

How do Candidate Elections work?

Presidential Convention

The Democratic and Republican parties elect delegates at the district and state levels for the national conventions. Each state sends delegates that are specifically pledged to each presidential candidate. The parties' national conventions then select their parties' nominees for President and Vice President.

- ❖ The National Convention is when the candidates introduce their campaign platform.
- ❖ During the Republican National Convention, the delegates from each state cast their votes based on the candidate they were pledged to. A candidate must receive a simple majority of delegates or the Convention moves to additional rounds of voting.
 - Each state will be called in alphabetical order, to cast their pledged votes.
- ❖ During the Democrat National Convention, they stand in support of the candidate or declare themselves “uncommitted” which mean if the votes are too small, the “uncommitted” will be asked to realign or move and support one of the candidates.

Primary Election (*held in the SPRING*)

Primaries are held in MARCH, to narrow down the candidates to one overall winner who will be on the ballot for the NOVEMBER general election. Registered voters may participate in choosing the candidate for the party's nomination through “secret ballot.”

- ❖ Debates are held on the campaign trail state-by-state where the Republican candidates try to sway the public to believe that they are the best candidate choice for nomination.
- ❖ **While there can be MANY candidates to begin the primary race, most of them end up “dropping out” before they have reached all 50 states. Campaigning through the primaries can be expensive, and if no hope of gaining a majority, they do not waste time.**
- ❖ The Republican Party rules largely bind states, dependent on the date of the primary election, to either a “winner-take-all” or the proportional method.
- ❖ The Democratic Party ALWAYS uses a proportional method for awarding delegates. Which means a percentage is given out to the candidates.
- ❖ In Arkansas, when you are at the polling site, they will ask if you are a Republican or Democrat? Then they will hand you a ballot with only (R) or (D) candidates on it.
- ❖ WHY? Because we have to whittle down to only one candidate that represents each party.

National Convention

State delegates go to the national convention (*which can last up to 3-5 days*) to vote to confirm their choice of candidates. If no candidate, at convention, gets the majority of a party's delegates during the first round of voting, delegates choose the nominee. This happens through additional rounds of voting.

General Election (*held in the FALL*)

During the general election, you will be voting on National (*like the president*), State (*like the Governor*) and local positions (*like County Judge or Mayor*). This election happens on Tuesday after the first Monday in November. During a general election, the winning candidate from the primary election for each party will be added to the ballot. That means that both (R) and (D) will be on the same ballot.

- ❖ Does that mean you can only vote for your specific party; NO, you can vote for the best candidate that represents your shared beliefs, ideas, and opinions. If you want to vote for the same party, you can, but you don't have to.

Vocabulary Word-Scramble – ON THE BACK



EDUCATION DIVISION
Arkansas Secretary of State

Candidate Elections

Vocabulary Word-Scramble

WORD BANK

CANDIDATE

WHITTLE DOWN

POLLING SITE

ABSENTEE

UNCOMMITTED

MODERATOR

BALLOT

DELEGATES

NOMINATE

CONVENTIONS

1. If you cannot make it to the polling site, you can request a _____ ballot.
2. Voting, usually on paper, or in secret. _____.
3. This group of the Democrat party sometimes declares themselves _____.
4. Parties hold _____ to determine delegates who represent a group of people.
5. The _____ is a person who directs a debate or discussion.
6. I would like to _____ John to run for Office.
7. I am a _____ who applied to represent my state, nominate me in the next election.
8. The place where voting takes place is called a _____.
9. The primary election is used to _____ the candidates.
10. At convention, _____ pledge their support for different candidates.



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Answers!

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CANDIDATE

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NOMINATE

CONVENTIONS

1. If you cannot make it to the polling site, you can request a **ABSENTEE** ballot.
2. Voting, usually on paper, or in secret **BALLOT**.
3. This democratic group sometimes declares themselves **UNCOMMITTED**.
4. Parties hold **CONVENTIONS** to determine delegates who represent a group of people.
5. The **MODERATOR** is a person who directs a debate or discussion.
6. I would like to **NOMINATE** John to run for Office.
7. I am a **CANDIDATE** who applied to represent my state, nominate me in the next election.
8. The place where voting takes place is called a **POLLING SITE**.
9. The primary election is used to **WHITTLE DOWN** the candidates.
10. At convention, **DELEGATES** pledge their support for different candidates.



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WORD BANK

1. If you cannot make it to the polling site, you can request a **ABSENTEE** ballot.



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Voting, usually on paper, or in secret. **BALLOT**