

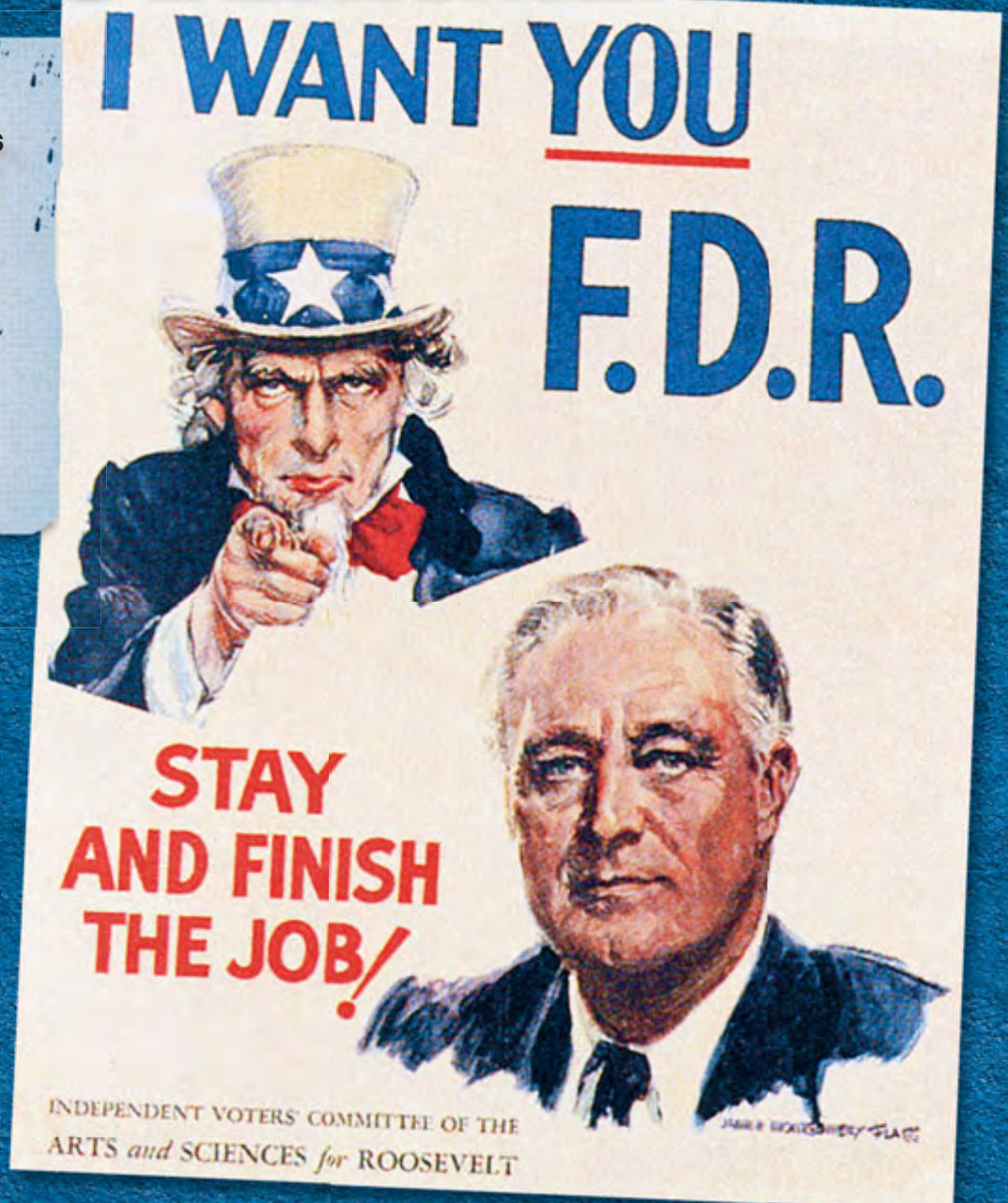
UNIT 4

THE CITIZEN IN GOVERNMENT

CHAPTER 10
Electing Leaders

CHAPTER 11
The Political
System

CHAPTER 12
Paying for
Government



In 1940, American voters elected Franklin D. Roosevelt to a third term as U.S. president.



FLORIDA...

The Story Continues

CHAPTER 10, Electing Leaders

EVENTS

2000: The 2000 presidential election reaches a deadlock in Florida. On November 7, 2000, Florida's votes for president were counted. Republican candidate George W. Bush had a lead of 327 votes over Democratic candidate Al Gore. In Florida, when election results are very close, candidates may ask for a recount. Gore asked for a recount of votes in four counties. Bush went to court to block the recount. The case, *Bush v. Gore*, went to the U.S. Supreme Court. Five of the nine justices decided to end the recount. As a result, Bush won the election and became president.

PEOPLE

2000: Katherine Harris oversees a historical recount of votes in Florida. Florida's Secretary of State is also the Chief of Elections. This duty requires the Secretary to announce election results. On November 7, 2000, however, Secretary of State Katherine Harris could not announce the results of the presidential election. It was too close to call. Harris then became responsible for overseeing a recount of many Florida votes. She made sure it was done fairly and according to the law. On November 26, 2000, Harris announced the results. George W. Bush had a 537-vote lead.

PLACES

2006: An election in Sarasota is upset by voting machines. An election in the 13th congressional district in Sarasota, Florida, may have been decided by voting machines, not voters. After candidate Christine Jennings lost the election by 369 votes, people raised questions about the voting machines. The machines had touch screens and did not create paper records. As a result, the votes could not be checked.

EVENTS**2007: New laws give voting rights back to former prisoners.**

In Florida, people who are convicted of serious crimes lose their right to vote. Once out of prison, former prisoners have often had to fight to get back their voting rights. In 2007, Florida put in place new laws to make it easier for people who have served time to regain the right to vote. Between April 2007 and March 2008, nearly 150,000 people regained the right to vote after getting out of prison.

EVENTS**2008: Florida holds presidential primary in January.**

The state of Florida broke rules established by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) when it held its presidential primary before February 5, 2008. The DNC debated how to respond. It considered keeping Florida's delegates from voting at the Democratic convention in the summer. In the end, however, the DNC decided to count Florida delegates' votes as half-votes.

PEOPLE**2004: Susan Pynchon founds the Florida Fair Elections Coalition.**

In 2004, Susan Pynchon was upset by elections in Florida that had been affected by faulty or unreliable voting machines. The goal of the organization she founded is to give all Florida voters access to accurate voting machines. These machines create paper ballots that can be double-checked.



Unpacking the Florida Standards <...>

Read the following to learn what this standard says and what it means. See FL8-FL20 to unpack all the other standards related to this chapter.

Benchmark SS.7.C.2.8 Identify America's current political parties, and illustrate their ideas about government.

What does it mean?

Identify the major political parties currently active in the American political process. Show an understanding of each party's beliefs about government. Go to Chapter 10, Electing Leaders, for help.



CHAPTER 10

ELECTING LEADERS

Essential Question How does the two-party system work in the United States? How do voters elect their political representatives?



Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

SS.7.C.2.7 Conduct a mock election to demonstrate the voting process and its impact on a school, community, or local level. **SS.7.C.2.8** Identify America's current political parties, and illustrate their ideas about government. **SS.7.C.2.9** Evaluate candidates for political office by analyzing their qualifications, experience, issue-based platforms, debates, and political ads. **SS.7.C.2.10** Examine the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing government. **SS.7.C.2.11** Analyze media and political communications (bias, symbolism, propaganda). **SS.7.C.2.13** Examine multiple perspectives on public and current issues. **LA.7.1.6.1** The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly. **LA.7.1.7.1** The student will use background knowledge of subject and related content areas, prereading strategies, graphic representations, and knowledge of text structure to make and confirm complex predictions of content, purpose, and organization of a reading selection.



**HISTORY**

**FLORIDA**
WINNER
Al Gore

hmhsocialstudies.com **VIDEO**

The Electoral College

WHY CIVICS Matters

Will you be ready to vote when you turn 18? Voting is a responsibility that all citizens should take seriously. Study the U.S. political process carefully. What you learn now will help you become a well-informed and intelligent voter later.

PROJECT **Citizen**



STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

STUDENTS GET A NEW LIBRARY FOR THEIR SCHOOL What would you do if your school did not have a library? How would you approach the elected leaders on your school board and convince them to establish a library?

FOCUS ON SPEAKING

CAMPAIGN PROMISES In this chapter you will read about how we elect our leaders and how candidates run for office. Then you will create and present a list of campaign promises that you would make if you were running for student body president. You must convince voters that you should be the one to tackle the important issues your school faces.

Reading Skills

In this chapter you will read about political parties and how the United States developed a strong two-party system. As you read, you will learn how political parties are organized and funded, and how they work to get candidates

elected. You will read about the right to vote and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which ensures the voting rights of all citizens. You will also read about presidential elections and how each party's candidates are chosen.

Identifying Bias

FOCUS ON READING

Citizens often disagree about political and social issues. As you consider various viewpoints, you need to learn to recognize bias. Bias is a personal judgment not based on reason. People who see only one side of an issue or situation may become biased, or prejudiced against other points of view.

Recognizing Bias Bias is a negative attitude that keeps a person from being objective or fair. Bias sometimes leads people to see other viewpoints as completely wrong or bad without fully considering the issue. Recognizing a speaker or writer's bias will help you to evaluate how reliable their views are. For example, read the passage below. Do you think the author was biased?

Helpful Hints for Identifying Bias

1. Look at the words or images a writer uses. Do they present only one side? Are they emotionally charged?
2. Look at the writer's background to see if it would affect a particular point of view.
3. Look at the information. How much is opinion, and how much is fact?

"[Party loyalty to political parties] agitates the Community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms; kindles the animosity of one part against another, foment[s] occasionally riot and insurrection [revolt]. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption."

—President George Washington's Farewell Address, 1796

Emotionally charged words: the words *agitates*, *animosity*, and *corruption* are negative.

The speaker's background: Washington feared that political parties would weaken the new government.

Facts or opinions: This statement is all opinion.

George Washington appears to be biased against political parties.

SS.7.C.2.11 Analyze media and political communications (bias, symbolism, propaganda).



LA.7.1.7.1

21ST
CENTURY

You Try It!

The following passage is from the chapter you are about to read. Read it and then answer the questions below.

Political Party Finances

*From Chapter
10, p. 257*

The BCRA requires every political candidate in federal elections to report the name of each person who contributes \$200 or more in a year. The law limits individual contributions to candidates to \$2,100 for primary elections and another \$2,100 for general elections. The Federal Election Commission enforces these laws. However, individuals and groups can still make unlimited contributions to activities, such as advertisements about issues, that are not part of a federal candidate's campaign. These are called "soft money" contributions.

After you have read the passage, answer the following questions.

1. You are the editor of your town's newspaper. You think the Federal Election Commission Act should be changed to prohibit contributions of soft money to political parties. You decide to write an editorial to express your opinion. Which of the phrases below would reveal your personal bias to your readers? Why? What words in each statement create bias?
 - a. greedy politicians selling their votes
 - b. ensuring equal opportunities for all candidates
 - c. spineless Federal Election Commission
 - d. concerned voters
2. If you were going to write the editorial described in question 1, how could you avoid biased statements? How do you think this might affect people's reactions to your writing?

As you read Chapter 10, think about how bias might creep into the campaign and election process.

SS.7.C.2.11 Analyze media and political communications (bias, symbolism, propaganda).

KEY TERMS

CHAPTER 10

Section 1

political party (p. 252)
nominate (p. 252)
candidate (p. 252)
political spectrum (p. 252)
two-party system (p. 252)
multiparty system (p. 253)
coalition (p. 253)
one-party system (p. 253)
third parties (p. 254)

Section 2

precincts (p. 256)
polling place (p. 256)

Section 3

independent voters (p. 259)
primary election (p. 259)
general election (p. 259)
closed primary (p. 259)
open primary (p. 259)
secret ballot (p. 261)

Section 4

popular vote (p. 263)
elector (p. 263)
electoral college (p. 263)
electoral votes (p. 263)
platform (p. 264)
plank (p. 264)

Academic Vocabulary

Success in school is related to knowing academic vocabulary—the words that are frequently used in school assignments and discussions. In this chapter, you will learn the following academic words:

impact (p. 252)
process (p. 264)

SECTION 1



SS.7.C.2.8; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

A Two-Party System

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

Political parties play an important role in the American democratic process. Party supporters put their political ideas to work at all levels of government.

Reading Focus

1. What is the role of political parties in the United States?
2. What are the differences between two-party and one-party political systems?
3. What impact have third parties had on the United States?

Key Terms

political party, p. 252
nominate, p. 252
candidate, p. 252
political spectrum, p. 252
two-party system, p. 252
multiparty system, p. 253
coalition, p. 253
one-party system, p. 253
third parties, p. 254



Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the similarities and differences between the two main political parties in the United States.



Do you consider yourself politically liberal or conservative? Are you conservative on some issues and liberal on other issues? Most of us fall somewhere in the middle. In any case, we can always change our minds. The strengths of our two-party system are that it offers choice and provides stability.

Political Parties

In democratic countries, citizens often join or support political parties. A **political party** is a group of citizens with similar views on public issues who work to put their ideas into effective government action. One job of political parties is to **nominate**, or select, candidates to run for political office. A **candidate** is a person who runs for government office.

The Role of Political Parties

Political parties try to convince voters to elect candidates who support the party's ideas. Most Americans who serve as public officials have been elected as candidates of a political party.

Political parties often take different positions on key issues. Some parties favor major

changes to government policy. Others want few changes. Parties are often labeled as "liberal" or "conservative." Depending on their views, parties can be placed along a political spectrum. The term **political spectrum** refers to the range of differences in such political views between parties.

The Two-Party System

In the United States today, we have a **two-party system**, which means that we have two main political parties. In fact, the United States has hundreds of parties. However, smaller political parties do not usually have a significant **impact** on national politics. The Democratic Party and the Republican Party are the two main parties. Generally, the Democratic Party is said to be more liberal. It favors a greater role for the federal government in providing social programs than the Republican Party does. In contrast, the Republican Party is said to be more conservative. It is more likely to support reducing the power of the federal government in operating social programs. Republicans generally believe that social programs should be created and

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

impact: effect, result

SS.7.C.2.8 Identify America's current political parties, and illustrate their ideas about government.

run by state and local governments and by nongovernmental organizations.

