

October 7, 2010

- Who decides who runs for political office
- Would you ever run for office?
- What are different ways you can participate in politics?

In the United States, the election process occurs in two steps:

- 1. Nomination**, in which the field of candidates is narrowed, usually in primary elections.
- 2. General election**, the regularly scheduled election where voters make the final choice of officeholder

Nominating a Candidate

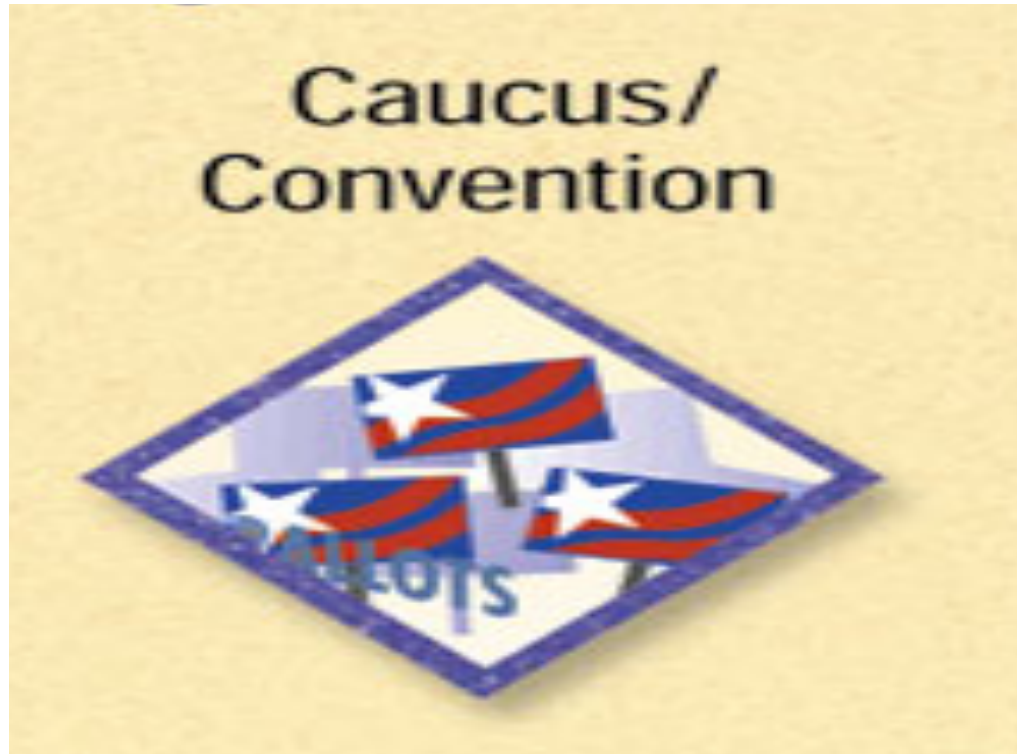


A person who wants to run for office announces their candidacy.

A write-in candidate appears on the ballot.

Self-announcement process has been used.

Nominating a Candidate



The Caucus – Originally a private meeting of local bigwigs, the caucus as a nominating device fell out of favor in the 1820s.

The Convention – Considered more democratic than the caucus, convention delegates were selected to represent the people's wishes. Party bosses soon found ways to manipulate the system, however, and the convention system was on its way out by the early 1900s.

Nominating a Candidate



Party members vote in public elections to decide which candidate they want to represent their party in the general election.

Types of Direct Primaries

Closed Primary

Only declared party members can vote.

New Mexico, Oklahoma

Open Primary

Any qualified voter can take part.

