

American Democracy
Study Guide – Unit 2: Elections & Voter Behavior
Chapters 6 & 7

Vocabulary

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| 1. suffrage | 12. split ticket | 22. precinct |
| 2. franchise | 13. nomination | 23. polling place |
| 3. literacy test | 14. primary election | 24. ballot |
| 4. poll tax | 15. open primary | 25. Australian ballot |
| 5. grandfather clause | 16. closed primary | 26. political action committee (PAC) |
| 6. electorate | 17. semi-open primary | 27. 527 Organization |
| 7. gerrymandering | 18. caucus | 28. soft money |
| 8. political socialization | 19. general election | 29. hard money |
| 9. political efficacy | 20. plurality | 30. subsidy |
| 10. party identification | 21. coattail effect | |
| 11. straight-ticket | | |

Discussion questions

1. What are the different types of primaries that a state might use? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each.
2. Discuss political socialization. What is it? What are some (minimum 3) of the most influencing factors of our political socialization? How do they operate?
3. Many people would probably agree that as long as a country holds general elections, the country is a democracy. Is that true or false? Support your answer.
4. Suppose major officeholders from one particular party are not performing well, and the party is not monitoring these officeholders. In what ways could this situation affect the party as a whole?
5. What would be the effect on the electoral process if each precinct did not have its own polling place?
6. Identify the major differences between presidential and congressional campaigns.
7. What factors have combined to make today's political campaigns as personal and individual as they have become?
8. Identify some of the ways that the local orientation of legislators has an impact on how policy is made. Why would anyone argue that this type of orientation is wrong?
9. Summarize what we know about money and winning in presidential and congressional campaigns.

Court Cases

1. Buckley v. Valeo