

In the **American federalist system**, citizens are usually subject to **three levels of government**: federal, state, and local. The **local government's** duties are commonly split between **county** and **municipal governments**. In almost all cases, executive and legislative officials are elected by a **plurality vote** of citizens by district. There is **no proportional representation** at the federal level, and it is rare at lower levels.



## AMERICA



The United States is the world's oldest surviving federation. It is a representative democracy, "in which majority rule is tempered by minority rights protected by law". The government is regulated by a system of checks and balances defined by the U.S. Constitution, which serves as the country's supreme legal document.

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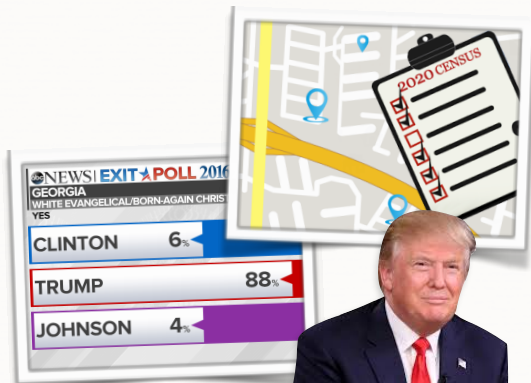
## CHAPTER 6

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Public Opinion and Political  
Action





#### Vocabulary Terms:

**Public Opinion:** The distribution of the population's beliefs about politics and policy issues

**Census:** An "actual enumeration" of the population, which the Constitution requires that the government conduct every 10 years. The census is a valuable tool for understanding demographic changes.

**Minority Majority:** The situation, likely in the beginning of the mid-twenty-first century, in which non-Hispanic whites will represent a minority of the U.S. population and minority groups together will represent a majority.

**Political Culture:** An overall set of values widely shared within a society.

**Reapportionment:** The process of reallocating seats in the House of Representatives every 10 years on the basis of the results of the census.

**Political Socialization:** The process through which individuals in a society acquire political attitudes, views, and knowledge, based on inputs from family, schools, the media, and others

**Exit Poll:** public opinion surveys used by major media pollsters to predict electoral winners with speed and precision

**Political Ideology:** a coherent set of beliefs about politics, public policy, and public purpose, which helps give meaning to political events

## PUBLIC OPINION AND POLITICAL ACTION

The United States has operated under a two-party system for most of its history. For elective offices at most levels, state-administered primary elections choose the major party nominees for subsequent general elections. Since the general election of 1856, the major parties have been the Democratic Party, founded in 1824, and the Republican Party, founded in 1854. Since the Civil

### THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: 1

The constitution requires a census to be taken every 10 years to collect demographic data about the population of the US. This census is used to distribute money to federal and state programs. Senior citizens make up the largest population group. In addition, minorities demographics are increasing whilst the Caucasian population has been decreasing.



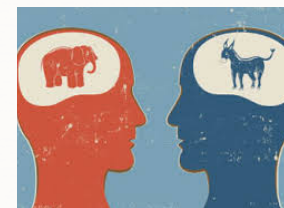
Trump Rally



Randomly, diverse Americans

### POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION: 2

One's family has a great impact on their political affiliations and ideologies. Because of this, most people identify with the same party as their parents. The second biggest factor within the social politics field is the mass media. A high percentage of children and teens watch television and social media in which political information/propaganda is often spread through this media.



Difference in Ideologies



Father influencing ideologies

### POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: 3

Political participation refers to all the activities that are used by citizens to influence the selections of political leaders or the policies they pursue. Where the most common is seen through voting; other means include protest and civil disobedience. Political participation can be seen through the process of voting, petitioning, protesting, or corresponding with representatives.



Democrats vs Republicans



Mass Media