

ELECTION PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

SS.912.CG.2.9 Explain the process and procedures of elections at the state and national levels.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Essential Teacher Content Background Information	2
Lesson Summary	9
Suggested Student Activity Sequence & Pace	11
Government Content Vocabulary	14
Additional Resources, Answer Keys, and Sources	16

2023 BENCHMARK UPDATES

- Updated from SS.912.C.2.14
 - Changed from “~~Evaluate~~ the processes and ~~results of an~~ election at the state ~~or~~ federal level.” to “Explain the process and procedures of elections at the state and national levels.”
- Depth of Knowledge Changes within Benchmark
 - Changed from “Evaluate” to “Explain”
- Addition of Benchmark Clarifications
 - Benchmark clarifications are an addition to the 2023-2024 high school civics and government benchmarks. Benchmark clarifications are listed in the lesson summary below.

Essential Teacher Content Background Information

[Teacher Content Notes Not Appropriate For Student Use]

This section addresses the following topics:

1. Elections and the Voting Process at the Local, State, and National Levels
2. Candidate Registration
3. Nominating Candidates Using Primaries
4. Methods for Tabulating Election Results
5. Ways in Which Elections are Decided

1. Elections and the Voting Process at the Local, State, and National Levels

It is a common misconception that elections are a significant aspect of our national Constitution. In fact, that is not the case. The Constitution only addresses elections a couple of times. First, it describes in Article II the role of the Electoral College in selecting the President of the United States. Second, it defers to the states on the processes and procedures of elections. Article II emphasizes that states get to decide the ‘times, places and manner of holding elections’, with some potential regulation by Congress. This caveat is why we have voting rights laws, for example. Generally speaking however, there are as many different ways for elections to be run as there are states and territories in the Union.

The Florida Constitution addresses voting and elections in Article VI. According to our state constitution, election winners are decided by a plurality vote rather than a majority vote. A plurality of votes means the person with the most votes wins even if they do not have the majority (more than 50 percent of the votes), thus avoiding the need for a run off election. The Florida Constitution also discusses campaign public funding limits, political parties and how these parties determine the order of the candidates on the ballot. It also discusses if a candidate has no party or third-party candidates. Rules associated with these can not be more restrictive than those for the two leading party candidates. Our state constitution also explains the qualifications for office and voter registration while also setting out term limits for elected state office.

Our state constitution also addresses the types of elections that occur in the state, and when they occur. It’s important to note that unlike some other states, Florida has a closed primary. This means that only voters registered as a member of a specific political party may vote in that primary. This prevents a Republican from voting in a Democratic primary and vice versa. This section also sets a date for the general election as the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. It has stipulations in the case of a state-wide emergency.

When it comes to local elections, the state constitution guides those as well, leaving many local and district election decisions to those local governments, with the caveat that they must follow state law. When it comes to voter registration, the state constitution requires that voters must be registered at least 29 days before a primary or other election in which they want to vote.

Even though the Constitution left most of the election process to each state, national laws have been passed to regulate campaign finance for the offices of the U.S. House, Senate, Presidency, and Vice Presidency. These laws are enforced through the Federal Election Commission. You can learn more about the Federal Election Commission at their [website](#).

Elected Offices in Florida

Level of Government	Executive Office Name	Legislative Office Name	Role of Political Parties
National	President	U.S. Representative U.S. Senator	Candidate names are organized on the ballot according to the party in which the state's governor is registered. For example, in 2018, Ron DeSantis, a Republican, was elected governor. In the 2020 election, Republicans were listed first on the ballot, followed by Democrats, and then by candidates of other parties and independents.
Method of Selection	Voters cast ballots for president that serve as recommendations to Electoral College members chosen by the state parties. Florida is a “winner-take-all” state. The candidate receiving the most votes (whether a 50%=1 majority or a plurality, more than any other candidate but does not meet 50%) earns all of the Electoral Votes in the state. State parties select members of the Electoral College—only the state party whose candidate earned the most votes may select Electors.	Direct election Note: U.S. Senators were selected by state legislatures until the 17 th Amendment was ratified in 1913.	
State	Governor	State Representative State Senator	Candidate names are organized on the ballot according to the party in which the state's governor is registered. For example, in 2018, Ron DeSantis, a Republican, was elected governor. In the 2020 election, Republicans were listed first on the ballot, followed by Democrats, and then by candidates of other parties and independents.
Method of Selection	Direct election	Direct election	
Local	Mayor	County commissioner City councilman/woman	Counties may choose as to whether their local government offices will be