Advantages of the Two-Party System

Since the Civil War, the Democratic and Republican Parties have had almost equal strength, making the two-party system work remarkably well. Each party tries to attract as many voters as possible. So both parties tend to offer ideas and policies that are near the center of public opinion. Neither party wants to offer policies that might be considered too extreme. They know that if they fail to please a majority of voters, those voters may join the other party. This means that government policies are unlikely to change drastically in a short period of time.

Multiparty Systems

Several European countries have a **multi-party system**—one in which there are more than two strong political parties. If all the parties are of about equal strength, no one party can win a majority of votes. To run the government, two or more of the political parties must often agree to compromise and work together. This agreement between two or more political parties to work together is called a **coalition**. Coalition governments have worked well in some cases. However, this system has certain disadvantages. Often the political parties disagree. Then the coalition breaks apart, weakening both the government and the country.

One-Party Governments

In some countries voters have no choice between political parties. In countries with a **one-party system**, a single political party controls the government. In a one-party system, the law usually forbids the formation of all other political parties. Governments arising out of such a system are sometimes called dictatorships or totalitarian governments.

READING CHECK

Contrasting What is the major difference between one-party and two-party systems?

QUICK FACTS

Third-Party Candidates for President



Theodore Roosevelt

Election: 1912

Party: Progressive, or “Bull Moose”

Distinction: After serving as Republican president from 1901 to 1909, Roosevelt ran as a third-party candidate in 1912. He succeeded in taking votes from Republican William Taft, and Woodrow Wilson, the Democrat, won.



Lenora Fulani

Election: 1988, 1992

Party: New Alliance, Reform

Distinction: Fulani was the first woman and first African American person to appear on the ballot as a presidential candidate in all 50 states.



Ross Perot

Election: 1992, 1996

Party: United We Stand America, Reform

Distinction: Perot won 19 percent of vote in 1992—the highest of any third-party candidate since Roosevelt—and may have cost George H. W. Bush reelection. In 1996, he won 8 percent of the vote.



Ralph Nader

Election: 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008

Party: Green, Independent

Distinction: Many people believe that Nader split the liberal vote in the 2000 and 2004 elections, helping to ensure wins for George Bush.

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING INFORMATION

How can third-party candidates affect presidential elections even if they do not win?

Third Parties

The Democrats and Republicans dominate the U.S. political system. However, a number of **third parties** do exist. At times, third parties have greatly influenced national politics, even though their candidate did not win the election.

In 1912, the Republican Party denied Theodore Roosevelt its presidential nomination. As a result, Roosevelt organized a third party called the Progressive Party. He ran as the new party's presidential candidate. Roosevelt was not elected, but he took votes from Republican candidate William Taft. In this way, Roosevelt actually helped Democratic candidate Woodrow Wilson win the presidency.

In 1992 independent Ross Perot ran against Democrat Bill Clinton and Republican George Bush. Perot had the strongest showing of any third party or independent presidential candidate since Theodore Roosevelt. Although Bill Clinton won the presidential election, Perot won an impressive

19 percent of the vote. As in 1912, Perot's involvement in the election may have cost George Bush the election.

Third-party candidates have run for office throughout U.S. history. Few have done as well as Roosevelt and Perot. However, sometimes third parties have proposed important new ideas. For example, in the late 1800s, a group of citizens who favored several new ideas, such as a graduated income tax, an eight-hour workday, and immigration reform, formed the Populist Party. One of the Populist ideas was the election of U.S. senators directly by the voters. Democratic and Republican Party leaders favored the election of senators by the state legislatures as provided in the Constitution. Public support for the Populist proposal grew, however. As a result, the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution, which changed the method of electing U.S. senators, was adopted.

READING CHECK

Analyzing Information How have third parties affected U.S. politics?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT



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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- a. Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **political party**, **nominate**, **candidate**, and **political spectrum**.
b. Elaborate How might a political party convince voters to vote for its candidate?
- a. Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **two-party system**, **multiparty system**, **coalition**, and **one-party system**.
b. Summarize What are the reasons that American citizens might reject a one-party system?
- a. Define** Write a brief definition of the term **third parties**.
b. Predict How might a third-party candidate win the presidency?

Critical Thinking

- Comparing and Contrasting** Copy the graphic organizer. Then compare and contrast a two-party

political system, a multiparty political system, and a one-party political system.

	Two-Party	Multiparty	One-Party
Stability of Government			
Number of presidential candidates			
Response to public opinion			

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Supporting a Point of View** Imagine that you are a political expert advising citizens in a newly formed country on their country's future. Write a speech telling these citizens whether you think their country should have a two-party or a multiparty system, and where each party should fall on the political spectrum.

SECTION 2



SS.7.C.2.10; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

Political Party Organization

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

Political parties have workers and committees at the local, state, and national levels. The party nominates candidates for office and campaigns to get those candidates elected.

Reading Focus

1. How are political parties organized?
2. How do political parties operate at the local level?
3. What are the two main sources of money for financing political campaigns?

Key Terms

precincts, p. 256
polling place, p. 256

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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the responsibilities of party committees, political party finances, and the public financing of presidential elections.



Young people often volunteer to work in political campaigns.



If your class is planning to have a dance, a good first step would be to form a committee. A committee decides the theme, place, and other details for the dance. No one wants to get on the dance floor and discover there's no music. Effective action requires organization. This is especially true in politics. As a result, Republican and Democratic Parties are organized at the local, state, and national levels.

Party Organization

Political parties exist for one reason: to nominate and elect candidates to office. An effective party must be well organized. It must have leaders, committees, and workers able to carry out the party's program. The party must also be organized at the local, state, and national levels. It must be able to raise money to pay its expenses. The party must nominate its candidates for office and plan its campaign strategies to get these candidates elected.



FOCUS ON Barack Obama

(1961-)

In 2004, the people of Illinois elected Democrat Barack Obama to the U.S. Senate. He won a national reputation with his keynote address during the Democratic

National Convention that year.

After graduating from law school, Obama worked in New York and Chicago as a civil rights lawyer and a community organizer. He was teaching constitutional law at the University of Chicago when he won a seat in the Illinois state Senate in 1997.

Obama ran his U.S. Senate race against former ambassador Alan Keyes. He won in a landslide. In 2008 Obama secured the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. He then won the general election, the first African American to achieve either goal.

Analyzing Information How do you think Barack Obama's education and experience prepared him for public office?

Party Committees

Over the years, party members have established procedures for carrying out all of their activities. Today, both major parties—and many smaller parties—are organized in much the same way. The planning for each political party is done through a series of committees. Each political party has a national committee and a state central committee in each state. Each party also has local committees at the county, city, and sometimes township levels.

A chairperson heads each committee. Party supporters usually elect the committee members at election time. Sometimes, the members are chosen at special meetings of party leaders called caucuses.

National Committees

The largest party committee is the national committee. Members of the national committee may be elected by a state convention, elected by voters in a statewide election, or chosen by the state central committee. The party's presidential candidate often chooses the national committee chairperson.

The national committee selects the date, location, and rules for the party's national nominating convention. The party chooses its presidential and vice presidential candidates at this official party meeting.

State Committees

Each party has a state committee in each of the 50 states. This committee supervises the party organization in each state. It raises money and organizes campaigns to help candidates win elections. This committee's chairperson is a key party member in the state. He or she is often a member of the national committee.

READING CHECK

Categorizing What are the functions of political party committees?

