

# *We the People*

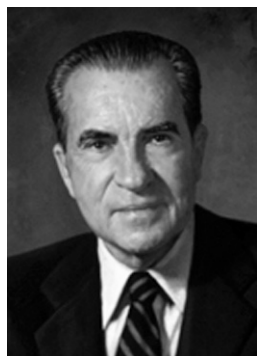


*Jefferson Memorial*

The  
Government and Politics  
of the  
United States of America

★ *Sample Lesson* ★

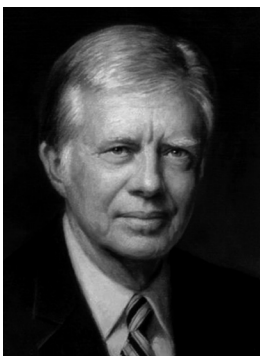
# Presidential Elections



**Richard Nixon**  
(1913- 1994)  
Republican  
Term: 1969-1974  
Birthplace: CA



**Gerald Ford**  
(1913-2006)  
Republican  
Term: 1974-1977  
Birthplace: NE



**Jimmy Carter**  
(1924- )  
Democratic  
Term: 1977-1981  
Birthplace: GA



**Ronald Reagan**  
(1911-2004)  
Republican  
Term: 1981-1989  
Birthplace: IL



**George H.W. Bush**  
(1924-2018)  
Republican  
Term: 1989-1993  
Birthplace: MA



**Bill Clinton**  
(1946- )  
Democrat  
Term: 1993-2001  
Birthplace: AR



**George W. Bush**  
(1946- )  
Republican  
Term: 2001-2009  
Birthplace: CT



**Barack Obama**  
(1961- )  
Democrat  
Term: 2009-2017  
Birthplace: HI



**Donald Trump**  
(1946- )  
Republican  
Term: 2017-  
Birthplace: NY

## Key Words

seat  
to vacate  
to engage

to select  
prominent  
to announce

intention  
to debate  
incumbent

raucous  
demonstration  
to project

**We the People** ★ *The Government and Politics of the USA*

## Presidential Elections

Every four years the nation goes to the polls on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. During the Presidential election year, 33 or 34 Senate **seats** (sometimes more if a seat has been **vacated**) will be up for election. All 435 seats in the House will also be up for election as will several governors.

During the months before the election, the political parties will **engage** in primary campaigns -- the process of **selecting** candidates to run for various offices. In each party, **prominent** party members **announce** their **intention** to be their party's candidate in the November election. And then the campaign begins. A lot of money is spent on advertising. Signs sprout along roadsides. Ads on TV and radio are seen and heard daily. Candidates are interviewed on radio and TV. There may be **debates** between the candidates. Candidates fly to selected cities to give speeches and appear at "town halls," a meeting where the candidate gives a talk and answers questions from voters.

The biggest event of the Presidential primary campaign is the convention, where delegates choose the Presidential candidate for their party. At conventions where the **incumbent** President is running for re-election and is not challenged by anyone in their own party, the conventions are not marked by a lot of controversy. When the incumbent president does not or cannot run again, the conventions can be very loud and **raucous**, with lots of signs, flags, and speeches. Often there will be **demonstrations** outside the convention hall.

After the Presidential candidate has been chosen, the candidate announces their choice for Vice President. The two of them will run in the November election as a ticket -- a single vote for two positions. "Ticket" can also mean all the candidates for the party. Another sometimes controversial event at the convention is creating the party platform, a statement on the goals the party wants to achieve for the next four years. Specific goals within the platform are called planks.

