

**American Citizenship**  
**Chapter 13**  
**The Presidency**

**Notes:**

**Section 1**

- a. The President's Description

**B. The President's Roles**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. Ceremonial head of the government of the United States
- b. Chief Executive
  - i. Vested with "Executive Power," given by the constitution
- c. Chief Administrator
  - i. Director of the Federal Government
    - 1. Employs nearly 2.7 million civilians
- d. Chief Diplomat
  - i. Main architect of American foreign policy and the nation's chief spokesperson to the rest of the world
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. Controls the nation's 1.4 million men and women in uniform
- f. Chief legislator
  - i. Main architect of its public policies
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Not Stated in the Constitution
  - i. Chief of Party
    - 1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. Chief Citizen
    - 1. Representative of all the people
    - 2. "A place of moral leadership" FDR
- h. \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Formal Qualifications

- a. Constitution puts some requirements into becoming a president
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
    - 1. youngest ever elected was JFK at the age of 43 and Ronald Reagan elected at the age of 69
  - iii. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Nearly 100 million people in the United States meet these requirements, thus leading to informal qualifications

### D. The President's Term

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. Until the 1951 amendment, there was no limit to the number of terms a president could serve
- b. Still fights today over the legitimacy of the 2-term limit
  - i. Lame-duck president, or safeguard against "executive tyranny?"
  - ii. How about a single six-year term?

### E. Pay and Benefits

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Also provided a \$50,000 expense allowance
- c. Other benefits
  - i. 132-room mansion set on an 18.3 acre estate in the heart of the nation's capital (White House)
  - ii. Suite of offices and a large staff
  - iii. Fleet of automobiles
    - 1. lavish *Air Force One* plane, including other planes and helicopters

Notes:

- iv. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- v. Finest Medical, Dental, and other health care
- vi. Generous travel and entertainment funds

**Notes:**

**F. Section 2**

- a. Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency

**G. The Constitution Succession**

- a. Presidential Succession
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. Originally not provided by the Constitution
    - 1. However signed into the Constitution with the 15<sup>th</sup> amendment
  - iii. Presidential Succession Act of 1947
    - 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**H. Presidential Disability**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- i. Check and Balance between Executive and Legislative, in order to with a disabled President

**I. The Vice Presidency**

- a. Importance of the Office
  - i. Given two duties:
    - 1. \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2. Help decide the question of Presidential disability
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. “Heartbeat away from the Presidency”
- iii. Blame for lack of duties is based on how candidate is selected

1. Balance the Ticket

- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Vice Presidential Vacancy

- i. Vice Presidency has been vacated 18 times

c. The Vice President Today

- i. Vice President Dick Cheney is widely regarded as the most influential Vice Presidents ever

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

**Section 3**

- d. Presidential Selection: The Framers' Plan

**J. Original Provisions**

- a. During the Constitutional Convention, struggle over whether to have president selected by direct vote or Congress

- b. Compromise became the selection of Presidential Electors

- i. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ii. Each Elector would cast two electoral votes

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**K. The Rise of Parties**

- a. Electoral college

- i. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. The Election of 1800

- i. Electoral college tie, ultimately leading to Congress selecting the President
- ii. Created new elements

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Nomination of candidates for Presidential Electors pledged to vote for their party's Presidential ticket
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment

- i. Passed in 1804, it changed the electoral college system, to where different ballots would be cast for President and Vice President

**Section 4**

d. Presidential Nominations

**L. The Role of Conventions**

a. Used extensively since the 1832 election

b. Convention Arrangements

- i. Built almost entirely by the political parties
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Apportionment of Delegates

- i. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1. However, complex formulas eventually decide the delegate count

d. Selection of Delegates

- i. Two campaigns... for nomination and presidential candidate races

**Notes:**

- ii. Generally political parties allow state parties to decide delegates

**Notes:**

**M. Presidential Primaries**

a. Presidential Primary

- i. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Democrats have \_\_\_\_\_, who are selected based on power positions in the Democratic party

b. History of the Presidential Primary

- i. Started in 1900's, rose and fall in popularity, and has risen again

c. Primaries Today

- i. Since most states have the decision power, the primaries are a patch work

- ii. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Today we have "Super Tuesday"

d. Proportional representation

i. Winner-take-all

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- a. Generally a Republican preference

ii. Proportional Representation

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- a. Generally a Democratic preference

e. Evaluation of the Primary

- i. Though confusing, generally force "knock-down, drag-out" fights for party out of power

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. Not common for party in power, due to influence of incumbent President
  - 1. Not true for George W. Bush
- f. Reform Proposals
  - i. Many suggestions for changes, but very unlikely to take place

**N. The Caucus-Convention Process**

- a. Iowa the most common state with the Caucus

**O. The National Convention**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. Meets three different goals
  - i. Name the party's presidential and vice-presidential candidates
  - ii. Bring the various factions and the leading personalities in the party together in one place
  - iii. Adopt the party's platform
    - 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. The First Two Days
  - i. Keynote address is given on first day
    - 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. Second day the platform is adopted
- d. The Last Two Days
  - i. Third day is spent to nominating the presidential candidate
  - ii. Fourth day is devoted to nominating the vice-presidential candidate
    - 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**P. Who is Nominated**

a. Political Experience

- i. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Other Characteristics

- i. Generally Protestants, from larger states, pleasant and healthy appearance, an attractive family, etc.

**Section 5**

c. The Election

**Q. The Electoral College Today**

- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. Choosing Electors

- i. \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. Chosen on a winner-take-all manner
  - 1. Some states have the names of the electors on the ballot

c. Counting Electoral Votes

- i. Electors meet on the same day, in each of their respective state capitals
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Formal election takes place on January 6<sup>th</sup>
    - a. However, most people know the next President by the November election
  - 3. Must win at least 270 electoral votes
  - 4. If there is a tie, the election is sent to the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**R. Flaws in the Electoral College**

a. First Major Defect

- i. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**



**Notes:**

- 1. 2000 election of George W. Bush
  - a. Bush lost the popular vote by 537,179 votes, but won the electoral college with 271 electoral votes
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. The Second Major Defect
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. One elector from Washington, D.C., did not vote in 2000 election... a vote for Gore
- c. The Third Major Defect
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**S. Proposed Reforms**

- a. The District Plan
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. Possibly take away the winner-take-all problem
  - 2. Still does not answer the inability of the popular vote to decisively win the electoral vote
- b. The Proportional Plan
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. cures winner-take-all
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1. also increases the odds that the decision would be made by the House of Representatives
  - iii. Some argue, then the number of electors to win should be lowered to plurality, rather than majority

c. Direct Popular Election

i. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ii. However, multiple issues with the proposal

1. Small states would lose their say
2. Possibly weaken the federal system of government

a. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Increase likelihood of voter fraud

iii. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d. The National Bonus Plan

i. Proposal for electing a President by which the winner of the popular vote would receive a bonus of 102 electoral votes in addition to his or her state based Electoral College votes. If no one received at least 321 electoral votes, a run-off election would be held

1. \_\_\_\_\_

e. Electoral College Supporters

i. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ii. Identifies the winner quickly

**Notes:**