	Note: Some counties do not have mayors, and the county commissioners take this role.		partisan or non-partisan. If the offices are non-partisan, candidate names are listed in alphabetical order.
Method of Selection	Direct election	Direct election	

Primaries

Definition	Nomination contests where one candidate is selected to run for office from among several potential nominees from the same party.
Scheduling	May be scheduled at any time although Florida's supervisors of elections prefer that election contests, including primaries, be consolidated so that multiple contests take place on the same day. In 2022, Florida primaries took place Tuesday, August 23, 2022
Ballot Design	Candidates from the same party are listed in alphabetical order; Florida is a closed primary system. Only registered members of a party may vote in that party's primary.
Role of Political Parties	Candidates register to run for office from one party only.

Run-offs

Definition	Runoff primaries take place when none of the candidates earns at least 50% of the vote. Runoff primaries were held in Florida until 2001. Beginning in 2002, there have been no runoff primaries. Runoff elections take place when no candidate earns at least 50% in a nonpartisan race.
Scheduling	Elections for nonpartisan offices normally take place on the same day as the primary; if a runoff is required, it takes place on the day of the general election.
Ballot Design	Candidate names are listed alphabetically
Role of Political Parties	None

General Elections

Definition	Election contests that decide who will hold public office
Scheduling	Congress sets the date for national elections that include the president and Congress. These elections are held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years (i.e. 2020 president/Congress; 2022 Congress, governor). State legislatures schedule all other elections, although state level elections usually take place on the same day as the national election.
Ballot Design	Federal offices listed before state offices; executive offices listed before legislative offices within federal or state categories.
Role of Political Parties	Candidate names are organized on the ballot according to the party in which the state's governor is registered. For example, in 2018, Ron DeSantis, a Republican was elected governor. In the 2020 election, Republicans were listed first on the ballot, followed by Democrats, and then by candidates of other parties and independents.

2. Candidate Registration

In order to appear on the ballot, there are steps a potential candidate must take. These requirements are set by individual states. In Florida, candidates must file the proper paperwork to run for office. Additionally, they must also pay any required fees. Collecting enough signatures is another option to avoid paying some of the fees. All of these registration requirements also have calendar deadlines that must be met. In addition, candidates must be verified to ensure they meet constitutional qualifications for the office they are seeking. Details related to candidate qualifications and rules related to filing for candidacy may be found within numerous Florida State Statutes.

3. Nominating Candidates Using Primaries

Primaries are nomination contests where one candidate is selected to run for office from among several potential nominees from the same party. States are allowed to decide which type of primary they will have, with several different formats.

A closed primary only allows voters who are registered as party members to participate in the primary. For instance, only registered Republicans are allowed to participate in the Republican primary, and only registered Democrats are allowed to participate in the Democratic primary. Voters who are registered with any other party, or no party affiliation, are not allowed to participate. This tends to create stronger party cohesion, since citizens must register with a party in order to participate in the primary. Florida has a closed format, along with six other states, as of 2023.

Semi-closed primaries, also known as partially closed, are similar to the closed format since they exclude registered voters of the opposition party from participating in the primary. So a Democrat could not participate in the Republican primary and a Republican could not participate in the Democratic primary. However, unaffiliated registered voters are allowed to decide in which primary they will participate. As of 2023, nine states had this type of format.

An open primary is one that allows registered voters to choose which primary they will participate in, but they are then excluded from participating in any other primary. For instance, a registered Democrat may decide to vote in the Republican primary, but then they will not be able to participate in the Democratic primary. Proponents of this format say that it allows for the most choice and flexibility. Opponents say it weakens the party and could result in poor candidates being nominated, as some voters may intentionally “spoil” or “sabotage” the primary by crossing party lines in the primary for the sole purpose of voting for the candidate they believe would do poorly in the general election. As of 2023, 16 states used this format.

