**Forms of Government**

Terms:

Autocracy - A form of government where one person is in charge

* Monarchy is a type of autocracy where there is a king or queen and the power stays within the family
* Dictatorship is another form of autocracy where a single person is in control of everything

Democracy - A form of government where the power is spread amongst the people

* Representative democracy is where the citizens elect people to represent them
* Direct democracy is where every citizen works in making decisions for the government

Oligarchy - A form of government where a group of people holds the power

* A junta is an example of this as it is a small group of people in power

Theocracy - A form of government controlled by religious beliefs

**Public Policy**

* Goals and programs our government creates and implements for society(to create order and take care of people)
* Complicated process- involves various stages and “inputs”
* Inputs: voters, media, special interest groups, politicians

**Role of Government**

* What should the government do(National, state, and local)
* Answers vary. Ideas differ
* We do agree on some basic things- limited government, rule of law, democracy

**Intro to Election Cycle**

Voters/Decision Makers- NOT candidates

* Party Elite- former or current elected officials, who choose the parties nominees
* Party Leaders-focused on picking the winner, are generally more moderate
* Party activists- ideological
* The Base-reliable voters for a candidate or party
* Electorate- voters

Most Americans are moderate voters, that being said the more moderate candidate have a higher chance of being elected

* In 1972 McGovern lost by a landslide on the electoral vote because he was very left-leaning, Nixon ended up getting 520 out of 538 votes

Incumbent Advantage- candidates who already held office have a great advantage over their opponent

* The average voter will likely choose the name they recognize on the ballot
* Candidates who already held office already have staff in place
* They already had a prior run where they gained support from voters
* Previous candidates also have the most money to advertise themsleves from donations and previous campaign, also called a war chest