

# American Democracy & Comparative Government

## Unit 4 - Elections and the Legislature

### Homework

Option 1: Read and outline the following chapters:

Chapters 5, 6.2, 6.3, 19, and 20.1

highlight and define vocabulary

Option 2: Read the chapters listed above.

Define the vocabulary below

answer prompts completely in paragraph form unless instructed otherwise.

standard: 12.4.1, 12.4.3, 12.6.2 -.6, 12.8.2, 12.8.3

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. direct primary                   | 13. initiative         | 26. writ of habeas corpus |
| 2. closed primary                   | 14. referendum         | 27. bill                  |
| 3. open primary                     | 15. recall             | 28. appropriations        |
| 4. nonpartisan primary              | 16. constituent        | 29. standing committee    |
| 5. caucus                           | 17. interest group     | 30. select committee      |
| 6. political action committee (PAC) | 18. oversight          | 31. joint committee       |
| 7. 527 organizations                | 19. census             | 32. conference committee  |
| 8. single-member district           | 20. apportion          | 33. seniority system      |
| 9. plurality                        | 21. gerrymandering     | 34. filibuster            |
| 10. secret ballot                   | 22. franking privilege | 35. cloture               |
| 11. absentee ballot                 | 23. immunity           | 36. roll-call vote        |
| 12. suffrage                        | 24. impeach            | 37. pocket veto           |
|                                     | 25. ex-post facto law  | 38. line-item veto        |

1. Compare voter turnout in primary and general elections. If the trend outlined in the text holds true, what would be the probable outcome on the 2008 general election be?
2. Discuss campaign financing and how fundraising is limited.
3. How has the media changed how campaigns are run?
4. Trace the expansion of suffrage in US history. Evaluate whether or not any other group today should be included.
5. Discuss negative campaigning in the current Democratic presidential primaries.
6. Discuss the three ways citizens in a state can take direct action to influence legislation.
7. Describe the three main roles of Congress.
8. Discuss how congressional seats, both House and Senate, are distributed among the states. How are district lines drawn.
9. Explain the difference between Congress's expressed powers and implied powers. Give two examples of each type of power.
10. Describe how a member of Congress receives a committee assignment. Becomes a committee chair.
11. List and explain the steps required for a bill to become a law.