parties** do exist. At times, third parties have greatly influenced national politics, even though their candidate did not win the election.

In 1912, the Republican Party denied Theodore Roosevelt its presidential nomination. As a result, Roosevelt organized a third party called the Progressive Party. He ran as the new party's presidential candidate. Roosevelt was not elected, but he took votes from Republican candidate William Taft. In this way, Roosevelt actually helped Democratic candidate Woodrow Wilson win the presidency.

In 1992 independent Ross Perot ran against Democrat Bill Clinton and Republican George Bush. Perot had the strongest showing of any third party or independent presidential candidate since Theodore Roosevelt. Although Bill Clinton won the presidential election, Perot won an impressive

19 percent of the vote. As in 1912, Perot's involvement in the election may have cost George Bush the election.

Third-party candidates have run for office throughout U.S. history. Few have done as well as Roosevelt and Perot. However, sometimes third parties have proposed important new ideas. For example, in the late 1800s, a group of citizens who favored several new ideas, such as a graduated income tax, an eight-hour workday, and immigration reform, formed the Populist Party. One of the Populist ideas was the election of U.S. senators directly by the voters. Democratic and Republican Party leaders favored the election of senators by the state legislatures as provided in the Constitution. Public support for the Populist proposal grew, however. As a result, the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution, which changed the method of electing U.S. senators, was adopted.

READING CHECK

Analyzing Information How have third parties affected U.S. politics?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT



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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- a. Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **political party**, **nominate**, **candidate**, and **political spectrum**.
b. Elaborate How might a political party convince voters to vote for its candidate?
- a. Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **two-party system**, **multiparty system**, **coalition**, and **one-party system**.
b. Summarize What are the reasons that American citizens might reject a one-party system?
- a. Define** Write a brief definition of the term **third parties**.
b. Predict How might a third-party candidate win the presidency?

Critical Thinking

- Comparing and Contrasting** Copy the graphic organizer. Then compare and contrast a two-party

political system, a multiparty political system, and a one-party political system.

	Two-Party	Multiparty	One-Party
Stability of Government			
Number of presidential candidates			
Response to public opinion			

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Supporting a Point of View** Imagine that you are a political expert advising citizens in a newly formed country on their country's future. Write a speech telling these citizens whether you think their country should have a two-party or a multiparty system, and where each party should fall on the political spectrum.

SECTION 2



SS.7.C.2.10; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

Political Party Organization

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea


Political parties have workers and committees at the local, state, and national levels. The party nominates candidates for office and campaigns to get those candidates elected.

Reading Focus

1. How are political parties organized?
2. How do political parties operate at the local level?
3. What are the two main sources of money for financing political campaigns?

Key Terms

precincts, p. 256
polling place, p. 256

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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the responsibilities of party committees, political party finances, and the public financing of presidential elections.



Young people often volunteer to work in political campaigns.



If your class is planning to have a dance, a good first step would be to form a committee. A committee decides the theme, place, and other details for the dance. No one wants to get on the dance floor and discover there's no music. Effective action requires organization. This is especially true in politics. As a result, Republican and Democratic Parties are organized at the local, state, and national levels.

Party Organization

Political parties exist for one reason: to nominate and elect candidates to office. An effective party must be well organized. It must have leaders, committees, and workers able to carry out the party's program. The party must also be organized at the local, state, and national levels. It must be able to raise money to pay its expenses. The party must nominate its candidates for office and plan its campaign strategies to get these candidates elected.



FOCUS ON Barack Obama

(1961-)

In 2004, the people of Illinois elected Democrat Barack Obama to the U.S. Senate. He won a national reputation with his keynote address during the Democratic

National Convention that year.

After graduating from law school, Obama worked in New York and Chicago as a civil rights lawyer and a community organizer. He was teaching constitutional law at the University of Chicago when he won a seat in the Illinois state Senate in 1997.

Obama ran his U.S. Senate race against former ambassador Alan Keyes. He won in a landslide. In 2008 Obama secured the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. He then won the general election, the first African American to achieve either goal.

Analyzing Information How do you think Barack Obama's education and experience prepared him for public office?

Party Committees

Over the years, party members have established procedures for carrying out all of their activities. Today, both major parties—and many smaller parties—are organized in much the same way. The planning for each political party is done through a series of committees. Each political party has a national committee and a state central committee in each state. Each party also has local committees at the county, city, and sometimes township levels.