Local Organization

Perhaps the most important political party committees are those at the local level. These committees are responsible for conducting all local campaigns. They raise money for the party and party candidates. Party members elect local committee members. Committee members elect chairpersons and serve as local party leaders. For elections, all counties, cities, and wards are divided into voting districts called **precincts**. In each precinct, voters all vote at the same polling place. A **polling place** is where voting takes place. A rural precinct may cover large areas of countryside. A precinct in a city may cover just a few blocks. The precinct chair or captain is the party leader in the precinct.

Precinct leaders are busy at election time. For example, they organize volunteers to **distribute** campaign literature. They arrange to have voters with disabilities driven to the polling place. They have party workers telephone voters and urge them to vote for party candidates.

READING CHECK

Finding the Main Idea What role do parties play in the voting process at the local level?

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

distribute: to divide among a group of people

Financing Campaigns

Running for political office is expensive. For example, the presidential candidates who ran in the 2004 election raised a total of more than \$900 million for the campaigns.

Private Financing

Voters, business groups, labor unions, and many other organizations contribute money to the political party that they believe best represents their interests. However, people often worry that big contributors to a candidate will receive special favors if he or she wins. To limit political contributions, Congress passed the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) in 1972. In 2002, Congress passed the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), which revised the contribution limits.

The BCRA requires every political candidate in federal elections to report the name of each person who contributes \$200 or more in a year. The law limits individual contributions to candidates to \$2,100 for primary elections and another \$2,100 for general elections. The Federal Election Commission enforces these laws. However, individuals and groups can still make unlimited contributions to activities, such as advertisements about issues, that

are not part of a federal candidate's campaign. These are called "soft money" contributions.

Public Financing

The FECA also created the Presidential Election Campaign Fund. By checking a box on their federal income tax forms, Americans can contribute \$3 of their taxes to the election fund. This neither raises nor lowers the amount of tax a person pays.

The U.S. Treasury distributes the fund's money to the candidates. To be eligible, a presidential candidate trying to win a party's nomination for president must first raise at least \$5,000 from private contributions in each of at least 20 states. The candidate then can receive up to a certain amount in matching public funds. To receive public funds, however, candidates must agree to limit their spending in nomination campaigns.

After winning the nomination of their party, presidential candidates who accept public financing cannot accept private contributions. Their campaigns must be paid for only with the public funds they receive.

READING CHECK

Finding the Main Idea What are the two ways that presidential campaigns may be financed?

SS.7.C.2.10 Examine the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing government.

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- a. Identify** What are the three different levels of committees in political parties?
b. Describe How does each level of party committees help elect candidates to office?
- a. Define** Write a brief description of the terms **precincts** and **polling places**.
b. Summarize What are the functions of party committees?
- a. Analyze** Why did Congress pass the Federal Election Campaign Act in 1972?
b. Evaluate What are the advantages and disadvantages of federal funding of presidential campaigns?

Critical Thinking

- Summarizing** Copy the graphic organizer. Use it to identify the levels of committees that run each of the major political parties and the functions of each committee.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Supporting a Point of View** Create a pamphlet explaining the guidelines you would suggest for federal financing of presidential campaigns.

STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

Creating a Library

Most schools in the United States have libraries for their students. What do you think you would do if your school did not have a library? A well-prepared proposal from student leaders in Rabat, Morocco, convinced the school's parent association to create and staff a school library.

Community Connection Morocco's Ministry of Education requires every school to have a library. However, it does not outline how those libraries should be organized or run. At one school in the city of Rabat, administrators just put textbooks on a few shelves in a classroom. There were no general interest books. There was no space for students to sit and read.

Taking Action Project Citizen students in Mr. Mohammed Moussi's class wanted a real library, with space for books, a reading area, and a well-trained librarian. The teens studied their school. They discovered that, although a library was included in the school's original architectural plan, it was never built. The students developed a proposal to build a new library, specifying its size, location, and cost. They identified partners to help sponsor the project, including parents, charity organizations, private donors, and local government. The students then submitted their plan to the school administration and parents' association. Parents soon began collecting books and equipment and searching for a librarian. The teens' leadership efforts have also expanded public awareness of the need to include libraries in other Moroccan schools.



School libraries are important for all students.

SERVICE LEARNING



1. Why do you think students wanted a library in their school?
2. How do you think students decided which groups to contact to get support for their ideas?

hmhsocialstudies.com **ACTIVITY**

SECTION 3



SS.7.C.2.13; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

The Right to Vote

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

The right to vote is one of the most important rights held by U.S. citizens. It is the means through which citizens can most directly affect the actions of government.

Reading Focus

1. How do you become a voter in the United States?
2. What is the difference between primary elections and general elections?
3. How has the voting process changed over the years?

Key Terms

independent voters, p. 259
primary election, p. 259
general election, p. 259
closed primary, p. 259
open primary, p. 259
secret ballot, p. 261



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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on qualifications for voting, primary and general elections, and changes in the voting process.



Voting is key to democracy. If no one votes, democracy fails. If you don't vote, your voice is not heard.

Becoming a Voter

When they reach the age of 18, all U.S. citizens become eligible to vote in national, state, and local elections. The right to vote is one of the most important rights that you have.

Each state decides qualifications for registering to vote and voting. To register to vote, a person must be 18 by a set date before the next election. The Constitution forbids any state to deny a citizen the right to vote on the basis of race, color, or sex.

Most states require voters to register by giving their name, address, date of birth, and other information showing that they meet the voting qualifications. Their names are placed on a roll of eligible voters and they may be given cards showing that they are registered voters. Voter registration protects your vote. No one can vote more than once or claim to be you and cast your vote. When people register to vote, they may be asked to register as a member of the political party of their choice. They can change parties later by

registering again. Citizens may also register as **independent voters**, which means that they are not members of a political party.

READING CHECK

Finding the Main Idea Why is voter registration important?

Elections

Most states hold two types of elections. The **primary election** takes place first and is usually held in the late spring or early summer. The primary election allows voters to choose the party candidates who will run in the later **general election**. The general election is where voters choose their leaders from the candidates offered by all the political parties.

Primary Elections

The two main types of primary elections are the closed primary and the open primary. In the **closed primary**, only those voters who are registered in a particular party can vote to choose the party's candidates. Most states use the closed primary. Those people who have registered as independent voters cannot vote in a closed primary. In the **open primary**, voters may vote for the candidates of either major party, whether or not the voters belong to that party.

Early Primaries

In the months before a presidential election, people vote in primary elections (sometimes called caucuses) to choose which candidate will represent their party. Candidates try to gain momentum in the early primaries to help them win their party's nomination. Do people in your state have a fair voice in this process?

Why it Matters

The attention given to the winners of the earliest primary elections often helps those candidates gain more support in the following primaries. This makes the first primaries very important. Too important, some people think. Lesser-known candidates may not win early primaries. So they may have trouble raising money and getting noticed by the media later in the race. This system of giving the early primaries extra influence is called front-loading.

Traditionally, the first primary election in the country was held by New Hampshire in late January. Should a state with a small population have so much influence? To increase their power in candidate selection, other states started holding their primaries early in the year too. In 2008 both Iowa and Wyoming held caucuses before New Hampshire's primary. That same year, 39 states held one or both parties' primaries or caucuses before the end of February. Some people, however, oppose this shortened election season. They are developing ways to balance primaries.



Rudy Giuliani dropped out of the 2008 presidential race after poor showings in early primaries.

