

AP U.S. Government & Politics Review

Unit 5: Political Participation (20-27% Exam Weight)

5.1 Voting Rights and Models of Voting Behavior

Main Topics

- Voting Amendments

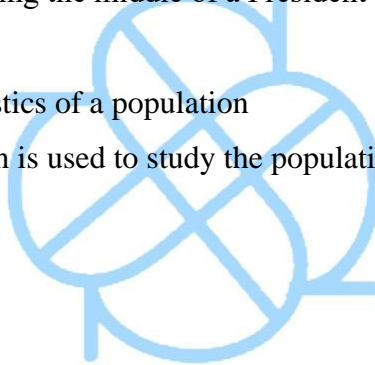
Amendment	Description
Fifteenth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extended suffrage to African-American men
Seventeenth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Established the popular election of US Senators by the people
Nineteenth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extended suffrage to women
Twenty-Fourth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abolished poll taxes in federal elections
Twenty-Sixth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extended suffrage to people 18-20• Lowered the voting age from 21 to 18

- Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - Legislation that made it easier for African-Americans to vote
 - Broke down barriers such as the poll tax and literacy tests
- National Voter Registration Act of 1993
 - “Motor Voter Act”
 - Made it easier for people to register to vote by being able to register when applying/renewing their driver’s license
- Types of Voting
 - **Rational-Choice Voting** = voting on what is in the citizen’s best interest
 - **Retrospective Voting** = voting based on a candidate’s past
 - **Prospective Voting** = voting based on a candidate’s future performance
 - **Party-Line Voting** = supporting a party by voting for all members of the political party

5.2 Voter Turnout

Main Topics

- Voter Turnout
 - Number of registered voters that vote in an election
- Compulsory Voting
 - Laws that require a citizen to register and vote in elections
- Political Efficacy
 - Belief that your vote matters and can influence policy
 - Belief that our actions have an influence over the government
- Presidential Elections
 - Election for the President and Vice-President
 - Occurs every four-years
- Midterm Elections
 - Elections for Congress
 - Occurs during the middle of a President's term
- Demographics
 - Characteristics of a population
 - Information is used to study the population

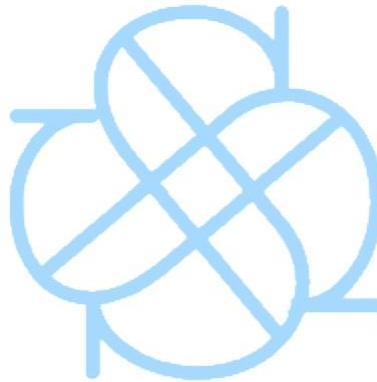


5.3 Political Parties

Main Topics

- Political Party
 - An organization of people with the **same ideologies**

- Influence public policy through elected officials
- Linkage Institutions
 - Informal organization
 - Connects the people to the government
 - Can influence the **political agenda**



5.4 How and Why Political Parties Change and Adapt

Main Topics

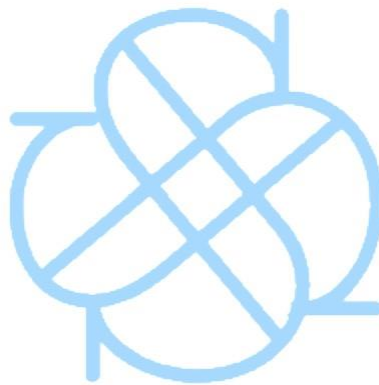
- Campaign Finance
 - Funds raised to support various political positions (ie. candidates, political party, etc.)
 - Regulated/ limited by laws

- Candidate-Centered Campaigns
 - Campaigns revolving around a candidate and their personality and political agenda rather than their party
- Critical Election
 - Election leads to a major **party realignment**
 - Supporters of one party may switch to another
- Direct Primary
 - Process of voters choosing a candidate to represent their party in the Presidential election
- Dealignment v. Realignment
 - **Dealignment** = an individual loses interest or loyalty to their political party
 - **Does not realign** w/ another party; become independent
 - **Realignment** = an individual switches voter preference from one political party to another
- Political Action Committee (PAC)
 - Organization representing an interest group or corporation
 - Raises money in support of their interest
 - Limits on how much money a PAC can donate during an election

5.4 How and Why Political Parties Change and Adapt (continued)

Main Topics (continued)

- Super PAC
 - “independent expenditure-only committee”
 - Can raise **unlimited funds** for a candidate or/ party
 - Cannot interact with those that funds are donated to

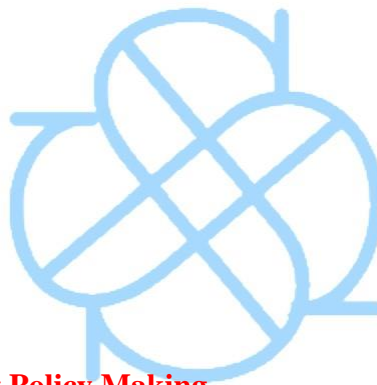


5.5 Third-Party Politics

Main Topics

- Third Party
 - **Minor party**
 - Parties that are not the major parties: Republican & Democratic
 - Rarely win election
 - But tend to have an influence by drawing attention to specific issues
- Independent Candidate
 - Candidate for office with no formal affiliation to a party
- Types of Electoral Systems