A chairperson heads each committee. Party supporters usually elect the committee members at election time. Sometimes, the members are chosen at special meetings of party leaders called caucuses.

National Committees

The largest party committee is the national committee. Members of the national committee may be elected by a state convention, elected by voters in a statewide election, or chosen by the state central committee. The party's presidential candidate often chooses the national committee chairperson.

The national committee selects the date, location, and rules for the party's national nominating convention. The party chooses its presidential and vice presidential candidates at this official party meeting.

State Committees

Each party has a state committee in each of the 50 states. This committee supervises the party organization in each state. It raises money and organizes campaigns to help candidates win elections. This committee's chairperson is a key party member in the state. He or she is often a member of the national committee.

READING CHECK

Categorizing What are the functions of political party committees?

Local Organization

Perhaps the most important political party committees are those at the local level. These committees are responsible for conducting all local campaigns. They raise money for the party and party candidates. Party members elect local committee members. Committee members elect chairpersons and serve as local party leaders. For elections, all counties, cities, and wards are divided into voting districts called **precincts**. In each precinct, voters all vote at the same polling place. A **polling place** is where voting takes place. A rural precinct may cover large areas of countryside. A precinct in a city may cover just a few blocks. The precinct chair or captain is the party leader in the precinct.

Precinct leaders are busy at election time. For example, they organize volunteers to **distribute** campaign literature. They arrange to have voters with disabilities driven to the polling place. They have party workers telephone voters and urge them to vote for party candidates.

READING CHECK

Finding the Main Idea What role do parties play in the voting process at the local level?

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

distribute: to divide among a group of people

Financing Campaigns

Running for political office is expensive. For example, the presidential candidates who ran in the 2004 election raised a total of more than \$900 million for the campaigns.

Private Financing

Voters, business groups, labor unions, and many other organizations contribute money to the political party that they believe best represents their interests. However, people often worry that big contributors to a candidate will receive special favors if he or she wins. To limit political contributions, Congress passed the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) in 1972. In 2002, Congress passed the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), which revised the contribution limits.

The BCRA requires every political candidate in federal elections to report the name of each person who contributes \$200 or more in a year. The law limits individual contributions to candidates to \$2,100 for primary elections and another \$2,100 for general elections. The Federal Election Commission enforces these laws. However, individuals and groups can still make unlimited contributions to activities, such as advertisements about issues, that

are not part of a federal candidate's campaign. These are called "soft money" contributions.

Public Financing

The FECA also created the Presidential Election Campaign Fund. By checking a box on their federal income tax forms, Americans can contribute \$3 of their taxes to the election fund. This neither raises nor lowers the amount of tax a person pays.

The U.S. Treasury distributes the fund's money to the candidates. To be eligible, a presidential candidate trying to win a party's nomination for president must first raise at least \$5,000 from private contributions in each of at least 20 states. The candidate then can receive up to a certain amount in matching public funds. To receive public funds, however, candidates must agree to limit their spending in nomination campaigns.

After winning the nomination of their party, presidential candidates who accept public financing cannot accept private contributions. Their campaigns must be paid for only with the public funds they receive.

SS.7.C.2.10 Examine the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing government.

READING CHECK

Finding the Main Idea What are the two ways that presidential campaigns may be financed?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- a. Identify** What are the three different levels of committees in political parties?
b. Describe How does each level of party committees help elect candidates to office?
- a. Define** Write a brief description of the terms **precincts** and **polling places**.
b. Summarize What are the functions of party committees?
- a. Analyze** Why did Congress pass the Federal Election Campaign Act in 1972?
b. Evaluate What are the advantages and disadvantages of federal funding of presidential campaigns?

Critical Thinking

- Summarizing** Copy the graphic organizer. Use it to identify the levels of committees that run each of the major political parties and the functions of each committee.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Supporting a Point of View** Create a pamphlet explaining the guidelines you would suggest for federal financing of presidential campaigns.

STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

Creating a Library

Most schools in the United States have libraries for their students. What do you think you would do if your school did not have a library? A well-prepared proposal from student leaders in Rabat, Morocco, convinced the school's parent association to create and staff a school library.

