

Name: _____

Government In America, Chapter 10

Big Idea Questions	Guided Notes	Areas of Concern
<p>What is an amendment that increased suffrage?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">How American Elections Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 Types of Elections:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary – determines party nominations• General – Determines the winner between parties• Specific policy questions – voters vote on issues• _____ – voters can pass or deny a law (bonds, decriminalization of drugs, etc.)• Initiative Petition – citizens can propose laws if they receive signatures equal to _____% of previous election’s voters<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grass-roots <p style="text-align: center;">A Tale Of Three Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1800:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No campaigning by the candidates2. Jefferson wins – “_____ of 1800” peaceful transition of power<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Burr and Jefferson tied in the Electoral College – House chose Jefferson after 35 ballots• 1896:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____ (R) v. _____ (D)<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Issues were _____ and the gold standard2. McKinley campaigned at home via “front-porch”3. Bryan campaigned heavily across the country by train – 18,000 miles4. _____% voter turnout5. McKinley beat Bryan• 2008:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• McCain (R) v. Obama (D)<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Obama narrowly defeated Hillary Clinton in the primaries2. McCain was tied to the _____ Administration3. Obama ran on “_____” and won <p style="text-align: center;">Whether To Vote: A Citizen’s First Choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over time, suffrage has _____ greatly<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1800 – only white, property-owning males 21 and older could vote• Today – virtually all citizens 18 and older• As suffrage expanded, the voter turnout rate has _____• Deciding Whether to Vote:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potentially high opportunity cost to voting<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Debates about whether to have election day be a	

holiday or on a weekend

- _____ – the belief that an individual can have an impact on the government
 1. The higher one's political efficacy, the more likely one is to _____
- Some people vote out of civic duty, even if they feel their vote won't make much of a difference
- Registering to Vote:
 - Voter Registration Laws:
 1. Created to help prevent voter corruption
 2. _____ by states
 3. Some states made it more difficult to register
 4. _____ (1993) – states are required to allow registration on driver's license applications
- Who Votes?
 - Categories related to voter turnout:
 1. _____ – the higher the education, the higher the turnout
 2. Age – The _____ an individual, the more likely they are to vote
 3. Race – minorities usually vote less often (African Americans voted in high numbers in 2008)
 4. Gender – Women vote at slightly _____ rates than men
 5. Marital status – married couples vote more _____
 6. Government Employees – vote more often as well
 - These categories are cumulative – the more one belongs to, the more likely they will vote

How American's Vote: Explaining Citizens' Decisions

- Mandate Theory of Elections – belief that the winning candidate has a mandate (authority) to carry out their platform
 - Polk and _____ in 1844
 - Bush in 2004
- Party Identification:
 - Party identification helps voters decide who to vote for when little is known about a candidate
 - Over time, people vote for candidates of different parties rather than just one party (_____ or floating voters)
- Candidate Evaluation.....
 - 3 aspects of a candidate's image that are important to the public:
 1. _____ – the higher the perceived integrity, the more likely a candidate is to receive votes
 2. _____ – The more reliable a candidate is perceived to be, the more likely they are to receive votes (Kerry as a "flip-flopper" in '04)
 3. _____ – arguably the most influential of the 3; perceived intelligence matters for candidates
- Policy Voting:
 - The idea that how people vote is based on their preferences of

issues

- 4 Conditions of policy voting:
 1. Voters understand their own positions on policies
 2. Voters know where candidates stand on issues
 3. Voters see _____ on issues between candidates
 4. Voters vote for the candidate that matches up with their policy preferences
 5. It is not always easy to meet all 4 conditions
- Obstacles to policy voting:
 1. Candidates are often _____ on issues

The Last Battle: The Electoral College

- Why is there an electoral college?
 - Framers did not want the people to elect the president
- How are electoral votes determined?
 - _____ Senators per state, plus number of members of the House
 - _____ electoral votes total (100 Senators + 435 members of the House + 3 for D.C.)
 - 1 more than half electoral votes needed to win the presidency (_____)
- State parties select electoral voters
- Winner-take-all approach:
 - _____ states give all electoral votes to the candidate that wins the most popular votes in the state
 - ME and NE divide up votes based on winners of congressional districts
- No electoral majority?
 - The House of Representatives (12th Amendment) chooses among the top 3 candidates (see "Corrupt Bargain of 1824")
- Impact of Electoral College?
 - _____ states are often overlooked in campaigns
 - Candidates often campaign mostly in close "_____ " states
 - Smaller states are often _____ due to the electors for Senators
 - Helps reinforce the two-party system

What is a swing state?

Understanding Elections And Behaviors

- Elections not only select policymakers, but they shape public policy
- Democracy and Elections:
 - _____ voting – "what have you done for me lately?"
 - The economy has a huge impact on incumbent politicians
- Elections and the Scope of Government:
 - Those that believe they can influence the government tend to believe the government should have increased power

Quick Recap

