**U.S. Government: Election Process & the Electoral College**

Election Process:

1. **Candidate:** Per Article 2, Section 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, at least 35 years old, & U.S. resident for at least \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. **Primary or Caucus:**
	* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: state wide voting where voters use a secret ballot to cast their vote (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1st)
		+ Open= voters can vote in the primary of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Texas)
		+ Closed= voters can only vote with the party they are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with.
	* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: informal local gathering where voters openly select delegates (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1st)
3. **National Convention:**
	* Delegates travel to the convention to cast their vote to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the party nominee.
	* The party nominee then selects their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Vice President).
4. **General Election**
	* Nominees selected by each party convention go head to head.
	* The goal is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the 538 electoral votes.
* **Incumbent:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, proves winner/leader, easier time raising money, build relationships by working with constituents, bring “pork” projects home to constituents.
* **Challenger:** anti-incumbency sentiment, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, risk for campaign donors, fresh view on the issues.

**Campaign Finance:**

* Candidates need \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to get their message out to the public, achieve name recognition, combat negative ads being run by their opponent, pay campaign staff.
* *How do candidates get money?*
* Individual donations, Political parties, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Examples of Interest groups:*

* + **PACs:** a type of organization that pools \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from members and donates those funds to campaign for or against candidates
	+ **527 groups:** tax exempt groups created primarily to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the selection, nomination, election, appointment or defeat of candidates to federal, state or local public office.
	+ **501C groups**: tax exempt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, supposed to be non-political; don’t have to divulge contributions or donors
* **Citizens United** (2010)-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ruled corporate/union funding of independent political broadcasts in candidate elections \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ under the 1st amendment
	+ **Super PACs:**
		- Make no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to candidates or parties.
		- Spend money independently on elections to advocate for a specific candidate.
		- There are no limits or restrictions on the sources of funds that may be used for these expenditures.



**How many states can each party usually count on? (Color this on your map)**

Democrats: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Republicans: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Battleground/Swing States: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Electoral College:** Established by Article 2, Section 1 of the Constitution.

* + Founding Fathers wanted to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to have the final say.
	+ Citizens do not directly elect the president or VP- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	+ Each state has as many votes as it does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	+ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- candidate that wins the popular vote in the state, wins all the states electors; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are Maine & Nebraska which use a tiered system
	+ Pres./VP ticket must win \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of 538 available electors (535 + 3 from D.C= 538)
	+ If no candidate gets a majority (270 votes), the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ votes for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, with each state casting one vote (12th amendment) and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_votes for \_\_\_\_\_\_, with each senator casting 1 vote

**Election Timeline**

1. November- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. December- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to cast ballots for P/VP

3. January- Electoral votes are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, in a joint session of Congress

4. January 20th- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Day