Community Connection Morocco's Ministry of Education requires every school to have a library. However, it does not outline how those libraries should be organized or run. At one school in the city of Rabat, administrators just put textbooks on a few shelves in a classroom. There were no general interest books. There was no space for students to sit and read.

Taking Action Project Citizen students in Mr. Mohammed Moussi's class wanted a real library, with space for books, a reading area, and a well-trained librarian. The teens studied their school. They discovered that, although a library was included in the school's original architectural plan, it was never built. The students developed a proposal to build a new library, specifying its size, location, and cost. They identified partners to help sponsor the project, including parents, charity organizations, private donors, and local government. The students then submitted their plan to the school administration and parents' association. Parents soon began collecting books and equipment and searching for a librarian. The teens' leadership efforts have also expanded public awareness of the need to include libraries in other Moroccan schools.



School libraries are important for all students.

SERVICE LEARNING



1. Why do you think students wanted a library in their school?
2. How do you think students decided which groups to contact to get support for their ideas?

hmhsocialstudies.com **ACTIVITY**

SECTION 3



SS.7.C.2.13; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

The Right to Vote

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

The right to vote is one of the most important rights held by U.S. citizens. It is the means through which citizens can most directly affect the actions of government.

Reading Focus

1. How do you become a voter in the United States?
2. What is the difference between primary elections and general elections?
3. How has the voting process changed over the years?

Key Terms

independent voters, p. 259
primary election, p. 259
general election, p. 259
closed primary, p. 259
open primary, p. 259
secret ballot, p. 261



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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on qualifications for voting, primary and general elections, and changes in the voting process.



Voting is key to democracy. If no one votes, democracy fails. If you don't vote, your voice is not heard.

Becoming a Voter

When they reach the age of 18, all U.S. citizens become eligible to vote in national, state, and local elections. The right to vote is one of the most important rights that you have.

Each state decides qualifications for registering to vote and voting. To register to vote, a person must be 18 by a set date before the next election. The Constitution forbids any state to deny a citizen the right to vote on the basis of race, color, or sex.

Most states require voters to register by giving their name, address, date of birth, and other information showing that they meet the voting qualifications. Their names are placed on a roll of eligible voters and they may be given cards showing that they are registered voters. Voter registration protects your vote. No one can vote more than once or claim to be you and cast your vote. When people register to vote, they may be asked to register as a member of the political party of their choice. They can change parties later by

registering again. Citizens may also register as **independent voters**, which means that they are not members of a political party.

READING CHECK

Finding the Main Idea Why is voter registration important?

Elections

Most states hold two types of elections. The **primary election** takes place first and is usually held in the late spring or early summer. The primary election allows voters to choose the party candidates who will run in the later **general election**. The general election is where voters choose their leaders from the candidates offered by all the political parties.

Primary Elections

The two main types of primary elections are the closed primary and the open primary. In the **closed primary**, only those voters who are registered in a particular party can vote to choose the party's candidates. Most states use the closed primary. Those people who have registered as independent voters cannot vote in a closed primary. In the **open primary**, voters may vote for the candidates of either major party, whether or not the voters belong to that party.

Early Primaries

In the months before a presidential election, people vote in primary elections (sometimes called caucuses) to choose which candidate will represent their party. Candidates try to gain momentum in the early primaries to help them win their party's nomination. Do people in your state have a fair voice in this process?

Why it Matters

The attention given to the winners of the earliest primary elections often helps those candidates gain more support in the following primaries. This makes the first primaries very important. Too important, some people think. Lesser-known candidates may not win early primaries. So they may have trouble raising money and getting noticed by the media later in the race. This system of giving the early primaries extra influence is called front-loading.

Traditionally, the first primary election in the country was held by New Hampshire in late January. Should a state with a small population have so much influence? To increase their power in candidate selection, other states started holding their primaries early in the year too. In 2008 both Iowa and Wyoming held caucuses before New Hampshire's primary. That same year, 39 states held one or both parties' primaries or caucuses before the end of February. Some people, however, oppose this shortened election season. They are developing ways to balance primaries.



Rudy Giuliani dropped out of the 2008 presidential race after poor showings in early primaries.