ANALYSIS SKILL

EVALUATING THE LAW

1. Do you think the primary election system is the best way to choose presidential candidates? Explain.
2. What changes, if any, would you make to the primary system?

hmhsocialstudies.com **ACTIVITY**

In most states, whoever receives the most votes wins the primary election. In some states, however, the winner must receive a majority, or more than half, of the votes. If no candidate receives a majority, a runoff between the two leading candidates decides the winner.

In some states, political parties choose their candidates in a nominating convention. Various party committees select the delegates to this convention. The delegates then vote to choose candidates.

Independent Candidates

An independent candidate—one who does not belong to a political party—can have his or her name printed on the general election ballot if enough supporters sign a petition. Independent candidates usually receive only local grassroots support from individuals. Thus independent candidates are not elected as often as major-party candidates.

It is even possible to be elected without having your name on the ballot. Some states let voters write in the name of a candidate.

General Elections

Congress set the date for the general election of the president and Congress as the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November. Presidential elections take place every four years. Congressional elections occur every two years. Most general elections for state officials are also held in November. The president and members of Congress are elected in even-numbered years. State election dates are set by each state and can vary.

READING CHECK

Contrasting How do primary elections differ from general elections?

Voting

Voting methods have changed a great deal since the first elections were held in the United States. The responsibilities shared by voters, however, have remained the same.

Early Voting

During the first part of the 1800s, voting in the United States was usually by voice vote. Voters announced aloud to the election official their choice of candidate. This meant a person's vote was public knowledge.

In 1888, the United States adopted the secret ballot. A **secret ballot** is a paper ballot that lists the names of the candidates. A voter marks his or her ballot in private. Voting with ballots helps make elections fair and honest.

Voting Today

Today many states offer alternatives to the paper ballot, such as mechanical lever machines, punchcards, marksense, and direct recording electronic (DRE) systems. Voters using punchcards punch holes in paper to indicate their choices. The marksense or optical scan system requires voters to fill in little black circles or arrows with a pencil. The DRE system provides voters with the ballot on a special touch screen. Voters

select their candidates by touching the person's name on the screen.

Polling places are usually open from early in the morning until evening on election day. In most states, the law requires that employers must give employees time off to vote.

Many voters vote a straight ticket—that is, they vote for all of the candidates of one party. Other voters vote a split ticket—choosing candidates of more than one political party.

However they vote, citizens should learn as much as possible about the candidates and issues. This allows voters to make informed choices that best reflect their views. Voting wisely is a key part of good citizenship.

READING CHECK

Summarizing How have voting methods changed during the past 200 years?

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT



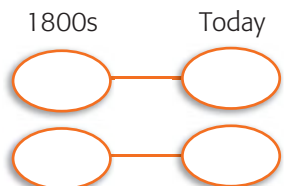
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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- Define** Write a brief definition of the term **independent voters**.
 - Summarize** How does a person become a voter in the United States?
- Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **primary election**, **general election**, **closed primary**, and **open primary**.
 - Contrast** What are the differences between an open primary and a closed primary?
- Define** Write a brief definition of the term **secret ballot**.
 - Interpret** Why was the secret ballot method of voting developed?

Critical Thinking

- Contrasting** Copy the graphic organizer. Use it to show the ways that voting has changed since the first part of the 1800s.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Contrasting** Write a brief paragraph describing the different types of primary elections and the difference between primaries and general elections.

Reading an Election Map

Learn

Election maps often appear on the news to show the results of U.S. presidential elections. These maps show the votes that each candidate has—by state, county, or precinct. Usually, red indicates Republican states or counties, and blue represents Democratic areas. Third-party candidates show up on an election map if they receive enough votes.

Except for Maine and Nebraska each state gives all its electoral votes to the candidate who wins the most votes. The margin of victory in each state is not important. Similarly, the number of counties that a candidate wins is not as critical as the total number of votes he or she gets.

Practice

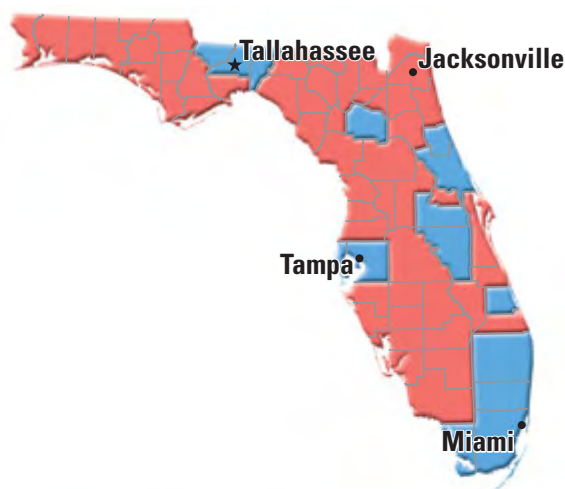
- 1 Notice where “red” and “blue” areas are concentrated. On a national election map, figure out which regions were won by the Democrats or the Republicans. On state election maps, look for how people voted in different counties.
- 2 Determine whether a certain state had a close race. Except in Maine and Nebraska, only one candidate can win all the electoral votes. But a close race can matter for future election campaigns.
- 3 Pay attention to the total number of votes each candidate got. In order to win the state, a candidate needs the majority of the state’s votes, not the majority of the counties or precincts. By winning more populous counties, he or she may have a greater chance at winning the state.

Apply

The Florida election map below shows results from the 2008 presidential election. Use the map to answer the following questions.

1. Just by looking at the red and blue areas of the map, how close does the election in Florida appear to have been?
2. Look at the vote totals in the map key. What percentage of the vote did each candidate win?
3. What might explain the difference between the number of counties that each candidate won and the actual vote totals for each candidate?

2008 Election Results in Florida Counties



Candidate	Political Affiliation	Counties Won	Popular Votes
Barack Obama	Democratic	15	4,282,074
John McCain	Republican	52	4,045,624
TOTAL		67	8,327,698

— County boundaries

SECTION 4



SS.7.C.2.9; SS.7.C.2.10; SS.7.C.2.11; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

Nominating and Electing Leaders

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

Every four years the United States elects a president. Citizens need to follow the presidential election campaign, stay informed about the candidates and the issues, and vote.

Reading Focus

1. What is the main purpose of the electoral college?
2. What is the nomination process at the national party conventions?

Key Terms

popular vote, p. 263
elector, p. 263
electoral college, p. 263
electoral votes, p. 263
platform, p. 264
plank, p. 264



Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the electoral college.



The United States is not a direct democracy. It is a representative democracy. We choose representatives to vote for us. This is true in presidential elections, too. Each of our individual votes helps to decide which political party's electors, or representatives, decide who becomes president.

The Electoral College

When you vote in a presidential election, your vote is part of the popular vote. The **popular vote** is the vote of the citizens of a country. Many people think that the candidate with the most popular votes becomes the president. That is not always true. Presidents are not elected by popular vote. That is, your vote does not count directly for the president. Your vote is actually for people called electors.

Voters Elect Electors

An **elector** is one of the people chosen from each state and the District of Columbia who formally select the president and vice president. The group of all the electors is called the **electoral college**.

There are 538 electors in the electoral college. Each state has a number of electors equal to the total number of senators and representatives that it has in Congress. In addition, the District of Columbia, which has no representatives in Congress, has three electoral votes. **Electoral votes** are votes cast by electors for president and vice president.

