

We the People

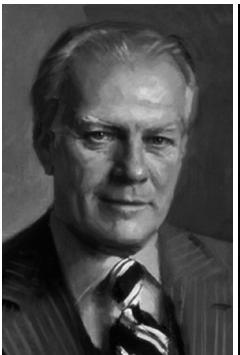
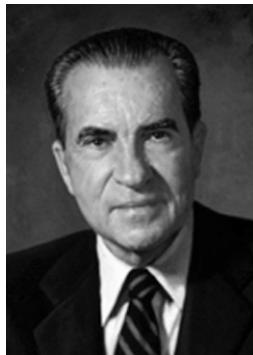


Jefferson Memorial

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

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

1. All the seats in the House _____
2. There are no vacant _____
3. The candidates engaged _____
4. The Republicans have selected _____
5. Several prominent businessmen _____
6. Senator Susan Longtime _____
7. Representative Dogood _____
8. The candidates will debate _____
9. After 20 years in the House, _____
10. There was a raucous _____
11. WBXQ projects _____

B

- a. are backing the conservative candidate.
- b. has announced her retirement.
- c. four times.
- d. the incumbent will not run.
- e. in a very long debate.
- f. their candidates.
- g. demonstration for Senator Smiley.
- h. intends to run for re-election.
- i. seats in the Senate.
- j. the winner is Mary Sanchez.
- 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

1. The _____ has _____ he will not run again.
2. The governor can appoint someone to the _____ seat.
3. Several _____ citizens are supporting the incumbent.
4. There was a huge _____ outside the convention hall.
5. The reporter described the wild scene as _____ .
6. "I do not _____ to run," said the Senator from Nebraska.
7. They _____ for over an hour.
8. The Presidential candidate _____ Governor Golden as her running mate.
9. Illinois has nineteen _____ up for election.
10. The _____ winner is Olivia Santos.
11. "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?

We the People • The Government and Politics of the USA • Answers

**Unit 11 Presidential
Elections 41**

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