

- The Election Process
 - US= more elections than other nations
 - Elections = “American”
 - Are elections detrimental?
 - Major purposes of elections
 - Elections serve 3 major purposes:
 - Framers & elections
 - Value of elections
 - Avoid direct role
 - Result = Republic not Democracy
 - Originally, states controlled right to vote.
 - Most states = males; 21+; owned property
 - Property gradually dropped
 - Amendments to US Constitution impact voting
 - 15th Amendment (1870)
 - 19th Amendment (1919)
 - 26th Amendment (1971)
 - Voting Issues
 - 15th Amend had little impact until 1960s
 - Common methods to deny

- » literacy tests
 - » Poll taxes
 - » Literacy + property – then “grandfather” clause
- SCOTUS initial reactions
 - Williams v. Mississippi (1898) - Upheld literacy tests & poll tax
 - Guinn v. United States (1915) – Nullifies grandfather clauses
- Congress doesn’t move until 1960s
 - 24th Amendment (1964)
 - Voting Rights Act (1965)
 - States resisted, but SCOTUS acts
 - » Katzenbach v. South Carolina (1966) – upholds VRA
 - » Katzenbach v. Morgan(1966) strikes down literacy tests in State & local elections
 - » Harper v. Virginia Board of Ed (1966) ends poll taxes
 - Results of SCOTUS’s efforts
- Guiding Principle = 1 person, 1 vote
 - Theory developed by SCOTUS
 - » Basis = census
 - » Census results in reapportionment
 - » Fair apportionment = difficult
 - » NOTE: gerrymandering

- Reynolds v. Sims (1964)
- Election types in US
 - Primary elections
 - Selects all candidates except POTUS & VPOTUS
 - Types of Primaries
 - Open primaries
 - Closed primaries
 - Non-partisan primaries – no party affiliation listed
 - » Ex.1=CA “jungle” primary
 - » Ex 2. WA “Top Two” primary
 - Caucus
 - General elections
 - Candidates from different parties competing for office
 - Exceptions:
 - » WA & CA features Top-Two
 - » Neb = nonpartisan state legislature
 - » LA & GA = “run-off” election
 - Congress sets date for Fed elections
 - States follow suit
 - Why 1st Tuesday after 1st Monday?

- Special elections
 - Triggered by vacancies
 - Require both primary & general
- Congressional elections
 - Every 2 yrs = entire House; 1/3 of Sen
 - Every 4 yrs = elections coincide w/ POTUS election
 - NOTE: “Mid-term” elections
 - Most congressional elections = same.
 - “All politics are local”
 - Power of incumbency
 - NOTE: 1955-1992 = as above
 - 1994 = Republican Revolution
 - 2006 = Blue Wave
 - 2010 = Tea Party Revolution
 - 2014 = Republican Wave
 - 2018 = Dems break GOP trifecta
- State and local elections
 - Remember: US more elections
 - State election laws & procedures vary
 - At local level

- Statewide = resemble national elections
- POTUS elections impact state & local elections
 - Ex. 2008 - Dems ride Obama's "coattails"
 - Ex. 2020 = Not same
- Ballot questions
 - Nationally = no direct role
 - States permit direct involvement
 - Initiatives
 - Referendum
 - Recall
- POTUS Elections
 - "Marathons" ; Begin immediately after last election
 - Formal announcements come after midterms
 - Qualifications & Limitations
 - Stage 1 = Primaries
 - NOT in Constitution
 - Winners outlasts competition
 - » NOTE: Dems use "super" delegates
 - Primary season = Feb - Aug
 - When winner clear, VP chosen
 - NOTE: Third Parties = different

- Stage 2 = National Conventions
 - Primary task = nominations of POTUS & VPOTUS
 - Loser from previous election goes first
 - Decides platform - not binding
 - Third Parties also hold conventions

- Stage 3 = General Elections
 - 50 separate elections on same day
 - Different than primary campaigns
 - Events; media spots; speeches
 - Debates
 - Public opinion influenced by media coverage

- Electoral College
 - Why?
 - “Checks” passions of people
 - People vote for electors who then vote for POTUS
 - Result = national leader decided on state by state basis
 - » Majority to win

 - How it functions:
 - 1st – people vote
 - Then Electors vote
 - » EV = total of Sens + Reps

- Then Congress certifies
- Originally - Art II, Sec 1, Cl 3
 - » Electors cast two votes
 - » POTUS winner = majority; VPOTUS = 2nd most
- 12th Amendment (1804)
 - » Electors must specify vote for POTUS & VPOTUS
- What If no majority?
 - Art II, Sec 1, Cl 3
 - 12th Amendment
- What about the “popular vote”?
 - Doesn’t exist for POTUS
 - NOTE 5 times POTUS winner received less pop votes
 - Only useful for analysis
- Effort to undermine EC
 - National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPV)
 - EVs to winner of national pop vote