

Learning Objective 9.8: Assess the advantages and disadvantages of the U.S. system of campaigns and elections. (p. 321)

- American election campaigns are easily the most open and democratic in the world.
- They are extraordinarily long, perhaps excessively burdening politicians and leading politicians to make many promises that increase the scope of government.
- Long campaigns do give little-known candidates a chance to emerge and provide a strenuous test for all the candidates.

For Additional Review

Create a “Campaign Finance” graphic organizer (chart, etc.) to identify key legislation and Supreme Court decisions impacting the campaign finance process. Use this graphic organizer when reviewing and studying for the unit test and the AP Government and Politics exam.

Use the graphic organizer to create a timeline in order to examine the historical and current rules for campaign funding and finance. Place the rules, practices, etc. on the timeline and connect each change to the key legislation and Supreme Court decisions cited in the graphic organizer. Relate the timeline to the arguments for and against campaign finance reform. Use this information when reviewing and studying for the unit test and the AP Government and Politics exam.

□ Review Questions

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. A caucus is
 - a. held at the national level to select a nominee.
 - b. a closed-door meeting of party regulars.
 - c. open to all who want to participate.
 - d. a meeting of members of Congress.
 - e. a court hearing.

2. A primary is
 - a. held at the national level to select a nominee.
 - b. a closed-door meeting of party regulars.
 - c. either open or closed.
 - d. a meeting of members of Congress.
 - e. a court hearing.

3. When the Democrats select delegates to their national convention, they
 - a. require all delegates to vote based on a vote held at the state level.
 - b. use a winner-take-all system to allocate delegates.
 - c. mix use of proportional representation to select delegates with delegates who are not pledged.
 - d. hold a series of closed primaries.
 - e. open the convention to all who can afford a ticket.

4. Superdelegates are
 - a. used more often by Republicans than by Democrats.
 - b. used by Democrats to ensure a voice for party officials and for particular constituencies.
 - c. not able to vote at the conventions.
 - d. staff of the national parties.
 - e. used to maintain party discipline.

5. The main loophole to the McCain-Feingold legislation is
 - a. 527s.
 - b. soft money.
 - c. hard money.
 - d. bundling.
 - e. *Buckley v. Valeo*.

6. The goal of the Federal Election Campaign Act was to
 - a. make delegate selection easier.
 - b. make campaigns more fair and transparent.
 - c. enforce party discipline.
 - d. cause a realignment.
 - e. limit the impact of the media.

7. PAC money gives the greatest advantage to
 - a. the president's party.
 - b. incumbents.
 - c. Supreme Court justices.
 - d. cabinet nominees.
 - e. challengers.

8. Federal matching funds are available to
 - a. governors.
 - b. members of the House.
 - c. senators.
 - d. presidential candidates.
 - e. judges.

9. Where is the first caucus held?
- Iowa
 - New Hampshire
 - Washington, D.C.
 - Florida
 - South Carolina
10. All of the following are criticisms raised against the primary system EXCEPT
- This process of selecting delegates is unfair because it prevents representation of minority groups at the national conventions.
 - Too much weight is placed on the early primaries, especially because states like Iowa are not representative of the American electorate.
 - It has extended the length of the campaign process to an impractical and unmanageable degree.
 - It prevents many qualified politicians from running, because fundraising for and participating in primaries distracts them from their current office.
 - It allows the media too much power in shaping presidential campaigns.
11. For a candidate to gain office in a winner-take-all election, the candidate must
- receive a 2/3 majority of the votes.
 - receive at least one vote more than any other competitor.
 - receive a majority of the total votes cast.
 - receive at least 10% more of the vote than his/her nearest competitor.
 - receive an absolute majority of the votes.
12. The Electoral College was created by the framers of the Constitution because they
- were skeptical of the influence of state governments in the election of the president.
 - wanted to increase the states' influence in the election of the president.
 - wanted to increase the influence of small states in the election of the president.
 - wanted to decrease the influence of the large states in the election of the president.
 - were skeptical of the direct influence of the people in the election of the president.
13. The number of electoral votes a state has is determined by
- the number of male registered voters.
 - the number of registered voters.
 - the number of senators and representatives a state has.
 - a formula devised by the first Congress.
 - a formula devised by each state.
14. Political contributions raised in unlimited amounts by political parties for party-building purposes is
- hard money.
 - independent expenditures.
 - illegal.
 - loans.
 - soft money.

15. A political party's statement of its goals, policies, and beliefs for the next four years is known as the party's
 - a. platform.
 - b. caucus.
 - c. political culture.
 - d. realignment.
 - e. efficacy.

16. Spending for campaign activity that is not coordinated with a candidate's campaign is known as
 - a. illegal.
 - b. independent expenditures.
 - c. hard money.
 - d. loans.
 - e. soft money.

17. This federal law banned soft money as a part of the election reform movement.
 - a. Soft Money Reform Act
 - b. Hard Money Reform Act
 - c. Campaign Contributions Act
 - d. Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act
 - e. Political Action Reform Act

18. Candidates need money to do all of the following EXCEPT
 - a. conduct political polls.
 - b. ask their party for support.
 - c. purchase television advertising.
 - d. hire campaign managers.
 - e. place advertising in newspapers.

19. Contributions given to candidates and party committees that are limited and committed to candidate-specific electoral activity are known as
 - a. independent expenditures.
 - b. soft money.
 - c. salaries.
 - d. illegal funds.
 - e. hard money.

20. This system was created to reduce voter fraud and voting abuses.
 - a. Internet voting
 - b. mail-in-voting
 - c. the 15th Amendment
 - d. the Voting Rights Act
 - e. registration

Free-Response Questions

1. Nominating a presidential candidate occurs through an indirect process.
 - a. Describe the role of delegates in the nomination process.
 - b. Define winner-take-all and proportional representation and identify where each system is used in the nomination process.
 - c. Explain a campaign strategy that results from the indirect election process.
2. Despite the Supreme Court's decisions to uphold much of the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) and the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), the fight to reverse this reform has continued.
 - a. Define each of the following:
 - Issue advocacy
 - Independent expenditures
 - Super PACs
 - b. Explain how each of these is being used to attempt to reverse the reforms established in FECA and BCRA.

Answers and Explanations

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. A caucus is
 - (a) is incorrect because a caucus is not held to select a nominee.
 - (b) is correct because in a caucus only members who are registered with the party can participate.**
 - (c) is incorrect because a caucus is not open to all who wish to participate.
 - (d) is incorrect because a caucus is not a meeting of members of Congress.
 - (e) is incorrect because a caucus is not a court hearing.

Page reference: 292, AP Topic: Formation of policy agendas