

## [ 11.2 ] Nominations



## [ 11.2 ] Nominations

---

### Learning Objectives

- Explain why the nominating process is a critical first step in the process for filling public offices.
- Describe self-announcement, the caucus, and the convention as nominating methods.
- Discuss the direct primary as the principle nominating method used in the United States today, and understand why some candidates use the petition as a nominating device.

# [ 11.2 ] Nominations

---

## Key Terms

- Nomination
- general elections
- Ross Perot
- caucus
- Andrew Jackson
- direct primary
- closed primary
- open primary
- blanket primary
- platform
- runoff primary
- nonpartisan elections

# Nominations: A Critical First Step

Suppose your teacher stood in front of the class and said: “Here’s a \$100 bill. Who’d like to have it?” You, and everyone else in the room, would promptly say, or at least think: “Me!” Suppose the teacher then said: “Okay, we’ll hold an election. The person who wins the most votes gets the money.”

# Nominations: A Critical First Step

- Impact of the Nominating Process
- Methods of Nomination
- Self-Announcement
- Examples of Self-Announcement

## Nominations: A Critical First Step



These student council members in Sacramento, California, were probably nominated by their fellow students before elections were held.

# The Caucus

As a nominating device, a caucus is a group of like-minded people who meet to select the candidates they will support in an upcoming election. The first caucus nominations were made during the later colonial period, probably in Boston in the 1720s. John Adams described the caucus this way in 1763:

# The Caucus

- The Original Caucus
- Criticisms of the Caucus



# The Caucus



In 1763, John Adams expressed his disapproval for Boston's Caucus Club, where influential community members met privately to decide who they would support in upcoming elections.

# The Convention

As the caucus method collapsed, the convention system took its place. The first national convention to nominate a presidential candidate was held by a minor party, the Anti-Masons, in Baltimore in 1831. The newly formed National Republican (soon to become Whig) Party also held a convention later that same year. The Democrats picked up the practice in 1832. All major-party presidential nominees have been chosen by conventions ever since. By the 1840s, conventions had become the principal means for making nominations at every level in American politics.

# The Convention

- Problems with the Convention
- Replacing the Convention

# The Convention



The 1940 Republican National Convention was the first televised national political convention. Delegates nominated Wendell Willkie for President and Charles McNary for Vice President.

# The Direct Primary

A direct primary is an intraparty election. It is held within a party to pick that party's candidates for the general election. Wisconsin adopted the first Statewide direct primary law in 1903; several other States soon followed its lead. Every State now makes at least some provision for its use.

# The Direct Primary

- Using the Direct Primary
- Forms of the Direct Primary
- The Closed Primary
- The Open Primary
- The Blanket Primary
- Versions of the Open Primary
- Closed vs. Open Primaries
- The Runoff Primary
- The Nonpartisan Primary
- The Presidential Primary

## The Direct Primary



In Newark, New Jersey, Mayor Cory Booker speaks after winning the Democratic primary for a vacated U.S. Senate seat. Booker went on to defeat the Republican candidate in a special election.

# Evaluation of the Primary

The direct primary, whether open or closed, is an intraparty nominating election. It came to American politics as a reform of the boss-dominated convention system. It was intended to take the nominating function away from the party organization and put it in the hands of the party's rank-and-file membership.