Texas

Nonpartisan Primary

Candidates are not identified by party labels

Runoff Primary

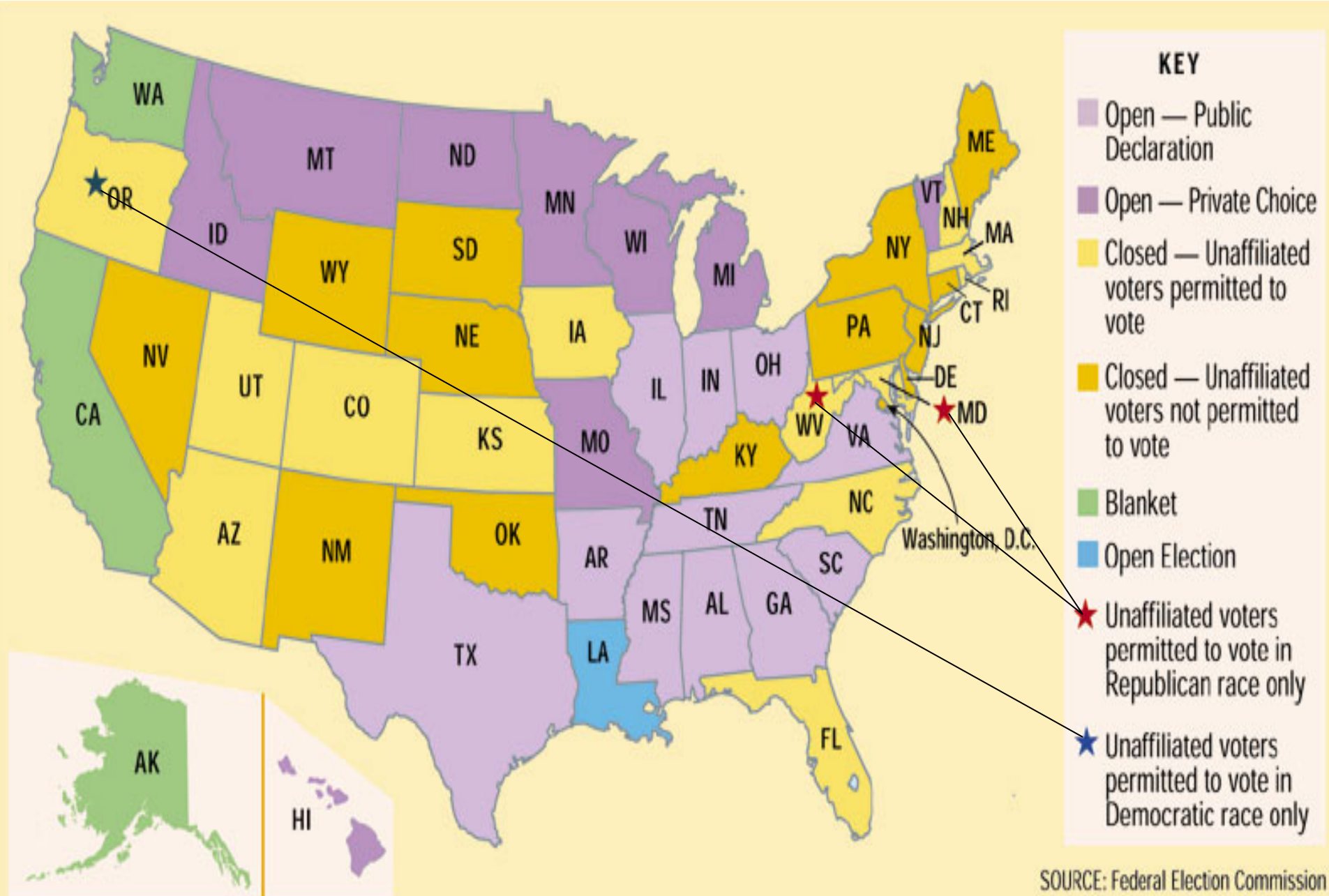
If a required majority is not met, the two people with the most votes run again

Blanket Primary

Qualified voters can vote for any candidate, regardless of party

California

Primaries Across the United States



Nominating a Candidate



- Candidates must gather a required number of voters' **signatures** to get on the ballot by means of petition.
- **Minor party and independent** candidates are usually required by State law to be nominated by petition.
- Petition is often used at the local level to **nominate** for school posts and municipal offices.

Ways to Nominate a Candidate

Self-announcement



Caucus/
Convention



Direct Primary



Petition



Result in candidate selection



Compete in general election,
resulting in one winner



Assessment

1. The most commonly used method of nomination today is
 - (a) the caucus.
 - (b) the direct primary.
 - (c) self-announcement.
 - (d) the convention.

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2. A runoff primary is held in some States when
- (a) no one wins a majority of votes.
 - (b) there is only one candidate.
 - (c) not enough voters turn out on election day.
 - (d) a candidate asks for a recount.

