

The image features seven American flags arranged in a horizontal row. Each flag is mounted on a gold-tipped pole. The flags are slightly overlapping and have a semi-transparent, faded appearance. The text "Campaigns & Elections" is centered over the middle of the flags.

Campaigns & Elections

Voting

- Voting is both a right and a responsibility.
- Voting is also called suffrage or enfranchisement.
- Qualifications for voting:
 - Must be at least 18 years old
 - Resident of your state for a specific period
 - Citizen of the U.S.
 - Every state but North Dakota requires voters to be registered
 - Most states deny felons the right to vote

Motor Voter

The background of the slide features a row of seven American flags on gold-colored poles, arranged horizontally across the top and middle of the page. The flags are slightly faded and overlap each other, creating a patriotic backdrop for the text.

- The Motor Voter Act of 1995 allows citizens to register to vote at the DMV, public libraries, and courthouses
- The goal of Motor Voter was to increase the number of registered voters → increase the number of people who vote

How to Vote

Showing Up! →
On Election Day
voters go to the
polling place in
their precinct



At the Polls → You
must sign in at the
clerk's table and
verify your ID (polls
open in NC from 7
am to 7:30 pm)



Casting a Vote →
Voters use a ballot
to cast their votes
(types of ballots
vary from state to
state)



Counting the Vote
→ When the polls
close the ballots and
results (returns) are
taken to the
election board &
reported



Not in Town? →
Citizens who cannot
get to the polls on
Election Day can
cast absentee
ballots



Who Votes

- Some people don't vote because:
 - They don't meet the state's voting requirements
 - They don't think candidates represent their interests
 - They think their vote won't make a difference
 - Apathy → lack of interest
- People are *more likely* to vote if:
 - They have positive attitudes about gov't
 - More educated
 - Middle-aged
 - Higher income

Three Types of Elections

- General Election → voters choose candidates for various offices
 - General Elections always take place on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November
- Issue Elections
 - Initiative → citizen-proposed laws or state constitutional amendments
 - Proposition → petition for a new law that is put on the ballot for voters to decide
 - Referendum → citizens approve or reject state or local laws
- Special Elections
 - Recall → citizens can vote to remove a public official from office
 - Arnold Schwarzenegger defeated Gray Davis in a recall election for California governor!
- Partisan v nonpartisan v Bipartisan Elections



Types of Elections

- 1) Primary elections
 - a) Run-off
- 2) General elections
- 3) Voting on issues
 - a) Proposition
 - b) Referendum
- 4) Special elections
 - a) Recall

All elections are run at the state and local level - even for national offices

Partisan v nonpartisan elections

Some things that we vote for (by level)...

Federal

- President / Vice-President
- U.S. Senators
- U.S. House of Representatives

State

- Governor
- Lt. Gov.
- General Assembly (Sen/House)
- Council of State
- Judges (Superior Court judges *non-partisan* 1996-2018, now partisan again)

Local

- Mayor
- City Council
- County Commissioners
- Sheriff
- Board of Education

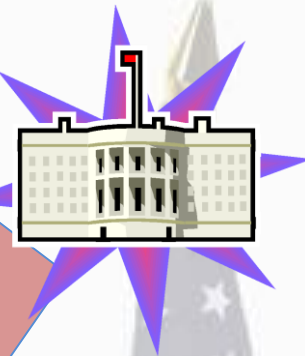
Issues

- Laws
- Taxes
- Amendments (constitutional)

Types of Primaries

- **Open Primary** – an election in which voters need not declare their party preference to vote for the party's nominees
- **Closed Primary** – an election in which only the declared members of a party are allowed to vote for that party's nominees
- **Semi-Closed Primary** - A registered voter need not publicly declare which political party's primary that they will vote in before entering the voting booth

Presidential Campaigns



Nomination → candidates must win a series of primaries and caucuses to get nominated at their party's national convention

Campaign → by early September candidates criss-cross the country giving speeches, airing TV ads and engaging in debates with their opponent

The Electoral College → remember that the popular vote determines who wins a state's electoral votes! The Electoral College sends its votes to Congress in January to be officially counted

Paying for Elections



Federal Election
Commission

- The law also established the Federal Election Commission
 - An independent agency of the executive branch that administers election law and monitors campaign spending

Paying for Elections

- Public Funding

- Taxpayers can designate \$3 of their taxes to help fund presidential campaigns
- Candidates qualify for equal federal money as long as they do not accept any other direct contributions
- Third party candidates also qualify for federal funding if they received 5% of the popular vote in the previous election

- Private Funding

- Interest groups for Political Action Committees (PACs) to donate money to candidates
- Unlimited amounts of money to candidates is called soft money (banned in 1996)
- Congress tried to reform campaign financing in 2002 but it is difficult b/c PACs donate money to incumbents who are reluctant to change the rules

EXIT POLLS

- 1) Surveys conducted by media organizations outside of the polling place
- 2) News networks use these to try and predict the outcomes before the polls close to get more viewers and higher ratings
- 3) These are unofficial results

RETURNS

- 1) These are the official results of the election
- 2) Counted after each polling place closes
- 3) If an election is close, there is a mandatory recount

Statewide elections lesser of 0.5% or 10,000 votes

County elections less than 1.0%

GO VOTE!

GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO
VOTE! GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO VOTE!
GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO VOTE! GO
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