ANALYSIS SKILL

EVALUATING THE LAW

1. Do you think the primary election system is the best way to choose presidential candidates? Explain.
2. What changes, if any, would you make to the primary system?

 hmhsocialstudies.com **ACTIVITY**

In most states, whoever receives the most votes wins the primary election. In some states, however, the winner must receive a majority, or more than half, of the votes. If no candidate receives a majority, a runoff between the two leading candidates decides the winner.

In some states, political parties choose their candidates in a nominating convention. Various party committees select the delegates to this convention. The delegates then vote to choose candidates.

Independent Candidates

An independent candidate—one who does not belong to a political party—can have his or her name printed on the general election ballot if enough supporters sign a petition. Independent candidates usually receive only local grassroots support from individuals. Thus independent candidates are not elected as often as major-party candidates.

It is even possible to be elected without having your name on the ballot. Some states let voters write in the name of a candidate.

General Elections

Congress set the date for the general election of the president and Congress as the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November. Presidential elections take place every four years. Congressional elections occur every two years. Most general elections for state officials are also held in November. The president and members of Congress are elected in even-numbered years. State election dates are set by each state and can vary.

READING CHECK

Contrasting How do primary elections differ from general elections?

Voting

Voting methods have changed a great deal since the first elections were held in the United States. The responsibilities shared by voters, however, have remained the same.

Early Voting

During the first part of the 1800s, voting in the United States was usually by voice vote. Voters announced aloud to the election official their choice of candidate. This meant a person's vote was public knowledge.

In 1888, the United States adopted the secret ballot. A **secret ballot** is a paper ballot that lists the names of the candidates. A voter marks his or her ballot in private. Voting with ballots helps make elections fair and honest.

Voting Today

Today many states offer alternatives to the paper ballot, such as mechanical lever machines, punchcards, marksense, and direct recording electronic (DRE) systems. Voters using punchcards punch holes in paper to indicate their choices. The marksense or optical scan system requires voters to fill in little black circles or arrows with a pencil. The DRE system provides voters with the ballot on a special touch screen. Voters

select their candidates by touching the person's name on the screen.

Polling places are usually open from early in the morning until evening on election day. In most states, the law requires that employers must give employees time off to vote.

Many voters vote a straight ticket—that is, they vote for all of the candidates of one party. Other voters vote a split ticket—choosing candidates of more than one political party.

However they vote, citizens should learn as much as possible about the candidates and issues. This allows voters to make informed choices that best reflect their views. Voting wisely is a key part of good citizenship.

READING CHECK

Summarizing How have voting methods changed during the past 200 years?

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT



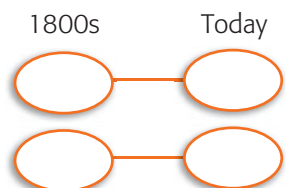
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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- a. Define** Write a brief definition of the term **independent voters**.
b. Summarize How does a person become a voter in the United States?
- a. Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **primary election, general election, closed primary, and open primary**.
b. Contrast What are the differences between an open primary and a closed primary?
- a. Define** Write a brief definition of the term **secret ballot**.
b. Interpret Why was the secret ballot method of voting developed?

Critical Thinking

- Contrasting** Copy the graphic organizer. Use it to show the ways that voting has changed since the first part of the 1800s.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Contrasting** Write a brief paragraph describing the different types of primary elections and the difference between primaries and general elections.

Reading an Election Map

Learn

Election maps often appear on the news to show the results of U.S. presidential elections. These maps show the votes that each candidate has—by state, county, or precinct. Usually, red indicates Republican states or counties, and blue represents Democratic areas. Third-party candidates show up on an election map if they receive enough votes.

Except for Maine and Nebraska each state gives all its electoral votes to the candidate who wins the most votes. The margin of victory in each state is not important. Similarly, the number of counties that a candidate wins is not as critical as the total number of votes he or she gets.