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The Administration of Elections

Election procedures are decided by States, but there are some federal rules.

Congress

- Sets the **time, place, and manner** of congressional and presidential elections.
- Chose the **first Tuesday after the first Monday** in November of every even-numbered year for congressional elections, the presidential election being held the same day every fourth year.

States

- Determine the details of the election of thousands of State and local officials.
- **Absentee** voting, for voters who are unable to get to their regular polling places on election day.
- **Early** Voting, Some States within the last few years have started to allow voting a few days before election day to increase voter participation.

Precincts and Polling Places

Precincts

- Are **voting** districts.
- They are the **smallest** geographic units used to carry out elections.

Polling Places

- Are **where** the voters who live in a precinct go to vote. They are supposed to be located **conveniently** for voters.

History of the Ballot

- Voting was initially done **orally**. It was considered “manly” to speak out your vote without fear of reprisal.
- **Paper** ballots began to be used in the mid to late-1800s. At first, people provided their own ballots. Then, political machines began to take advantage of the flexibility of the process to intimidate, buy, or manufacture votes.
- In the late 1800s, ballot reforms cleaned up ballot fraud by supplying **standardized, accurate** ballots and mandating that voting be secret.

OFFICE-GROUP BALLOT

Voters select each candidate by marking an X in the square

Candidates
are grouped
by office

Names
are listed in
random order

OFFICIAL BALLOT, GENERAL ELECTION

President and Vice President of the United States

Four year term. Vote for one only.

BUCHANAN, Pat/ FOSTER, Ezola
Reform

GORE, Al/ LIEBERMAN, Joe
Democratic

BUSH, George W./ CHENEY, Dick
Republican

NADER, Ralph/ LA DUKE, Winona
Green

Office of the United States Senate

Six year term. Vote for one only.

HOLDEN, Bob
Democrat

MACY, Elgar
Republican

KLINE, Richard
Reform



PARTY-COLUMN BALLOT

Party symbol and name at the top of the column that lists all of the party's candidates running for office