Before the presidential election, each political party in every state selects electors who promise to vote for the party's presidential candidate. Except in Maine and Nebraska, the party whose candidate received the most popular votes wins the state. For example, if the Democratic candidate wins a majority of the state's votes, the Democratic electors cast the state's electoral votes. The electors are not required by law to vote for their party's candidate. However, only rarely do electors cast their votes for a candidate who does not belong to their party.

Electors Elect the President

The electoral votes are added up for each of the states won by each candidate. Then we can tell who will be officially elected as the next

Public Figures and the Press

What if a newspaper, TV, or radio says untrue things about you? You can sue it for harming your reputation. But imagine how hard it would be to have a free press if publishers and producers had to worry about being sued every time they reported something negative about the president, the governor, or another public figure. In a democracy, we want the media to be able to critically report on political leaders and other people in the news.

In 1964, the Supreme Court ruled that, under the First Amendment, publishers and broadcasters cannot be sued for what they report about public officials

unless they knew that statements were false or did not take the time to carefully check the facts. The Court later extended this protection to coverage about anyone who has become a “public figure.” Public figures include anyone whose actions have generated media interest. Examples are politicians, celebrities, or even well-known criminals.

1. Why did the Supreme Court create a special rule for untrue statements about public figures?
2. How does the public-figure protection strike a balance between the interests of the press and the rights of individuals?



SS.7.C.2.9

Evaluate candidates for political office by analyzing their qualifications, experience, issue-based platforms, debates, and political ads.

president. A few weeks after election day, electors in each state meet. They cast their ballots. The results are then sent to and counted by Congress. The candidate who receives a majority—270 or more—of the electoral votes becomes the next president.

There could be no presidential candidate who receives a majority of the electoral votes. Then the House of Representatives chooses the president from among the three leading candidates. If no candidate receives a majority of votes for vice president, the Senate chooses that official. Congress has had to choose the president only twice—in 1800 and 1824. Congress has chosen the vice president only once—in 1836.

READING CHECK

Finding the Main Idea How does the electoral college work?

The Nomination Process

Winning the primaries is not the end of the **process** of becoming a presidential candidate. Before a candidate gets to the White House, he or she must win his or her party's nomination. This occurs at a political convention.

In each state, members of each political party choose delegates to go to their party's convention. There they nominate candidates for president and vice president. A state's political party may send additional delegates to the convention. But the party's candidate must have won in that state in the last presidential election.

Each party's national nominating convention is held during the summer of the presidential election year. Often, portions of the conventions are televised. Voters may watch. As a result, party leaders use conventions to try to win the support of voters across the country for their platform and candidate. A party's **platform** is a statement of the party's views and policies on important issues. It sets out the party's program for actions to address the nation's problems. Each part of the platform is called a **plank**. For example, the platform may have a general statement that the party pledges to lower the crime rate. A plank related to that issue might call for increasing funding for police departments.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

process: a series of steps by which a task is accomplished

MEDIA INVESTIGATION

TELEVISION

Televised Debates

In September 1960 Republican nominee Richard M. Nixon faced-off against Democratic nominee John F. Kennedy in the first nationally televised presidential debate. Both candidates had a good understanding of the issues. However, Kennedy, who to many viewers seemed much more at ease before the camera, was commonly thought to have won the debate.

Televised debates allow voters to find out where the candidates stand on certain issues. At the same time, they create emotional reactions. Televised debates can help change a voter's mind about a candidate because of the candidate's television "personality." More often, though, the debates help to strengthen existing support for a candidate.



ANALYSIS SKILL

MEDIA LITERACY

Drawing Conclusions What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of televised debates?

hmhsocialstudies.com **ACTIVITY**

Presidential Candidates

The candidates for each party are usually determined after the primaries. However, candidates are officially chosen at the national nominating conventions. All candidates are nominated. Then the balloting begins. To win the nomination, a candidate must receive a majority of the convention delegates' votes. The candidate who wins the majority of votes wins his or her party's nomination.

Vice Presidential Candidates

Next, the delegates nominate candidates for vice president. Vice presidential candidates are usually chosen for their ability to win votes. Generally, the nominee for president has the strongest voice in deciding who will be the vice presidential candidate.

SS.7.C.2.10 Examine the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing government.

READING CHECK

Summarizing What takes place at nominating conventions?

SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT



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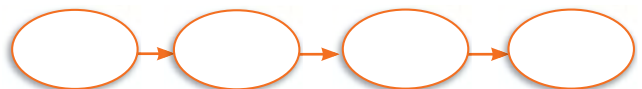
ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **popular vote**, **elector**, **electoral college**, and **electoral votes**.
 - Explain** How does the electoral college elect the president?
- Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **platform** and **plank**.
 - Analyze** What is the main purpose of national nominating conventions?

Critical Thinking

- Summarizing** Copy the graphic organizer. Use it to show the process of nominating a candidate for president.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Supporting a Point of View** Write an editorial arguing whether the president should be elected by the electoral college or by popular vote.

CHAPTER 10 REVIEW



FLORIDA CIVICS EOC PRACTICE

1. The statement below is from a State of the Union address.

It produced more research and treatment for AIDS, more childhood immunizations, more support for women's health research, more affordable college loans for the middle class, a new national service program for those who want to give something back to their country and their communities for higher education, a dramatic increase in high-tech investments to move us from a defense to a domestic high-tech economy.

Why is this quotation praising a Congressional session more likely to have been delivered by a Democratic president than a Republican president?

- A. It praises federal support for social programs.
 - B. It highlights high-tech investment.
 - C. It refers to increases to the defense budget.
 - D. It encourages people to work in the field of women's health research.
2. Which political party is more likely to support reducing the power of the federal government?
- A. Democratic
 - B. Progressive
 - C. Republican
 - D. Green

Reviewing Key Terms

For each term below, write a sentence explaining its significance to electing leaders.

- 1. political party
- 2. nominate
- 3. candidate
- 4. political spectrum
- 5. two-party system
- 6. multiparty system
- 7. coalition
- 8. one-party system
- 9. third parties
- 10. precincts
- 11. polling place
- 12. independent voters
- 13. primary election
- 14. general election
- 15. closed primary
- 16. open primary
- 17. secret ballot
- 18. popular vote
- 19. elector

- 20. electoral college
- 21. electoral votes
- 22. platform
- 23. plank

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 252–254)

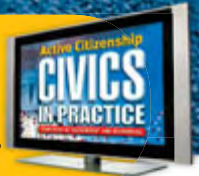
24. **a. Recall** What purposes do political parties serve?
- b. Draw Conclusions** What are the advantages of a two-party system?
- c. Elaborate** What are coalition governments, and why are they often unstable?

SECTION 2 (Pages 255–257)

25. **a. Describe** How are political parties organized on the national, state, and local levels?
- b. Explain** How do political parties raise money, and how does Congress regulate fund-raising?
- c. Elaborate** Do you think that federal money should be used to finance presidential campaigns? Why or why not?

Active Citizenship video program

Review the video to answer the closing question:
What qualities do people your age have that help them become leaders in their school and community?



SECTION 3 (Pages 259–261)

- 26. a. Recall** What protections do voters receive under the Constitution?
- b. Contrast** What is the difference between a primary election and a general election?
- c. Predict** How might new technology change the way people vote in the future?

SECTION 4 (Pages 263–265)

- 27. a. Describe** How do the major political parties select their presidential candidates?
- b. Explain** What is the purpose of nominating conventions?
- c. Evaluate** Do you think the electoral college is a fair method of choosing the president? Why or why not?