Partially open primaries function like an open primary, but crossing party lines could result in changing a voter’s registration to that party. For instance, a registered Democrat who decides to participate in the Republican primary may then find that they have now been registered as a Republican. As of 2023, six states used this format.

Open to unaffiliated primary format is one that allows unaffiliated registered voters to choose whichever primary they’d like to participate in, but does not allow those voters registered to a party to cross party lines. For instance, a registered Republican voter can only participate in the Republican primary, but an unaffiliated registered voter may choose to vote in either primary, but not both simultaneously. As of 2023, seven states used this format.

A blanket primary is one where all the candidates appear on the same ballot, regardless of party affiliation. All registered voters then cast a vote. Some states then take the top two candidates and have them face off in the general election; some states take the top four to then face off in the general election; Louisiana holds a run-off election six weeks after the primary election if no candidate received the majority; Nebraska places all candidates on the same ballot without designating their party affiliation, which is called a non-partisan or jungle primary. As of 2023, five states used some type of a blanket primary.

A caucus is a method used in the primary process by some states, most notably Iowa. A caucus requires registered voters to show up at a designated location, like a community center, meet with other voters, listen to speeches that try to persuade them to vote a certain way, and then make their support for a candidate publicly known to all those at the location. This process can take a few hours. A caucus tends to attract the more loyal, and some would say more extreme, voters since anonymity is removed from this process, as well as requiring a longer time commitment than a typical casting of a vote. A caucus can take the form of any of the methods discussed previously (open, closed, etc.).

For all offices except the president, the winner of the primary election race simply moves on to compete in the general election. For presidential candidates, there is one more step in the nomination process, the national convention. Nominating conventions are the political parties' opportunity to formally and officially put their support behind their leading candidate. As presidential candidates make their way through primaries and caucuses, they are earning delegates. To become the presidential nominee, a candidate must win the majority of the delegates. State delegates attend the convention to vote to confirm their choice. It is also at these conventions that a presidential nominee will announce a vice-presidential running mate.

4. Methods for Tabulating Election Results

States also make different decisions in regards to tabulating election results. These essentially refer to how a voter will cast their vote in an election. Three well-known methods are: fill-in ballots, electronic voting, and punch cards.

The fill-in ballot is one of the most common ballot types. This is a paper ballot with the candidate's names appearing as choices, and the voter uses a pen or marker to bubble in a circle or oval next to the name of the candidate of their choice. Most voting precincts now have automated machines that will accept the paper ballot and then tabulate the results. This method allows for physical paper ballots that can be recounted if there is a dispute regarding the election results. Some like this method since it allows for greater transparency.

The electronic voting method is the more modern method. It has voters using a touchscreen to select the candidate of their choice. This method allows for very quick tabulation of results but lacks the physical copies that could be used if a recount were needed. Opponents are concerned about election security and transparency.

Punch cards became notorious in the 2000 presidential election, particularly the butterfly ballot used in South Florida. These types of ballots have voters physically puncture a hole through the ballot next to the candidate of their choice. Problems arose in 2000 with the use of the butterfly ballot as voters seemed to be confused as to where to make the puncture, causing possibly thousands of votes to go unintentionally to the wrong candidate. In addition, some ballots were difficult to tabulate due to "hanging chads" or dangling paper when the punch did not go all the way through.

5. Ways in Which Elections are Decided

Popular vote, sometimes referred to as a direct vote or direct popular vote, is when elections are decided using the vote of the electorate. In other words, the average voting citizen is deciding the election. Whether

using a majority or plurality, the electorate is directly responsible for selecting the winner of the election. If Candidate A receives 53% of the popular vote and Candidate B receives 47% of the popular vote, then Candidate A wins the election. In the early years of the U.S. republic, the only national position that was decided by a popular vote were representatives from the House of Representatives. Today, Senate votes are also popular votes. In Florida, state and local officials are elected with a popular vote.

The winner-take-all method is the method used in the United States. In congressional elections, both House and Senate members are winner-take-all. For instance, if the candidate from Party A beats the candidate from Party B by a margin of 51% to 49% of the vote in a race for a House seat, then Party A gains that seat, while Party B gets nothing, despite 49% of the voters from that district voting for Party B.

The process and procedures for deciding the winner of presidential elections are unique. For presidential elections, the Electoral College ultimately determines the winner.

