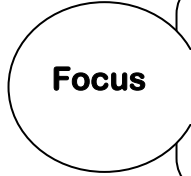


UNIT 9: VOTING, ELECTIONS, AND POLITICAL PARTIES



Understand the evolution and impact of political and social organizations for the purpose of influencing government and policy, as well as the importance of an informed electorate in a successful democracy.

Focus

INTEGRATED COURSE STANDARDS:

RESOURCE OPTIONS:

VOCABULARY/CONCEPTS:

- Political Party
- Platform
- Caucus
- Plurality
- Petition
- Precinct
- Soft Money
- Returns
- Electorate
- Initiative
- Referendum
- Elector
- Propaganda
- Committee
- Incumbent
- Two-Party System
- National Committee
- Political Machine
- Direct Primary
- Closed & Open Primaries
- Electoral College
- Absentee Ballot
- Winner-take-all System
- Political Action
- Third Party
- Plank
- Precinct
- Majority
- Polling Place
- Ballot
- Recall
- Exit Poll
- Apathy
- Proposition

UNIT OBJECTIVES/MAJOR TOPICS:

1. Trace the origins of political parties in the United States.
2. Describe the structure, role, and function of political parties in the American political process.
3. Recognize the variation and basic platforms of the current major political parties of the United States.
4. Demonstrate the voting process and its impact on school, community, local, state, and/or national level governments.
5. Recognize the influence of individual voters and political parties on the American political process.
6. Evaluate candidates for political office by analyzing their qualifications and experience and by interpreting issue-based platforms, debates, and political ads.
7. Identify the various types and purposes of United States elections.
8. Understand the purpose of political campaigns and campaign finance.

- *Civics: Citizenship, Economics and You* textbook Chapters 9 & 10 and teacher supplements
- "Kids Vote" from the *Tallahassee Democrat*
- Keep all campaign literature you get in the mail – use these for activities
- DNC and RNC literature
- See Technology Resource List for Online resources (opensecrets.org (campaign finance), livingroomcandidate.com (campaign ads), youthleadership.net (great lessons and a mock election))
- www.census.gov
- Copies of registration/ballots
- News sources
- United Streaming Videos
- Guest Speakers
- *Government Alive* (Chapter 10 activities)
- State Statutes
 - 1003.42(h) – African-American History and Contributions
 - 1003.42(s) – Duties of Citizenship
- Ongoing Integration of Units 10 & 11

IMPLEMENTATION METHODS & APPLIED ACTIVITIES:

- Suggested Activities
 - Take an Online party/candidate quiz
 - PowerPoint lecture on the history, structure, role and purpose of political parties
 - Build mock party planks/platform from cardboard
 - Comparing/contrasting campaign slogans, songs, signs, and ads
 - Trace the evolution of political ads on TV (livingroomcandidate.org)
 - Lesson on minority voting rights and trends – supervisor of elections office (Civil Rights Act of 1964) (Amendments 15 & 19)
 - Evaluate recent voting legislation and its impact (National Voter Registration Act & Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006)
 - *Kid's Vote* Program through the [Tallahassee Democrat](#)
 - Evaluate political cartoons on voting, elections, and political parties
 - YLI – Political Ideology Survey Lesson
 - YLI – Selecting a President Lesson
 - YLI – Campaign Advertising Lesson

- Simulations
 - Mock campaign between two or more groups – make posters, slogans, speeches (i.e. University mascot)
 - Participate in mock election
 - Reenact a party convention
 - Fill out mock voter registration card
 - Youth Leadership mock election and lessons

- Discussion Topic
 - Log onto declareyourself.com
 - Analyze campaign finance (opensecrets.org)
 - Look at current events centered on elections, political parties and candidates
 - Evaluate RNC and DNC web sites

- Guest Speakers
 - supervisor of elections office, poll workers, candidates (be unbiased), campaign staff
 - League of Women Voters, NAACP, Rock the Vote (rockthevote.com – great ads)

- Videos