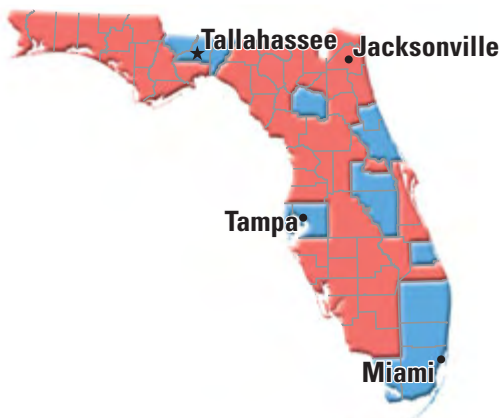
Civics Skills



Reading Maps Use the Civics Skills taught in this chapter to answer the question about the map below.

- 28.** Based on the information contained in the map and key, in which part of the state would you say most people lived?

2008 Election Results in Florida Counties



Candidate	Political Affiliation	Counties Won	Popular Votes
Barack Obama	Democratic	15	4,282,074
John McCain	Republican	52	4,045,624
TOTAL		67	8,327,698

— County boundaries

Reading Skills



Identifying Bias Use the Reading Skills taught in this chapter to answer the question about the reading selection below.

“[Party loyalty] agitates the Community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms; kindles the animosity of one part against another, foment[s] [causes] occasionally riot and insurrection [revolt]. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption...”

—President George Washington's Farewell Address, 1796

- 29.** Does Washington's speech show bias against political parties? What words in this selection support your answer?

Using the Internet



- 30. Comparing Political Parties** For almost 150 years, the dominant American political parties have been the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Through your online textbook, research these parties as well as any third parties that are active in your community. Then create a chart that illustrates each party's ideas about government.

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SS.7.C.2.7 Conduct a mock election to demonstrate the voting process and its impact on a school, community, or local level.

FOCUS ON SPEAKING

- 31. Share Your Campaign Promises** Review your notes about campaign promises and decide which ones best address issues important to students in your school. Write a speech declaring your candidacy for student body president and explaining your campaign promises. Organize into small groups, and deliver your speech within the group. Each group should select one person to present his or her speech to the class. Then, the class should vote to elect one nominee to run for student body president.



FLORIDA...

The Story Continues

CHAPTER 11, The Political System

PEOPLE **1988: Humorist Dave Barry (1947–) wins the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary.** The Pulitzer Prize for Commentary always went to a serious journalist for a serious editorial. A humor writer had never won it. Dave Barry wrote humor columns for the *Miami Herald*. People read his columns, which were funny. They talked about his columns because he gave them new ways to think about national events. In 1988, the Pulitzer Prize jury rewarded Dave Barry for using humor to shape public opinion.

PEOPLE **The Florida Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) fights for safer toys, a cleaner environment, and honest elections.** Florida PIRG works with PIRGs from other states. They educate the public about many consumer issues. One of their major focuses is the New Voters Project. Florida PIRG maintains that democracy is strongest when everyone participates. However, many young people do not vote. The political opinions of those young people are not considered. So the PIRG encourages all 18- to 24-year-olds to vote.

PLACES**2010: Citizens say “No” to a big company in Gadsden County.**

In December 2009, ADAGE, LLC said it would build a biomass incinerator in Gretna. The company told city officials that many people would be hired to work at the plant. It told city officials how much tax money the city would get. The energy produced would be “clean, green and renewable.” Many people in Gretna and Gadsden County disagreed. They read studies that showed the process would pollute the air near schools. In January 2010, they formed the Concerned Citizens of Gadsden County to fight against the plant. The group spoke to the mayor and city council. They wrote letters to newspapers. On March 15, 2010, the city council postponed the project. ADAGE decided not to build in Gretna.

attacking the other candidate. Instead of doing that, State Representative Weinstein created a campaign video with upbeat tempo, lyrics, and hip-hop dancers. In the video, he told voters how hard he worked for them. He said nothing negative about his opponents, who ended up dropping out of the race.

EVENTS**2010: Marco Rubio proves that political polls can be wrong.**

In July 2010 a Florida poll showed that Governor Charlie Crist would win the Senate race. However, many people had not made up their minds yet about which candidate they preferred. In November Rubio, not Crist, won the Senate seat.

EVENTS**2010: Florida State Representative Mike Weinstein refuses to be negative.**

Negative campaign ads try to make people vote for one person by



Unpacking the Florida Standards <...>

Read the following to learn what this standard says and what it means. See FL8-FL20 to unpack all the other standards related to this chapter.

Benchmark SS.7.C.2.9 Evaluate candidates for political office by analyzing their qualifications, experience, issue-based platforms, debates, and political ads.

What does it mean?

Demonstrate an ability to assess the appropriateness of a candidate running for political office by critically analyzing his or her qualifications, experience, issue-based platforms, performance in debates, and political advertisements. Go to Chapter 10, Electing Leaders, and Chapter 11, The Political System, for help.

CHAPTER 11

THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

Essential Question In what ways do political leaders and interest groups try to influence the political process? How can Americans participate in government?



Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

SS.7.C.2.9 Evaluate candidates for political office by analyzing their qualifications, experience, issue-based platforms, debates, and political ads. **SS.7.C.2.10** Examine the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing government. **SS.7.C.2.11** Analyze media and political communications (bias, symbolism, propaganda). **SS.7.C.2.13** Examine multiple perspectives on public and current issues. **SS.7.C.3.12** Analyze the significance and outcomes of landmark Supreme Court cases including, but not limited to, *Marbury v. Madison*, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Gideon v. Wainwright*, *Miranda v. Arizona*, *in re Gault*, *Tinker v. Des Moines*, *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*, *United States v. Nixon*, and *Bush v. Gore*. **LA.7.1.6.1** The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly. **LA.7.1.7.1** The student will use background knowledge of subject and related content areas, prereading strategies, graphic representations, and knowledge of text structure to make and confirm complex predictions of content, purpose, and organization of a reading selection. **LA.7.1.7.3** The student will determine the main idea or essential message in grade-level or higher texts through inferring, paraphrasing, summarizing, and identifying relevant details. **MA.7.S.6.1** Evaluate the reasonableness of a sample to determine the appropriateness of generalizations made about the population.





**HISTORY**

**Vote Tech**

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WHY CIVICS Matters

When you vote, you are part of the long tradition of American democracy. Your vote is important. To play your part, listen to and evaluate the political messages you get. Then it's your turn. Vote and send your own message.



STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

CREATE A HOLIDAY Few state or national holidays honor women's contributions to the nation. If you were to propose a new statewide holiday to honor a woman, what would you do to get the holiday created? As you read this chapter, think of actions you might take.

FOCUS ON WRITING

OUTLINE FOR A DOCUMENTARY

FILM Several filmmakers have made documentary films about politicians and our political system. There is always room for another good film. In this chapter you will read about the political system, shaping public opinion, and your part in our democratic system. Then you will create an outline for a documentary film to be used in your civics class.

Reading Skills

In this chapter you will read about how public opinion influences political decisions. You will learn how public opinion is measured and how groups try to shape public opinion in different ways. You will also learn how to recognize

propaganda. You will discover how interest groups work to influence public opinion and what a lobbyist does. Finally, you will learn how all citizens can participate in their government and about the importance of voting.