A. Origin of the Electoral College

The Electoral College is intended to ensure a balance in our constitutional republic. The Framers established the Electoral College in the Constitution as a compromise between having the people vote for the President directly (popular vote) and Congress selecting the president for the country. The Founders were of two minds. On the one hand, letting Congress pick the president could be a sure path towards corruption between branches, and potentially make the president beholden to members of Congress that elected them. On the other hand, direct election of the president by popular vote could give too much power to what the Founders viewed as a potentially uninformed mob manipulated by someone who wanted power. So the Electoral College is a rough compromise between the two extremes. Keep in mind, however, that the term "Electoral College" does not appear in Article II of the Constitution or the 12th Amendment. Instead, they refer to "electors" but not to the "Electoral College."

B. Electoral College Process

The Electoral College process consists of selecting the electors at the state level, a meeting of those electors, voting of those electors for president and vice president, and the counting of the electoral votes by Congress. There are 538 electors in the Electoral College. To be elected President, the candidate needs the "magic" 270 electoral votes. Based on the 2020 census, Florida now has 30 electors for the 2024 presidential election. In 2020, the state had 29; the change reflects the addition of another congressional seat for Florida due to reapportionment. Each state has the same number of electors as it does members in Congress: two for Senators and one for each member in the House of Representatives.

The process of finding electors in Florida begins with the joint candidates for president and vice president from their respective political parties. Each party submits their slate of presidential electors. On the general election ballot are the candidate's names for president and vice president, not the names of presidential electors. However, when the voters cast votes for the president and vice president of their choice, they are actually voting to select the electors representing that party. Each state's winning electors meet, after the general election, to certify the vote. Florida's Electoral College will be held in December 2024 on a date set by Congress.

Whichever presidential ticket gets the most popular votes in Florida, gets all of the state's Electoral College votes (30 in 2024). Even if they win by a small margin, they still get all of the Electoral College votes. It should be noted, though, that not all states function the same way. For example, Nebraska and Maine split their electoral votes proportionally. At the same time, the national popular vote may not

always reflect the final electoral vote tally; a collection of smaller population states may offset winning the votes in larger population states.

On January 6th of the year following a presidential election, a state's electoral votes are publicly certified and counted in a joint session of Congress. This date reflects a change caused by the 20th Amendment, as a president's term now ends on January 20th instead of March 4th as originally conceived. The vice president presides over the count as President of the Senate and announces the results of the vote. If the required 270 electoral votes are met, then the vice president declares the new or re-elected president and vice president of the United States, and they are sworn in on January 20th.

If no candidate receives a majority of electoral votes, the presidential election moves to Congress. The House of Representatives elects the president, with each state receiving one vote. A candidate must receive at least 26 votes (a majority of the states) to be elected.

C. The 12th Amendment

The original method of electing the president and vice president caused some significant issues in the election of 1800. At the time under the Constitution, electors voted for two individuals, but there was no constitutional expectation that they would distinguish between president and vice president in the vote. Generally, the person who won the majority of votes would become president, while the second place winner became vice president. You can see how that could be potentially problematic, and it came to a head in the historic election of 1800.

In 1800, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams stood against one another for the second time, but each had running mates representing their parties this time. Aaron Burr was Jefferson's running mate, and Charles C. Pinckney ran with Adams. Remember, however, that there was no distinction between a presidential and vice presidential vote at the time. Burr and Jefferson tied at 73 electoral votes each, and it was sent to the House of Representatives, where each state delegation had one vote. It took 36 separate votes in the House to give Jefferson the victory, with Burr his rather angry vice-president as the second place winner. The electoral vote, it was decided, had to change.

Since the electoral college process was detailed in the Constitution, the only way to change it was through a constitutional amendment. The 12th Amendment was ratified in 1804 and, in addition to requiring that a candidate for vice president meet the same qualifications as one for president, changed how we elect the president and vice president. Now electors in the Electoral College must cast one of their votes for the president and the other for the vice president. In this new system, the president and the vice president would be of the same political party. They call this a presidential ticket.