Most conventions are held in July or August, and then in the next few months a new campaign begins, with the Republican ticket and Democratic ticket appealing to the electorate. It all ends with the general (Presidential) election in November. After the polls close, the nation waits as TV and radio announcers say, "We **project** that (candidate) has won (state) with its (XX) electoral votes." Usually by midnight they project the winner. (406 words)

A. Match the word or phrase in Column A with a phrase in Column B.

A

B

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. All the seats in the House _____    | a. are backing the conservative candidate. |
| 2. There are no vacant _____           | b. has announced her retirement.           |
| 3. The candidates engaged _____        | c. four times.                             |
| 4. The Republicans have selected _____ | d. the incumbent will not run.             |
| 5. Several prominent businessmen _____ | e. in a very long debate.                  |
| 6. Senator Susan Longtime _____        | f. their candidates.                       |
| 7. Representative Dogood _____         | g. demonstration for Senator Smiley.       |
| 8. The candidates will debate _____    | h. intends to run for re-election.         |
| 9. After 20 years in the House, _____  | i. seats in the Senate.                    |
| 10. There was a raucous _____          | j. the winner is Mary Sanchez.             |
| 11. WBXQ projects _____                | k. are up for election.                    |

B. Fill in each blank with the correct word.

seats	selected	intend	raucous
vacant	prominent	debated	demonstration
engaged	announced	incumbent	projected

- The \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ he will not run again.
- The governor can appoint someone to the \_\_\_\_\_ seat.
- Several \_\_\_\_\_ citizens are supporting the incumbent.
- There was a huge \_\_\_\_\_ outside the convention hall.
- The reporter described the wild scene as \_\_\_\_\_.
- "I do not \_\_\_\_\_ to run," said the Senator from Nebraska.
- They \_\_\_\_\_ for over an hour.
- The Presidential candidate \_\_\_\_\_ Governor Golden as her running mate.
- Illinois has nineteen \_\_\_\_\_ up for election.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ winner is Olivia Santos.
- "We are \_\_\_\_\_ in a real battle for the soul of our city," she said.

**C. Choose the best word.**

1. The caucus (selects, selected, selection) Mr. Thoroughgood as their choice.
2. The little-known representative is the (projector, projection, projected) winner.
3. A (prominence, prominent) Washington lawyer supports Teddy True.
4. The (announce, announcement, announcing) caught everybody by surprise.
5. Terry and Teresa announced their (engage, engaging, engagement). They will marry in June.
6. There were no (vacants, vacancies, vacancy) at the convention hotel
7. They have finished doing the (seat, seating, seated) arrangement for the meeting.
8. That issue is very (debatable, debated, debating).
9. The incumbent announced her (intend, intention, intending) to run again.
10. The peaceful (demonstrate, demonstration, demonstrating) became (raucously, raucous , raucousness) when the police appeared.

**D. Fill in each blank with a key word.**

1. The candidates \_\_\_\_\_ for over an hour.
2. I don't think the \_\_\_\_\_ will win again.
3. Whomever the party \_\_\_\_\_ will certainly win. Senator Nimrod is a loser.
4. After the recount, the winner was \_\_\_\_\_ as Montana's representative.
5. We \_\_\_\_\_ to vote for the incumbent.
6. His vote on the pipeline issue \_\_\_\_\_ his support for the big oil industry.
7. The dictionary says " \_\_\_\_\_ " means loud, noisy, and, disorderly.
8. "Our \_\_\_\_\_ is that the Republicans will lose three senatorial seats."
9. She worked hard and became a \_\_\_\_\_ member of the House.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ will be filled by the late Senator's wife.
11. It was a very \_\_\_\_\_ drama; millions followed it.

**Think about and discuss**

- 🌟 Do you know who is up for election in your state? If not, will you find out?
- 🌟 Are debates helpful or just a lot of hot air?
- 🌟 Have you followed a presidential election?
- 🌟 Why does the President select the Vice President?

**Unit 11 Presidential  
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A.

- |      |      |       |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. k | 5. a | 9. d  |
| 2. i | 6. b | 10. g |
| 3. e | 7. h | 11. j |
| 4. f | 8. c |       |

B.

1. incumbent, announced
2. vacant
3. prominent
4. demonstration
5. raucous
6. intend
7. debated
8. selected
9. seats
10. projected
11. engaged

C.

1. selected
2. projected
3. prominent
4. announcement
5. engagement
6. vacancies
7. seating
8. debatable
9. intention
10. demonstration, raucous

D.

1. debated
2. incumbent
3. selects
4. announced
5. intend
6. demonstrated
7. raucous
8. projection
9. prominent
10. vacant, seat
11. engaging