

1. In October of 2018, musician Taylor Swift used the social media site Instagram to endorse candidates for the United States Congress in the upcoming election. The post was a rare political statement from the pop star, who noted that “I’ve been reluctant to publicly voice my political opinions, but . . . I feel very differently about that now. I always have and always will cast my vote based on which candidate will protect and fight for the human rights I believe we all deserve in this country. . . . So many intelligent, thoughtful, self-possessed people have turned 18 in the past two years and now have the right and privilege to make their vote count. But first you need to register, which is quick and easy to do.”

Immediately following Swift’s Instagram post, thousands of 18–24 year olds signed up to vote. Swift added a link to the website vote.org in her bio, which lists voting procedures in various states.

After reading the scenario, respond to A, B, and C below.

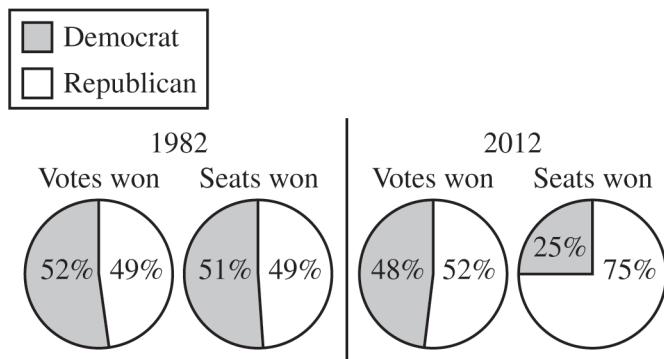
- A. Referencing the scenario, describe the structural barrier to voting that is discussed above.
- B. Explain why the structural barrier described in part A may be more of an obstacle in some states than in others.
- C. If youth voter turnout increases as a result of the actions in the scenario, explain how this could affect the way candidates run campaigns in the future.

**Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet
and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.**

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United States House of Representatives Elections for Ohio: Votes Won versus Seats Won, 1982 and 2012



Note: Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding.

Source: Rich Exner and James Owens, *The Plain Dealer*

2. Use the pie charts to answer the following questions.

- Identify the party that won the highest percentage of votes and seats in 1982.
- Describe a change between the percentage of seats won by Republicans in 1982 and 2012.
- Draw a conclusion about the difference in percentage of votes won and seats won in Ohio in the 2012 election as shown in the charts.
- Explain why the information in the charts could pose a challenge to participatory democracy.

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Question 1: Concept Application

3 points

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- A. Referencing the scenario, describe the structural barrier to voting that is discussed above. 1 point

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Taylor Swift’s Instagram post addresses voter registration procedures which are a structural barrier to voting.

- B. Explain how the structural barrier described in part A may be more of an obstacle in some states than in others. 1 point

Acceptable explanations include:

- The states get to determine rules for elections. Due to federalism, registration procedures vary from state to state.
- Legislators and citizens in different states have different views on what registration procedures should be in place.

- C. If youth voter turnout increases as a result of the actions in the scenario, explain how this could affect the way candidates run campaigns in the future. 1 point

Acceptable explanations include:

- Candidates might recruit celebrities to campaign for them on social media.
- Candidates are likely to engage their supporters on social media to register, vote, donate money, and/or attend campaign events.
- Candidates may adopt and focus on issues that are more important to younger voters.

Total for question 1 3 points