

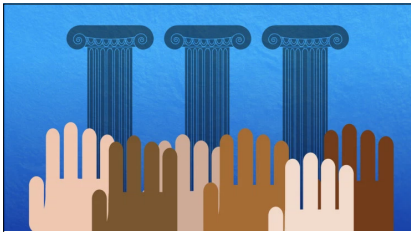
Elections & Voting



Please...

- Follow along on your guided note sheets
- Ask questions if you need to
- Think about your own knowledge and experience with voting/elections





Democracy

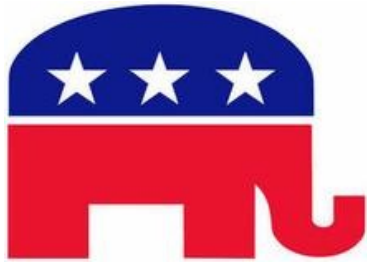


- Definition:
 - a **system of government** by the whole population or all the eligible [qualified, authorized] members of a state, typically through **elected representatives**.
 - government **by the people**; from the Greek word *demos*, meaning “the people”
 - A form of government in which the supreme power **is held in the people** and exercised [applied] directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system.

So what does that all mean??!

- Democracy depends on YOUR participation in voting and being aware of elections!
- Your values and interests are meant to be represented by elected officials.
- Do you think they are???





Party System



- The 2 major political parties are the Republican and Democratic Parties.
- There are several other smaller ones, such as the Green Party, and some candidates identify as Independents.

Characteristics (General) of Parties

Democratic Party	Republican Party / "Grand Old Party" (GOP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Liberal / "left"</i>• <i>Minimum wages and different taxes based on income</i>• <i>Community and social responsibility</i>• <i>Decreased military spending</i>• <i>Government regulations are necessary</i>• <i>Founded in 1828</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Conservative / "right"</i>• <i>Lower taxes</i>• <i>Individual rights & justice</i>• <i>Increased military spending</i>• <i>Fewer government regulations and control</i>• <i>Founded in 1854</i>

Election Process

- Before each election, citizens are informed who is on the ballot, which is the document listing all the options for voting.
- However, sometimes people submit a write-in, which is when they vote for someone not on the ballot.

Many candidates or supporters of an issue have a platform, which is a set of ideas or promises related to the person or position.

Famous Leaders	
Vote For One	
<input type="checkbox"/>	John Adams
<input type="checkbox"/>	Benjamin Franklin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dolly Madison
<input type="checkbox"/>	Harriet Tubman
<input type="checkbox"/>	George Washington
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write-in

Election Process, Continued...

- After the campaign, in which candidates and organizations try to convince the voters of their importance/worth, the election occurs.
- For *presidential* elections, there is a primary in which candidates are nominated for the ballot.
- For the *presidency*, there is also a caucus, which is a meeting to support a candidate or cause.



The Electoral College

- Voting U.S. citizens do not directly elect the President and Vice President; instead **intermediaries** called "**electors**," who almost always have pledged to vote for particular presidential and vice presidential candidates do.
- Electors are assigned to each of the 50 states as well as to Washington, D.C. **The number of electors in each state is equal to the number of members the state has in Congress**, and the District of Columbia has 3.
- There **are currently 538 electors**, corresponding to the 435 members of the House of Representatives and 100 senators, plus the three additional electors from the District of Columbia.

Now...

- We're going to watch a short video about the voting process.
- Official description: "You vote, but then what? Discover how your individual vote contributes to the popular vote and your state's electoral vote in different ways--and see how votes are counted on both state and national levels."
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9H3gvnN468>