OFFICIAL BALLOT, GENERAL ELECTION



REPUBLICAN



For President of
the United States
GEORGE W. BUSH



For Vice President of
the United States
DICK CHENEY



For United States
Senator
ELGAR MACY



DEMOCRATIC



For President of
the United States
AL GORE



For Vice President of
the United States
JOE LIEBERMAN



For United States
Senator
BOB HOLDEN



REFORM



For President of
the United States
PAT BUCHANAN



For Vice President of
the United States
EZOLA FOSTER



For United States
Senator
RICHARD KLINE



GREEN



For President of
the United States
RALPH NADER



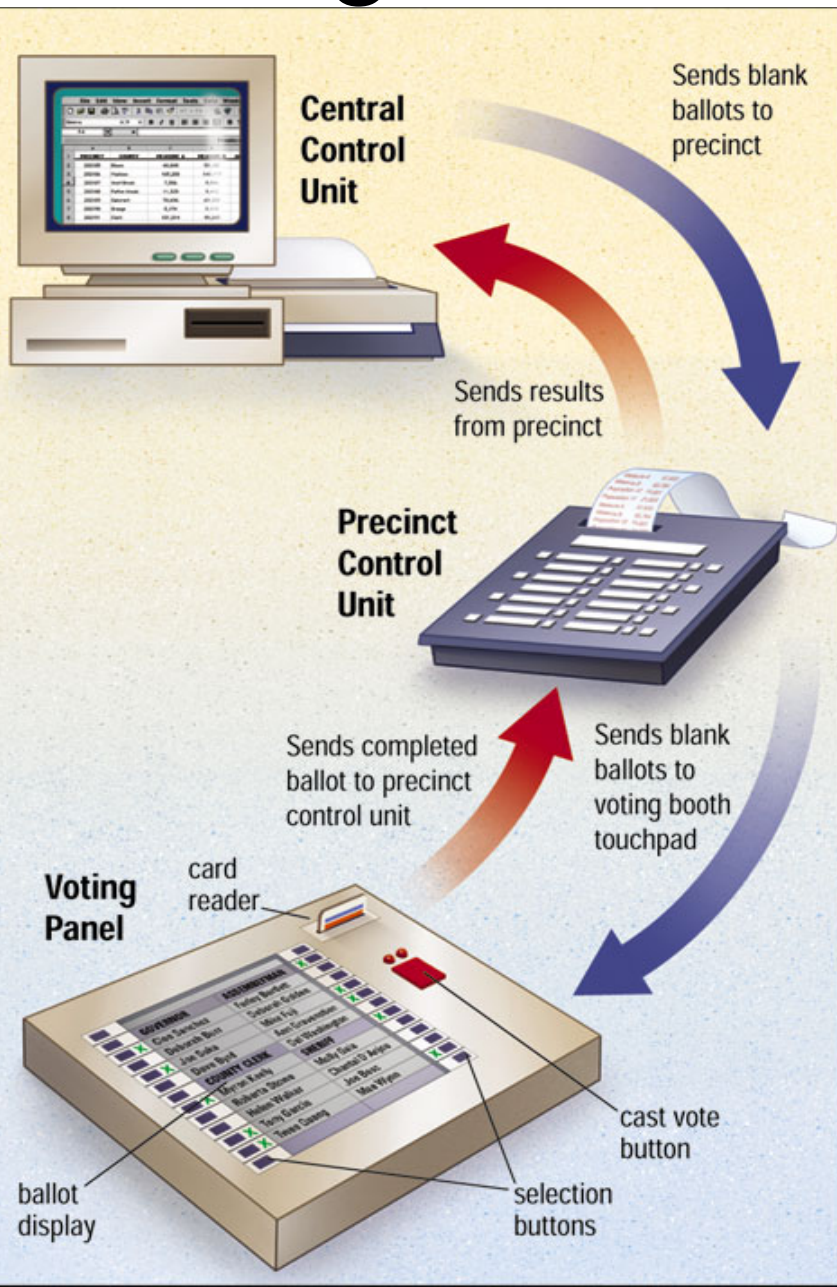
For Vice President of
the United States
WINONA LA DUKE



To vote for
all the
candidates
of a party,
voters mark
an X in the
circle

To vote for candidates of different parties,
voters mark an X in the square next to the
chosen candidate or candidates

Voting Machines and Innovations



- **Electronic** vote counting has been in use since the 1960s. Punch-card ballots were often used to cast votes.
- **Vote-by-mail** elections have come into use in recent years.
- **Online** voting is a trend that may be encountered in the near future.

Assessment

1. Elections are held on
 - (a) the first Wednesday after Halloween.
 - (b) the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
 - (c) the second Thursday after the first Monday in March.
 - (d) the first Monday in December.

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 - (a) voter fraud.
 - (b) split-ticket voting.
 - (c) voter dissatisfaction.
 - (d) the Democratic Party.

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Campaign Spending

Year	Estimated spending	Voter turnout*	Spending per voter
1960	\$175 million	68.8 million	\$2.54
1964	\$200 million	70.6 million	\$2.83
1968	\$300 million	73.2 million	\$4.10
1972	\$425 million	77.7 million	\$5.47
1976	\$540 million	81.6 million	\$6.62
1980	\$1.2 billion	86.6 million	\$13.87
1984	\$1.8 billion	92.7 million	\$19.42
1988	\$2.7 billion	91.6 million	\$29.48
1992	\$3.2 billion	104.4 million	\$30.65
1996	\$4.0 billion	96.5 million	\$41.45
2000	\$5.1 billion	103.1 million	\$49.46

*Federal elections

SOURCES: Federal Election Commission; Herbert E. Alexander, *Financing Politics*

Private and Public Sources of Campaign Money

Small contributors

Wealthy supporters

Candidates

Temporary fund-raising organizations

Nonparty groups such as PACs

Government subsidies

Regulating Campaign Financing

- The Federal Election Campaign Act (**FECA**) of 1971 was passed to replace other, ineffective legislation.

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) enforces:

- the **timely disclosure** of campaign finance information
- limits on campaign **contributions**
- limits on campaign **expenditures**
- provisions for public **funding** of presidential campaigns

Assessment

1. Sources of campaign funding include
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 - (b) government subsidies.
 - (c) candidates' personal funds.
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- (a) take government subsidies.
 - (b) use their own money in campaigns.
 - (c) take contributions of more than \$1,000.
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