Interestingly, the 12th Amendment did not solve all of the issues posed by the Electoral College. In the 1824 presidential election Andrew Jackson, running against John Quincy Adams and two others, won a plurality of both the popular vote and the Electoral College. But to win the presidency, you need more than a plurality (the most electoral votes), you need a majority (more than half the electoral votes). The election would once again be sent to the House of Representatives. The House, ultimately, would vote for Quincy Adams in what Jackson termed 'The Corrupt Bargain.' This was not an isolated case. While they all did not end up in the House of Representatives, the elections of 1876, 1888, 2000, and 2016, all saw the popular vote winner not win the Electoral College vote. However, this is the system as intended by the Founders, and generally speaking, it has done its job.

Lesson Summary

BENCHMARK		
SS.912.CG.2.9 Explain the process and procedures of elections at the state and national levels.		
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will identify the different primary formats and how political parties nominate candidates using primaries. Students will compare and contrast the different ways in which elections are decided (e.g., Electoral College, proportional representation, popular vote, winner-take-all). Students will explain the process by which candidates register to be part of state and national elections. Students will describe the different methods used to tabulate election results in state and national elections (i.e., electronic voting, punch cards, fill-in ballots). Students will evaluate the role of debates in elections. 		
FLORIDA CIVIC LITERACY EXAM COMPETENCY CONNECTION		
Competency 1: Understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government		
OVERVIEW		
In this lesson, students will learn how candidates are nominated and elected to state and national public office.		
ESSENTIAL QUESTION		
What are the processes and procedures of elections at the state and national levels?		
GOVERNMENT CONTENT VOCABULARY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12th Amendment, ballot, blanket primary, campaign, candidate, caucus, census, certify, closed primary, convention, debates, delegates, Democratic Party, election, Electoral College, electoral votes, electors, electronic voting, fill-in ballot, general election, nominate, open primary, party affiliation, plurality, political party, popular vote, primary election, proportional representation, punch card ballot, qualifications, registered voter, Republican Party, runoff election, tabulate, third-party, vote, winner-take-all 		
INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES		
Educational puzzles and games	Note-taking	Primary source analysis
MATERIALS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections at the State and National Levels slides Elections Note-Taking Organizer Explaining the Election Process Questions Create a Candidate cutout 		

- Explaining the Election Process activity sheet
- Coloring supplies
- Envelopes
- Spot the Difference slide
- Spot the Difference: Electing the President of the United States reading
- Highlighters
- Primary Elections Explained video (external link)
- Electoral College explained video (external link)
- Student digital devices
- Historical Electoral College Maps
- Electoral College Maps Scavenger Hunt handout
- 2024 Electoral Map

B.E.S.T. STANDARDS

The grade in which this lesson is taught will determine the specific B.E.S.T. standards correlation. Thematically, this lesson aligns to:

