



- early voting
  - begins weeks in advance; ends Friday before election day
  - may vote by mail, but requests for ballots take awhile and must be in before the election day deadline
- election day
  - polls open 7 am to 7 pm
  - take ID with you
- conventions
  - run by political parties but must abide by state rules and regulations on line at [SOS.Texas.gov/elections](http://SOS.Texas.gov/elections)
  - precinct—usually night of primary election day; any registered voter who votes that day
  - county/district
  - state
  - national—every 4 years; write/update platform; nominate candidates for general election
    - super delegates
    - party platform
- mid-term election—middle of presidential term
- general election
  - voter turnout—measure of political engagement
  - early voting—attempt to increase turnout
  - running for office (method of participation)
    - incumbent—current office holder
    - competitive seat—challenger runs against incumbent
    - open seat—incumbent not running for reelection
    - PACs (political action committees) influence vote; organizations created to raise money for campaigns and spend money to influence policy
  - Electoral College—ballots cast in December following November general presidential election; each state has electors equal to number of national legislators; a majority of EC votes is required to win the presidency; in a tie situation, the House elects
    - winner-take-all—all electoral votes for a state are given to the candidate who wins the most votes overall
    - district—electoral votes divided based on state rules for districts

Class Notes...

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**Review...**

- ⇒ Voting—channel for people to get involved with the policy making process
- ⇒ Parties—teams seeking control of government through political office/elections
- ⇒ Participation by Citizens
  - ⇒ initiative—ballot proposal by voters
  - ⇒ referendum—vote by citizens on law proposed by state government
  - ⇒ recall—removal of politician or government official from office

**New...**

- ⇒ Motor—Voter Act (NVRA of 1993)—open opportunity for registration at time of change to driver’s license; registration for government aid, etc.
- ⇒ Voter Disenfranchisement
  - ⇒ literacy test—must pass exam on politics, history, etc.; illegal under Voting Rights Act
  - ⇒ grandfather clause—no exam or tax if grandfather had previously voted
  - ⇒ poll tax—pay a fee to vote; ended by 24th Amendment
- ⇒ Campaign Finance
  - ⇒ **Buckley v. Valeo** (1976) limits on personal spending by candidates is protected free speech if not using federal money; FEC (regulatory agency) Federal Election Commission oversees spending

Expanding Voting Rights for Elections...

- ⇒ 15th Amendment—all males citizens regardless of race unless Native American
- ⇒ 19th Amendment—all women citizens
- ⇒ 24th Amendment—no more poll taxes
- ⇒ 26th Amendment—all persons over age 18 and citizen