Practice

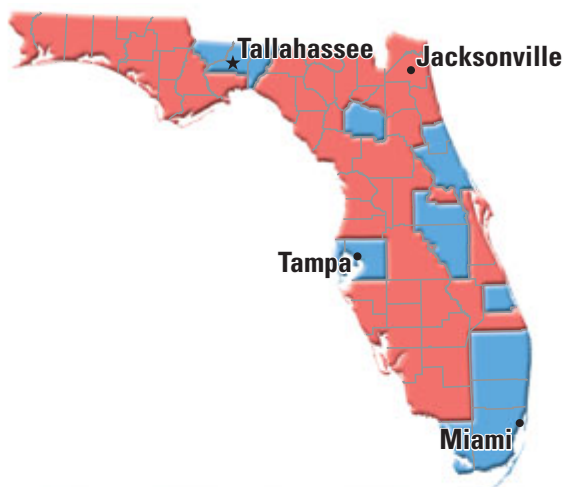
- 1 Notice where “red” and “blue” areas are concentrated. On a national election map, figure out which regions were won by the Democrats or the Republicans. On state election maps, look for how people voted in different counties.
- 2 Determine whether a certain state had a close race. Except in Maine and Nebraska, only one candidate can win all the electoral votes. But a close race can matter for future election campaigns.
- 3 Pay attention to the total number of votes each candidate got. In order to win the state, a candidate needs the majority of the state’s votes, not the majority of the counties or precincts. By winning more populous counties, he or she may have a greater chance at winning the state.

Apply

The Florida election map below shows results from the 2008 presidential election. Use the map to answer the following questions.

1. Just by looking at the red and blue areas of the map, how close does the election in Florida appear to have been?
2. Look at the vote totals in the map key. What percentage of the vote did each candidate win?
3. What might explain the difference between the number of counties that each candidate won and the actual vote totals for each candidate?

2008 Election Results in Florida Counties



Candidate	Political Affiliation	Counties Won	Popular Votes
Barack Obama	Democratic	15	4,282,074
John McCain	Republican	52	4,045,624
TOTAL		67	8,327,698

— County boundaries

SECTION 4



SS.7.C.2.9; SS.7.C.2.10; SS.7.C.2.11; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

Nominating and Electing Leaders

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

Every four years the United States elects a president. Citizens need to follow the presidential election campaign, stay informed about the candidates and the issues, and vote.

Reading Focus

1. What is the main purpose of the electoral college?
2. What is the nomination process at the national party conventions?

Key Terms

popular vote, p. 263
elector, p. 263
electoral college, p. 263
electoral votes, p. 263
platform, p. 264
plank, p. 264



Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the electoral college.



The United States is not a direct democracy. It is a representative democracy. We choose representatives to vote for us. This is true in presidential elections, too. Each of our individual votes helps to decide which political party's electors, or representatives, decide who becomes president.

The Electoral College

When you vote in a presidential election, your vote is part of the popular vote. The **popular vote** is the vote of the citizens of a country. Many people think that the candidate with the most popular votes becomes the president. That is not always true. Presidents are not elected by popular vote. That is, your vote does not count directly for the president. Your vote is actually for people called electors.

Voters Elect Electors

An **elector** is one of the people chosen from each state and the District of Columbia who formally select the president and vice president. The group of all the electors is called the **electoral college**.

There are 538 electors in the electoral college. Each state has a number of electors equal to the total number of senators and representatives that it has in Congress. In addition, the District of Columbia, which has no representatives in Congress, has three electoral votes. **Electoral votes** are votes cast by electors for president and vice president.

Before the presidential election, each political party in every state selects electors who promise to vote for the party's presidential candidate. Except in Maine and Nebraska, the party whose candidate received the most popular votes wins the state. For example, if the Democratic candidate wins a majority of the state's votes, the Democratic electors cast the state's electoral votes. The electors are not required by law to vote for their party's candidate. However, only rarely do electors cast their votes for a candidate who does not belong to their party.

Electors Elect the President

The electoral votes are added up for each of the states won by each candidate. Then we can tell who will be officially elected as the next

Public Figures and the Press

What if a newspaper, TV, or radio says untrue things about you? You can sue it for harming your reputation. But imagine how hard it would be to have a free press if publishers and producers had to worry about being sued every time they reported something negative about the president, the governor, or another public figure. In a democracy, we want the media to be able to critically report on political leaders and other people in the news.

In 1964, the Supreme Court ruled that, under the First Amendment, publishers and broadcasters cannot be sued for what they report about public officials

unless they knew that statements were false or did not take the time to carefully check the facts. The Court later extended this protection to coverage about anyone who has become a “public figure.” Public figures include anyone whose actions have generated media interest. Examples are politicians, celebrities, or even well-known criminals.

1. Why did the Supreme Court create a special rule for untrue statements about public figures?
2. How does the public-figure protection strike a balance between the interests of the press and the rights of individuals?