# Evaluation of the Primary

- Problems with the Primary
- Other Problems with the Primary

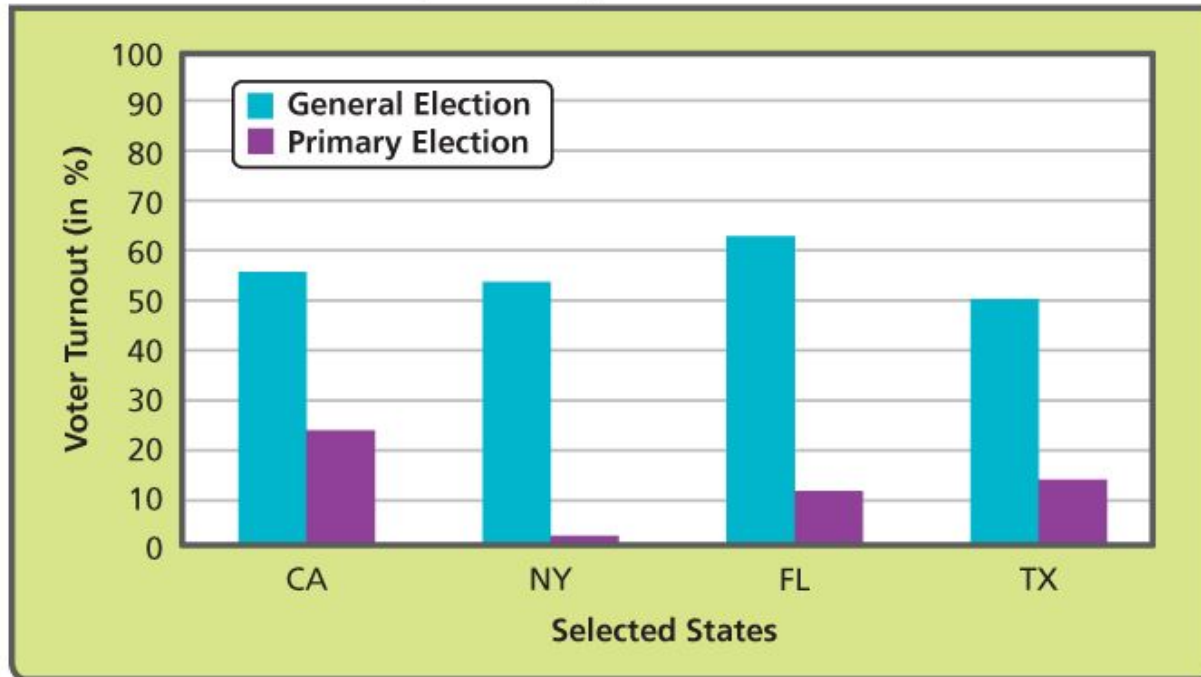
## Evaluation of the Primary



Texas voters review the ballot before the 2012 election. Identify Cause and Effect How might “bed-sheet ballots,” which have a long list of candidates or propositions, affect an election?

# Evaluation of the Primary

**Voter Turnout 2012, Primary vs. General Election**



SOURCE: United States Elections Project, George Mason University

Voter turnout for primary and general elections for selected States in a presidential election year is compared. Analyze Graphs What information can you learn from studying the chart?

# Petition

One other nominating method is used fairly widely at the local level in American politics today—nomination by petition. Where this process is used, candidates for public office are nominated by means of petitions signed by a certain number of qualified voters in the election district.

# Petition

- Filling Appointed Offices

# Petition



Indiana Republican Troy Woodruff went door-to-door in 2006 to speak with his constituents, campaigning for reelection to the Indiana House.

## Quiz: Nominations: A Critical First Step

Why would self-announced candidates need to use their own money to finance their campaign?

- A. National laws require them to do so.
- B. They are not backed by a political party.
- C. Supporters cannot donate to write-in candidates.
- D. State laws require them to do so.

## Quiz: The Caucus

Why would the spread of democracy to the newer States on the frontier lead to opposition to the early caucus?

- A. Democracy is supposed to be the voice of the people, but the original caucuses excluded people living in the newer States.
- B. Democracy is supposed to include all citizens in the nominating process for filling public offices.
- C. Democracy worked best in the older States, where there were better transportation and communication systems in place.
- D. Democracy was a new concept to the people who were living in the areas on the frontier.



## Quiz: The Convention

What kind of people would party bosses select as delegates in order to manipulate the convention process?

- A. people who were capable of making good decisions and best represented the interests of the party
- B. people who were already corrupt and who would further corruption in the government
- C. people who would overtake the party bosses someday in the political party
- D. people who agreed with the party bosses and would do what the party bosses wanted them to do in government

## Quiz: The Direct Primary

Why would California and Washington choose to use the 'top-two' form of the open primary?

- A. The two States have always had this type of primary and are resistant to a closed primary system.
- B. Most voters in these States prefer the 'top-two' open primary system.
- C. Voters can choose candidates without declaring their party preference.
- D. It is easier to keep one party in power by using this kind of open primary.

## Quiz: Evaluation of the Primary

How could a primary fight cost a party an election?

- A. It could lead party supporters to change their party.
- B. It could lead all party supporters to vote for the other party's candidate.
- C. It could lead party supporters to remain divided at the time of the general election.
- D. It could lead party supporters to propose lesser-known candidates who are not likely to win.

## Quiz: Petition

Why would more signatures be needed on a petition for filling a higher public office?

- A. Petitions make it less difficult for independents to run for higher offices.
- B. An elected official in a higher office represents a larger group of people.
- C. State laws mandate a uniform number of signatures for higher offices.
- D. Petitions require everyone to participate in the nominating process.