- ELA.R.3.2 Paraphrase and Summarize
- ELA.V.1.1 Academic Vocabulary

Suggested Student Activity Sequence & Pace

DAY	ACTIVITY SEQUENCE
DAY 1	<p>Planning Note: As these are state of Florida benchmarks, this lesson will primarily focus on the process and procedures for state and national elections from a Florida perspective. It is important to make students aware however that the information in this lesson isn't always applicable to all states. This lesson will also focus on executive and legislative elections at the two levels only. Elections to judicial positions are addressed in SS.912.CG.3.7 and SS.912.CG.3.9</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin class by projecting the "Elections at the State and National Levels" slides. 2. Project slide 2 with the text of Article I, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution. 3. Have students summarize this portion of the U.S. Constitution in their own words. 4. Lead students to the understanding that the U.S. Constitution pretty much turns all elements of elections over to the states to organize and decide. With the exception of listed qualifications to run for national offices, and the Electoral College system for presidential elections, states determine everything else in regards to the process and procedures for elections. 5. Project slide 3 and review with students what the Florida Constitution says about elections. Ask students: What are three election requirements outlined here? (elections must be direct, secret ballot, plurality determines winner) Teacher Note: You should mention to students that the remainder of the details regarding election processes and procedures are outlined in federal and state statutes/laws. 6. Project slide 4 and explain to students that today, they will be learning about the election process and procedures for state and national elections as determined by the state of Florida. Teacher Note: The presidential election process will be covered later on Day 3. 7. Pass out the "Elections Note-Taking Organizer" to each student. 8. Engage students in an interactive lecture that walks them through the components of the benchmark using slides 5-24. 9. As you work through each of the slides, students should be recording notes on their organizer in the appropriate sections, working to summarize points and not copy verbatim from the slides. 10. In addition to engaging students in discussion and pausing to clarify questions they may have, you are going to pause on slides 10, 15, and 21 to involve students in a 'change-up strategy'. Using the suggested strategy on each of those slides, enhance student learning by switching the activity to more student-directed and less teacher-directed. This also provides you an opportunity to formatively assess progress. 11. At the end of the interactive lecture, have students complete the summary task at the bottom of their note-taking organizer.
DAY 2	<p>Planning Note: Prior to today's lesson, you will need to print, copy, cut, and sort the "Explaining the Election Process Questions". Questions of the same number should be placed into an envelope (i.e. one envelope contains enough of the question #1 cards so that each group can have one. If you have six groups, you'll need to have six copies of each of the five question cards separated into separate envelopes). The envelopes should be labeled with the question number and placed in a location in which students can access.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin class by placing students in small groups.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Congratulate your students as they are now each part of a team that will be working with an individual who would like to run for an elected political office. 3. Provide each group a “Create a Candidate” cutout and an “Explaining the Election Process” activity sheet. 4. Explain to students that today, they will be putting what they learned yesterday into practice and helping their candidate go from ‘interested in running for office’ to hopefully ‘winning the general election’. 5. Provide students the overall instructions to today’s activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ They will start by creating their candidate and making some decisions about what office to run for. ■ Once they complete this step, they must get it checked off by the teacher in a manner you decide (i.e. raise their hands and you go to their group or one member of the group brings their paper to you, etc.). ■ After successful completion of their candidate creation, they will be given permission to get a card from the ‘Question #1’ envelope (prepared ahead of time using the “Explaining the Election Process Questions” referenced above in the planning note). ■ Students must read the question card and work as a group to develop an answer. They should record their answer on their activity sheet. ■ Once they think they are ready, they should again signal for the teacher to check. ■ If approved, they may get a question out of the ‘Question #2’ envelope. ■ They should continue the process until they have made it through all questions and all elements of their activity sheet have been checked by the teacher. 6. Provide time for groups to design/color their candidate and fill in the top portion of the activity sheet. Teacher Note: You may want to have a predetermined amount of time students may work on this portion to ensure they complete the rest of the activity today. 7. As groups begin to work through the activity sheet, move from group to group as they signal they are ready for an answer check and give permission to go get the next question from the appropriate envelope. Teacher Note: Use the answer key provided to help with checking responses.
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DAY 3	<p>Planning Note: The Electoral College is also covered in SS.912.CG.3.4 as part of the executive branch benchmark. As information related to the Electoral College does change, some information in resources may become slightly outdated (i.e. Florida will have 30 electoral votes in 2024, not 29)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Begin today’s lesson by projecting the “Spot the Difference” slide and having students see if they can find differences between the two kid pictures. 2. Discuss their findings. 3. Explain to students that today they are going to examine the election process and procedure for presidential elections and see if they can ‘spot the differences’ between elections for president and all other state and national elections already examined. 4. Distribute a “Spot the Difference: Electing the President of the United States” reading to each student. 5. Work through the reading together, taking one section at a time. When students ‘spot a difference’ have them highlight it. 6. Pause reading and use the following videos to help solidify learning after the section on ‘Primaries/Caucus’ and ‘Deciding the Election Winner’.
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- [“Primary Elections Explained”](#) video
 - [“Electoral College explained”](#) video
7. Inform students that they are going to finish today’s lesson by completing an Electoral College Scavenger Hunt using some presidential election results throughout U.S. history.
 8. Have students find a partner and a digital device.
 9. Provide students access to the “Historical Electoral College Maps” from C-SPAN and give each pair a copy of the “Electoral College Maps Scavenger Hunt” handout.
 10. Students will search through the various election slides and answer each of the questions relating to the Electoral College. Answers might be found using the map, the election results or the ‘Did you know?’ section on the slides.
Teacher Note: If you wish to shorten this activity, you could divide the scavenger hunt questions up and use a jigsaw strategy instead.
 11. Once students have completed the scavenger hunt, discuss some of their findings.
 12. Project a blank “2024 Electoral Map” and discuss some of the changes they observe.
 13. Using their knowledge and the previous Electoral College maps and electoral results, have students complete an exit ticket in which they make a prediction for the outcome of the 2024 presidential election. They should address the following:
 - Who do you predict will win? (party)
 - By how many electoral votes?
 - Which major states/areas of the country will each candidate win?
 - What about previous election results contributed to your prediction?