SS.7.C.2.9

Evaluate candidates for political office by analyzing their qualifications, experience, issue-based platforms, debates, and political ads.

president. A few weeks after election day, electors in each state meet. They cast their ballots. The results are then sent to and counted by Congress. The candidate who receives a majority—270 or more—of the electoral votes becomes the next president.

There could be no presidential candidate who receives a majority of the electoral votes. Then the House of Representatives chooses the president from among the three leading candidates. If no candidate receives a majority of votes for vice president, the Senate chooses that official. Congress has had to choose the president only twice—in 1800 and 1824. Congress has chosen the vice president only once—in 1836.

READING CHECK

Finding the Main Idea How does the electoral college work?

The Nomination Process

Winning the primaries is not the end of the **process** of becoming a presidential candidate. Before a candidate gets to the White House, he or she must win his or her party's nomination. This occurs at a political convention.

In each state, members of each political party choose delegates to go to their party's convention. There they nominate candidates for president and vice president. A state's political party may send additional delegates to the convention. But the party's candidate must have won in that state in the last presidential election.

Each party's national nominating convention is held during the summer of the presidential election year. Often, portions of the conventions are televised. Voters may watch. As a result, party leaders use conventions to try to win the support of voters across the country for their platform and candidate. A party's **platform** is a statement of the party's views and policies on important issues. It sets out the party's program for actions to address the nation's problems. Each part of the platform is called a **plank**. For example, the platform may have a general statement that the party pledges to lower the crime rate. A plank related to that issue might call for increasing funding for police departments.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

process: a series of steps by which a task is accomplished

MEDIA INVESTIGATION

TELEVISION

Televised Debates

In September 1960 Republican nominee Richard M. Nixon faced-off against Democratic nominee John F. Kennedy in the first nationally televised presidential debate. Both candidates had a good understanding of the issues. However, Kennedy, who to many viewers seemed much more at ease before the camera, was commonly thought to have won the debate.

Televised debates allow voters to find out where the candidates stand on certain issues. At the same time, they create emotional reactions. Televised debates can help change a voter's mind about a candidate because of the candidate's television "personality." More often, though, the debates help to strengthen existing support for a candidate.



ANALYSIS SKILL

MEDIA LITERACY

Drawing Conclusions What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of televised debates?

hmhsocialstudies.com **ACTIVITY**

Presidential Candidates

The candidates for each party are usually determined after the primaries. However, candidates are officially chosen at the national nominating conventions. All candidates are nominated. Then the balloting begins. To win the nomination, a candidate must receive a majority of the convention delegates' votes. The candidate who wins the majority of votes wins his or her party's nomination.

Vice Presidential Candidates

Next, the delegates nominate candidates for vice president. Vice presidential candidates are usually chosen for their ability to win votes. Generally, the nominee for president has the strongest voice in deciding who will be the vice presidential candidate.

SS.7.C.2.10 Examine the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing government.

READING CHECK

Summarizing What takes place at nominating conventions?

SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT



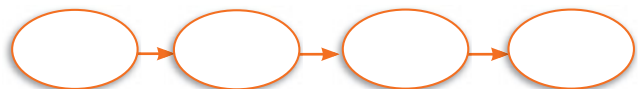
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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **popular vote**, **elector**, **electoral college**, and **electoral votes**.
 - Explain** How does the electoral college elect the president?
- Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **platform** and **plank**.
 - Analyze** What is the main purpose of national nominating conventions?

Critical Thinking

- Summarizing** Copy the graphic organizer. Use it to show the process of nominating a candidate for president.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Supporting a Point of View** Write an editorial arguing whether the president should be elected by the electoral college or by popular vote.

CHAPTER 10 REVIEW



FLORIDA CIVICS EOC PRACTICE

1. The statement below is from a State of the Union address.

It produced more research and treatment for AIDS, more childhood immunizations, more support for women's health research, more affordable college loans for the middle class, a new national service program for those who want to give something back to their country and their communities for higher education, a dramatic increase in high-tech investments to move us from a defense to a domestic high-tech economy.

Why is this quotation praising a Congressional session more likely to have been delivered by a Democratic president than a Republican president?

