



STUDY OF THE ELECTION TAKES PLACE IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM THIS ELECTION SEASON

A Presidential Election is a once-in-a-high-school-career learning opportunity for our students, as it occurs just once while they are in school. As such, the History classes have been busy this year with the ins and outs of the election in addition to the regular curriculum.

All classes have reviewed the Electoral College process to learn how the President will actually be chosen and the historical reasons why this is used. Mr. Reiss's American History II class has spent time learning about the Election of 1912, to understand the significance of Mr. Trump's refusal to pledge not to run as an independent. In that election, Teddy Roosevelt challenged the incumbent William Howard Taft in the primary, lost in a close vote (which Roosevelt believed was rigged by the party insiders), and ran as an Independent. The end result was that the Taft/Roosevelt votes out-totaled the Woodrow Wilson votes by over a million, but Wilson won in an electoral landslide because of the split popular vote.

To bring aspects of the campaign to life, a debate was held featuring six members of the RKYHS Debate Team acting as the candidates and moderators. The debate gave students grades 8-12 a good insight into the issues of the election, and provided fodder to discuss tactics, and that which created memorable moments for the audience. This helps the students understand why campaigns have increasingly resorted to negativity.

Mr. Reiss's Law, Economics, and Politics class will be analyzing the school-wide election results in a lesson on the accuracy and significance of polling. The class conducted some "exit polling" as students departed their history classes after Tuesday's vote, and looked at the differences between the exit polls and the actual vote.