Government Content Vocabulary

Word/Term	Definition
12th Amendment	an amendment to the Constitution, adopted in 1804, specifies the separate election of the president and vice president by the Electoral College
ballot	the official document on which a vote is cast
blanket primary	a nominating election in which all candidates appear on the same ballot
campaign	organized effort by candidates during their pursuit of a political office
candidate	a person running for political office
caucus	a group-based nomination process
census	the official count of a population done every 10 years
certify	to confirm formally; verify
closed primary	nominating election in which only voters registered with a political party may participate
convention	a meeting of delegates and voters of the same party
debates	formal and organized public discussions between two or more candidates
delegates	a person chosen to represent a group in a political office
Democratic Party	a political party that believes that the national government should take a more active role in people's lives, particularly those who are in need
election	a formal and organized choice by vote of a candidate for political office
Electoral College	a group of people named by each state legislature to select the president and vice president
electoral votes	the choice expressed collectively by the Electoral College, which determines the winner of elections for president and vice president in the U.S.
electors	a person who is certified to represent their state's vote in the Electoral College; cast their votes in the Electoral College
electronic voting	a ballot that will be completed on an electronic device, such as a touchscreen computer
fill-in ballot	a paper ballot that will be completed with a pen or marker
general election	election in which voters decide which candidates will actually fill elective public offices

nominate	naming a candidate to represent a political party in a general election
open primary	a nominating election in which any registered voter may choose which primary they will vote, but they are then excluded from participating in the other party's primary
party affiliation	the political party a voter is registered as belonging to or is most closely connected with
plurality	a candidate that receives more votes than any other candidate in an election
political party	an organization that tries to get political power by electing members to public office so that their political ideas can become laws or policies; Democrats and Republicans are the two major parties in the U.S. political system
popular vote	the tally of each individual's vote within a given geographic area
primary election	nominating election held to choose party candidates who will run in the general election
proportional representation	an electoral system in which a party gains seats based on the proportion of votes cast by the electorate
punch card ballot	a paper ballot that must have certain portions punctured in order make selections
qualifications	requirements that need to be met in order to run for office
registered voter	those legally eligible to vote who have registered in accordance with the requirements prevailing in their state and locality
Republican Party	a political party that believes that the national government should play a less active role in people's lives and that individuals can take care of themselves without government help
runoff election	elections that take place when no candidate earns a majority of the vote in a previous race
tabulate	to count and arrange data (votes)
third-party	a political party that is not one of the two major political parties in the country; a minor party
vote	to elect or decide
winner-take-all	an electoral system in which only a single party can win the seat/office within a given district

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Florida Department of Education: Florida Civic Literacy Exam Homepage](#)

Florida Department of Education's Civic Literacy Reading List

- N/A

ANSWER KEYS

Sample Answers: Explaining the Election Process activity sheet

Sample Answers: Spot the Difference: Electing the President of the United States reading

Sample Answers: Electoral College Maps Scavenger Hunt handout

SOURCES

U.S. Constitution: <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>

Florida Constitution: <https://www.flsenate.gov/laws/constitution>

Create a Candidate cutout adapted from National Park Service Virtual Junior Ranger :

<https://www.nps.gov/waba/learn/kidsyouth/virtual-junior-ranger.htm>

Florida State Statutes: <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/>

The Electoral College explained from TedEd: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9H3gvnN468>

What is the Electoral College from National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/about>

Lecture-based Learning: <https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/lecturing/>

Florida Division of Elections:

<https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/data-statistics/voter-registration-statistics/voter-registration-reports/voter-registration-by-party-affiliation/>

C-SPAN Electoral College Map Lesson: <https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?17216>

Primary Elections Explained video from CPG Grey: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_95I_1rZiIs

Images and other visuals in slides are sourced within the presentation