- A. It praises federal support for social programs.
 - B. It highlights high-tech investment.
 - C. It refers to increases to the defense budget.
 - D. It encourages people to work in the field of women's health research.
2. Which political party is more likely to support reducing the power of the federal government?
- A. Democratic
 - B. Progressive
 - C. Republican
 - D. Green

Reviewing Key Terms

For each term below, write a sentence explaining its significance to electing leaders.

- 1. political party
- 2. nominate
- 3. candidate
- 4. political spectrum
- 5. two-party system
- 6. multiparty system
- 7. coalition
- 8. one-party system
- 9. third parties
- 10. precincts
- 11. polling place
- 12. independent voters
- 13. primary election
- 14. general election
- 15. closed primary
- 16. open primary
- 17. secret ballot
- 18. popular vote
- 19. elector

- 20. electoral college
- 21. electoral votes
- 22. platform
- 23. plank

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 252–254)

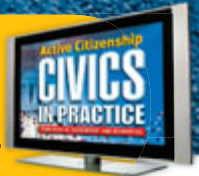
24. **a. Recall** What purposes do political parties serve?
- b. Draw Conclusions** What are the advantages of a two-party system?
- c. Elaborate** What are coalition governments, and why are they often unstable?

SECTION 2 (Pages 255–257)

25. **a. Describe** How are political parties organized on the national, state, and local levels?
- b. Explain** How do political parties raise money, and how does Congress regulate fund-raising?
- c. Elaborate** Do you think that federal money should be used to finance presidential campaigns? Why or why not?

Active Citizenship video program

Review the video to answer the closing question:
What qualities do people your age have that help them become leaders in their school and community?



SECTION 3 (Pages 259–261)

- 26. a. Recall** What protections do voters receive under the Constitution?
- b. Contrast** What is the difference between a primary election and a general election?
- c. Predict** How might new technology change the way people vote in the future?

SECTION 4 (Pages 263–265)

- 27. a. Describe** How do the major political parties select their presidential candidates?
- b. Explain** What is the purpose of nominating conventions?
- c. Evaluate** Do you think the electoral college is a fair method of choosing the president? Why or why not?

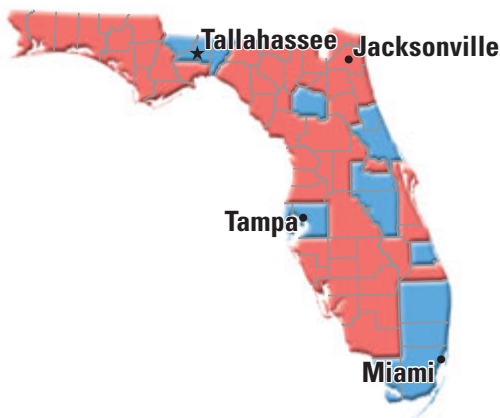
Civics Skills



Reading Maps Use the Civics Skills taught in this chapter to answer the question about the map below.

- 28.** Based on the information contained in the map and key, in which part of the state would you say most people lived?

2008 Election Results in Florida Counties



Candidate	Political Affiliation	Counties Won	Popular Votes
Barack Obama	Democratic	15	4,282,074
John McCain	Republican	52	4,045,624
TOTAL		67	8,327,698

— County boundaries

Reading Skills



Identifying Bias Use the Reading Skills taught in this chapter to answer the question about the reading selection below.

“[Party loyalty] agitates the Community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms; kindles the animosity of one part against another, foment[s] [causes] occasionally riot and insurrection [revolt]. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption...”

—President George Washington's Farewell Address, 1796

- 29.** Does Washington's speech show bias against political parties? What words in this selection support your answer?

Using the Internet



- 30. Comparing Political Parties** For almost 150 years, the dominant American political parties have been the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Through your online textbook, research these parties as well as any third parties that are active in your community. Then create a chart that illustrates each party's ideas about government.

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SS.7.C.2.7 Conduct a mock election to demonstrate the voting process and its impact on a school, community, or local level.

FOCUS ON SPEAKING

- 31. Share Your Campaign Promises** Review your notes about campaign promises and decide which ones best address issues important to students in your school. Write a speech declaring your candidacy for student body president and explaining your campaign promises. Organize into small groups, and deliver your speech within the group. Each group should select one person to present his or her speech to the class. Then, the class should vote to elect one nominee to run for student body president.