

# US ELECTIONS

The text below has five paragraphs, marked A-E. *Choose the best heading for each paragraph.*

1. National Conventions
2. Overview of The Presidential Election Process
3. State Primaries and Caucuses
4. Election Campaigning
5. Who Can Be President?

**A.** An election for President of the United States occurs every four years, in November. The election process begins with the primary elections and caucuses followed by nominating conventions, where each political party chooses a candidate to represent them. The presidential nominee announces a Vice Presidential running mate at this time. Both candidates then campaign across the country, outlining their views and plans to voters, and participating in debates with candidates from other parties. During the general election, Americans head to the polls to cast their vote for President. To win the election, a candidate must receive a majority of electoral votes. In the event no candidate receives the majority, the House of Representatives chooses the President and the Senate chooses the Vice President.

**B.** To run for the office of President, you must be a natural born citizen of the United States, at least 35 years old who has lived in the United States for at least 14 years. If you meet these requirements then you can run for President. Candidates must register with the Federal Election Commission (FEC), and must file a Statement of Candidacy with the FEC authorizing a principal campaign committee to raise and spend funds on their behalf.

**C.** Before a general election is held, most candidates for President go through a series of state primaries and caucuses. Though primaries and caucuses are run differently, they both serve the same purpose, which is to help states choose nominees for the general election. State primaries are run by state and local governments. Voting occurs through secret ballot. Caucuses are private meetings run by political parties. In most, participants divide themselves into groups according to the candidate they support, with undecided voters forming into a group of their own. Each group then gives speeches supporting its candidate and tries to persuade others to join its group. At the end of the caucus, party organizers count the voters in each candidate's group and calculate how many delegates each candidate has won. At stake in each primary or caucus is a certain number of delegates, or individuals who represent their states at national party conventions. The candidate who receives a majority of his or her party's delegates wins the nomination. The parties have different numbers of total delegates due to the complex rules involved in awarding them. The requirements combine national and state political party rules and practices with aspects of federal and state election laws.

**D.** Most political parties hold national conventions to finalize their choice for their Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees, following the primaries and caucuses. The national conventions typically confirm the candidate who has already won the required number of delegates through the primaries and caucuses. However, if no candidate has received the majority of a party's delegates, the convention becomes the stage for choosing that party's Presidential nominee. If no nominee has a party's majority of delegates going into its convention, then the delegates pick their Presidential candidate. Pledged delegates usually have to vote for the candidate they were awarded to in the first round of voting, while unpledged delegates don't. Pledged delegates may be allowed to choose any candidate in subsequent rounds of voting. Balloting continues until one nominee receives the required majority to win.

**E.** General election campaigning begins after a single nominee is chosen from each political party, via primaries, caucuses, and national conventions. These candidates travel the country, explaining their views and plans to the general population and trying to win the support of potential voters. Rallies, debates, and advertising form a big part of general election campaigning.