

VOTING

PARTICIPATING IN ELECTIONS

REQUIREMENTS TO VOTE

- Must be 18 years old
- A citizen
- Live in the area for 30 days
- In North Carolina: can't be felon and still on probation or parole

SUFFRAGE:

- The right to vote
- Amendments: 15 (men), 19 (women), 24 (no poll tax), 26 (age 18)

VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

- Federal government have power to protect minorities rights to vote (remember, voting was originally a reserved power)

OPTIONS FOR VOTING

- Precinct: Assigned area to vote (polling place)
- On election day: Presidential elections are always in a leap year
 - Tuesday after the first Monday in November
- Early voting: allows any registered voter to cast a ballot in person on select days prior to Election Day. Does not have to be in specific precinct.
- Absentee Ballot: Mail ballot in

PHILOSOPHIES OF VOTING

- Straight ticket: Vote for the political party
- Split ticket: Voting for individuals
- At Large voting: Electing a group

VOTER APATHY

- Apathy: Don't care
- Voter Apathy: don't care about voting/issues/candidates
- #1 reason for not voting in the U.S.
 - Rock the vote: campaign started by MTV to get youth interested in voting.

OTHER FORMS

- Public Hearings: Public shares views with local politicians
- Forums: meeting where ideas can be exchanged
- Petition: request to government
- Canvassing: to solicit votes by roaming neighborhoods

ELECTION PROCESS

- Primaries: first election that chooses candidate
 - Closed: can only vote in your political party
 - Open: can vote for whomever you want, doesn't matter which party
- Caucuses: where the party chooses their candidate

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- National Convention: Announce candidate and platform
 - The campaign: candidates roam the country trying to get your vote (speeches, commercials, etc.)
 - General Election: Everyone votes for whichever candidate they want.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- Who: Delegates picked to represent the voters of the state
- What: the body who formally elects the president
- 1. each state has its own election
- 2. The candidate who wins the majority of the popular vote in a state wins all the electoral votes
- 3. the presidential candidate to get to 270 votes wins!