

ELECTIONS

“Popular sovereignty, individualism, and republicanism are important considerations of U.S. laws and policymaking and assume citizens WILL engage and participate.”

Types of Elections

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| invis primary | <p>A competition for public and news media support between all candidates. Not technically a primary, but key to obtaining the nomination.</p> <p>Incumbents have an advantage however: they have built up powerful relationships and made many friends, therefore, it is much easier for them to secure a nomination. Being an incumbent does not guarantee re-election, however, re-election rates are high, at around 80 percent.</p> <p>When no incumbent is present, the election becomes an open-seat election.</p> |
| state primary | <p>When state voters vote for delegates to attend the National Convention with the idea that the delegates will nominate the person that the constituents want.</p> <p>Parties and states can determine some of the rules around their primaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Closed primaries are ones where you have to declare your party affiliation beforehand to vote in.- Open primaries are open to all, regardless of prior political affiliation.- Blanket primaries are primaries in which a person can cast split tickets (some for one party and some for another). Top two move on regardless of political affiliation. <p>The rules for state primaries change state to state. Delegates are assigned by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Congressional district lines- Statewide winner-take-all-the-delegates- Proportional systems: candidate A wins 60%, 60% of delegates are instructed to vote candidate A. <p>The parties, who appear to be responsible also for setting up primary rules, can also set up how many delegates are in each state and change how much voice each state has come nationwide nomination time. For instance, a party could give more delegates to loyal states or bigger states.</p> <p>Democrats also make use of superdelegates, who are not elected by primaries and are instead free to nominate whoever they choose.</p> |
| caucus | <p>When members of a local community and of a certain party meet in their states to discuss candidates, present about candidates, and vote. These are more open to the public but are more of a pain for ordinary citizens.</p> |
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Other things:

1. Front loading is the practice of scheduling primary elections earlier and earlier as it gives states more coverage, draws in out of state tourism, and generally draws more attention to the state
2. Super Tuesday is called Super Tuesday because of the sheer number of primaries that take place on that day.

GENERAL ELECTIONS

After the nominations of the two major candidates, the candidates will rally for support around the country in preparation for the general election. As a result of the distribution of red, blue and swing states, many swing states will receive attention as candidates see the most untapped potential in those states.

This however is done through the Electoral College: ordinary citizens cast votes for who they want to be President, and this information is forwarded on to state electors. A state has as many electors as they do delegates (2 Senators + at least 1 House Rep). D.C. also gets 3 votes, according to the AM23.

These people are then tasked to go to Congress, and vote on behalf of their persons, although technically there is no hard rule that states "you must vote how the constituents voted". This however is usually what happens.

Most of the time, whoever wins in a state takes all the electoral votes (which means the plurality, or most votes, and not the majority). NEBRASKA and MAINE split their electoral votes proportional to the popular vote.