

US Election Words

ballot - a piece of paper listing the candidates. A ballot is used to cast a vote.

ballot box - a box in which votes are placed.

Bill of Rights - the Bill of Rights is the first 10 amendments to the US Constitution. The Bill of Rights gives individuals the civil rights, like the right to vote.

campaign - a series of political actions (like advertisements, public appearances, and debates) that are used to help a candidate get elected president.

candidate - a person who is running for president.

Congress - the US Congress, which makes the country's laws, is divided into the Senate and the House of Representatives. There are 100 Senators (2 from each state) and 435 members of the House of Representatives

conservative - people who generally like to hold on to current conditions and oppose changes. Conservatives are often referred to as the right wing.

convention - an official meeting of the delegates of a political party at which they choose their candidates.

debate - A formal, public political discussion involving two or more candidates.

Democrat - a person who belongs to the Democratic political party.

Democratic Party - a major US political party. The symbol of the Democratic party is the donkey.

democracy - a form of government in which people hold the power, either by voting directly or by voting for representatives who vote for them.

election - a process in which people vote to choose a leader

exit poll - an informal poll taken as people leave the voting booth. Exit polls are used to predict the outcome of the election before the polls are closed.

general election - an election that is being held throughout the country on the same day.

independent - a person who is not associated with any political party.**liberal** - people who generally like to reform current conditions. Liberals are often referred to as the left wing.

Libertarian - a person who belongs to the Libertarian political party.

lobbyist - people who are associated with groups and who try to persuade members of the government (like members of Congress) to make laws that would be good for their group.

majority - more than half of the votes.

political party - an organized group of people with the same values and goals, who try to get their candidates elected to office. The Democrats and the Republicans are the two major political parties in the USA today.

politician - a person who is running for office or has won an election and is already in office.

poll - a survey of people (usually voters) that is taken to find out which candidate or issue they might vote for.

primary election - an election that chooses a political party's candidate. The winning candidates from each party will later go up against each other in the general election.

Republican - a person who belongs to the Republican political party.

Republican Party - a major US political party also known as the G.O.P. (standing for the Grand Old Party). The symbol of the Republican party is the elephant.

Senate - the Senate is part of Congress. Senators propose and vote on laws. There are 100 members of the Senate (two Senators for each state). Senators are elected for 6 years.

US Constitution - the official document that is the basis of government and law in the United States.

vote - a way to show your preference and choose elected leaders or decide on initiatives. People can vote by marking a piece of paper, raising their hand, or filling out a form on a computer.