Proportional System	Two-Party System	Winner-Take-All System
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political parties earn legislative seats proportional to the number of votes they receive during an election 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-major parties dominate voting at all levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative seats are awarded to the party that received the most votes during an election



5.6 Interest Groups Influencing Policy Making

Main Topics

- “Free Rider” Problem
 - An individual uses a service o/ receives benefits without making a personal contribution (money or time)
 - Individual assumes other will pay for that service
- Interest Groups
 - Formal o/ informal
 - Group of people w/ the **same interests** attempting to influence policy
- Iron Triangle
 - Relationship between **congressional committees**, **federal bureaucracy**, and **interest groups**

- Mutually beneficial
 - Maximizes gain over similar issues
- Iron Network
 - Group of people, interest groups, and public official that rally around a specific issue/ subject that they intend to support or defeat
- Lobbying
 - Seeking to influence a politician on a specific issue



5.7 Groups Influencing Policy Outcomes

Main Topics

- Direct Lobbying
 - Seeking to influence a politician on a specific issue by directly talking to bureaucrats or elected officials
- Protest Movement v. Social Movements
 - **Protest Movement** = public demonstrations or direct actions that raise awareness and bring attention to an issue
 - **Social Movement** = Groups that bring about and influence change in society
 - Ie. Civil Rights Movement
- Inside Strategies v. Outside Strategies
 - **Inside Strategies** = Interest groups attempt to influence policy by working **inside** Washington D.C

- Ie. direct lobbying and drafting legislation
 - **Outside Strategies** = Interest groups attempt to influence policy by working **outside** Washington D.C
 - Ie. campaign contributions and reaching out to constituents
- Single-Issue Groups
 - Interest group devoted to a **singular, specific issue**

5.8 Electing a President

Main Topics

- Closed Primary v. Open Primary
 - **Closed Primary** = Primary election **limited** to registered party voters
 - **Open Primary** = Primary election **not limited** to registered party voters
- Caucus
 - Meeting of members of a political party to choose nominees for political office
- Electoral College
 - Electors chosen by the states to formally vote in the Presidential election
 - Electors vote based on the results of their state elections
- Incumbent
 - Official who already holds office
 - At an advantage due to experience, staff, and media exposure
- General Election
 - Election to decide which candidates will hold office

- Popular Vote
 - Total or % of votes won by each candidate

5.9 Congressional Elections

Main Topics

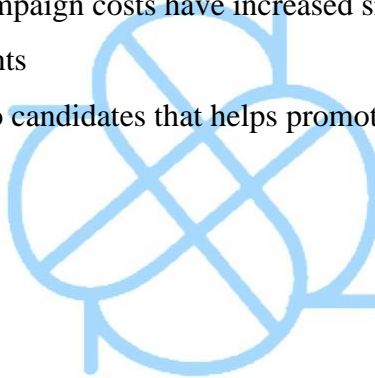
- Types of Elections

Primary Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Election to determine which candidate a party will send to the General Election ● Candidates compete against other candidates from their party
General Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Election to decide which candidates will hold office ● Candidates compete against candidates from other parties
Presidential Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Candidates run for President and Vice President ● Occurs every four years
Midterm Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elections for Congress ● Occurs during the middle of a President's term

5.10 Modern Campaigns

Main Topics

- Campaign Finance
 - Fundraising to support a candidate during their campaign
 - Campaign costs have increased since 1970
- Political Consultants
 - Advisers to candidates that helps promote the election of a candidate



5.11 Campaign Finance

Important Cases

- Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission (2010)
 - Supreme Court case that ruled that political spending is a form of free speech
 - Protected by the **first amendment**

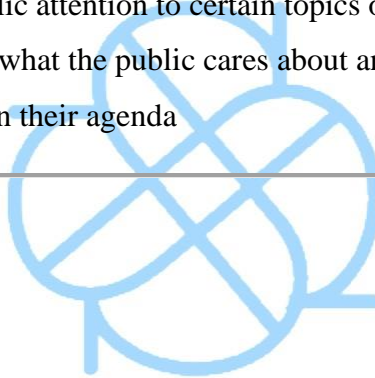
Main Topics

- Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (2002)
 - **McCain-Feingold Act**
 - Banned soft money & reduced attack ads
 - **“Stand by Your Ad” Provision** = Ads in support or opposition of a candidate were required to include: “I’m [candidate’s name] and I approve this message.”
- Soft Money
 - Money spent on a campaign rather than directly donating
 - Ie. Paying for ads
- Political Action Committee (PAC)
 - Organization representing an interest group o/ corporation
 - Raises money in support of their interest
 - Limits on how much money a PAC can donate during an election
 - **Super PAC** =
 - “independent expenditure-only committee”
 - Can raise **unlimited funds** for a candidate or/ party
 - Cannot interact with those that funds are donated to

5.12 The Media

Main Topics

- Types of Journalism
 - **“Horse Race” Journalism** = Focuses on reporting who is winning the polls or ahead in the election rather than actual policy agendas or candidate information
 - **Investigative Journalism** = Deep investigation into a specific subject over a long period of time; can reveal/ expose a secret
 - Role of the Media
 - Draws public attention to certain topics or issues
 - Influences what the public cares about and similarly what politicians will carry out on their agenda
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SOURCES:

- “AP® US Government & Politics (College-Level).” *Khan Academy*, Khan Academy, 2020, www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-us-government-and-politics.