Using Questions to Analyze Text

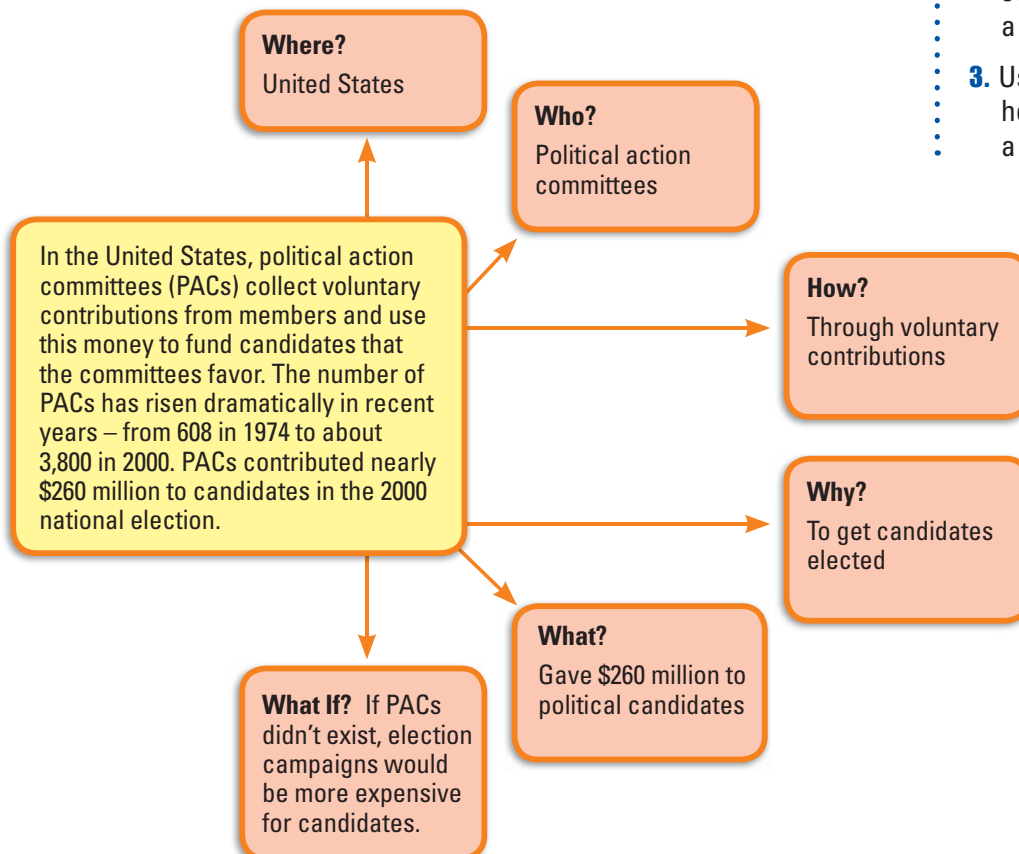
FOCUS ON READING

When newspaper reporters want to get to the heart of a story, they ask certain questions: who, what, when, where, why, and how. When you are reading a textbook, you can use the same questions to get to the heart of the information you are reading.

Hypothetical Questions You can also use questions to dig deeper than what is in the text. You can ask hypothetical, or *what if*, questions, such as, What might have happened had the situation been different? Sometimes asking such questions can make the material come alive.

Helpful Hints for Using Questions to Analyze Text

1. Remember that the 5Ws and H questions are Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How?
2. See if you can answer the 5Ws and H questions about a passage.
3. Use What If? questions to help you think more about a passage.





LA.7.1.7.3

You Try It!

The following passage is from the chapter you are about to read. Read it and then answer the questions below.

Judy Heumann was born in New York City. When she was 1 1/2 years old, she contracted polio and was confined to a wheelchair. Because public schools could not meet the needs of disabled students, she was home-schooled until the fourth grade. After graduation, Heumann studied to become a teacher. However, New York would not certify her because of her physical disability. Heumann won a lawsuit against the state and later helped found Disabled in Action, a disabled-rights organization. She also served with the Center for Independent Living, which helps integrate disabled individuals into local communities. In 2010 she was appointed special advisor for international disability rights at the U.S. Department of State.

*From Chapter 11,
p. 281*

After you have read the passage, answer the following questions.

1. Who is this passage about?
2. What did she do?
3. When did she do this?
4. How do you think she accomplished it?
5. Why did she do it?
6. How do you think she got the money to begin the organization?
7. What if she had lost her fight? How might life for people with disabilities be different?

As you read Chapter 11, ask the who, what, when, where, why, how, and what if questions to make sure you are getting to the heart of the material.

KEY TERMS

CHAPTER 11

Section 1

public opinion (p. 273)
mass media (p. 273)
propaganda (p. 273)
poll (p. 276)

Section 2

interest groups (p. 278)
lobby (p. 278)
lobbyist (p. 278)
public-interest groups (p. 279)

Section 3

volunteers (p. 285)
political action committees (PACs) (p. 286)

Academic Vocabulary

Success in school is related to knowing academic vocabulary—the words that are frequently used in school assignments and discussions. In this chapter, you will learn the following academic words:

influence (p. 273)
factor (p. 273)

SECTION 1



SS.7.C.2.9; SS.7.C.2.10; SS.7.C.2.11; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1; MA.7.S.6.1

Shaping Public Opinion

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea


Political leaders and interest groups find many ways to shape public opinion and influence the beliefs of American citizens.

Reading Focus

1. What is public opinion, and how is it shaped?
2. What is propaganda, and what are six common propaganda techniques?
3. How is public opinion measured?

Key Terms

public opinion, p. 273
mass media, p. 273
propaganda, p. 273
poll, p. 276

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TAKING NOTES
Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on public opinion.



When you see or hear your favorite athlete or musician advertise a product, do you want to buy that item? Many people do, judging by the money celebrities earn for product endorsements. Advertising must work, because companies spend a lot of money to sell their products. Remember that idea the next time you see a political advertisement. The same advertising methods that sell makeup, cars, and music also sell political issues and candidates. If you know how public opinion is shaped, you will be able to make informed choices.

Public Opinion and How It Is Shaped

What is your opinion? You have probably been asked this question many times. Your opinions can influence what others believe or how they act. In the United States, the opinions of the people—of the citizens—can influence the government. For example, an elected official who ignores the opinions of the people is not likely to be elected again.

We have all heard statements such as “Public opinion demands that something be

Political candidates try to shape public opinion through their words and actions.

SS.7.C.2.10 Examine the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing government.



Public Opinion

The term *public opinion* refers to the many different opinions held on a particular subject. Oftentimes people make their opinion known through protest.

What different opinions are reflected in these protest signs?

done.” People sometimes think that public opinion is one opinion shared by all Americans. However, there are very few issues on which all Americans agree.

Public Opinion Is Many Opinions

On any particular issue, there may be many diverse opinions, each one held by a different group. Each group, therefore, makes up a “public.” Because an issue may have many interested publics, **public opinion** is the total of the opinions held concerning a particular issue. Thus, the term *public opinion* really refers to many opinions.

Opinions are **influenced** or shaped by many factors. The first **factor** is usually the family. Because we share many of the same experiences with our family, we often have similar responses to issues. As we grow older, other people and experiences begin to influence what we believe. Friends, new ideas, teachers, and clubs can all play a major role in shaping our opinions.

Information and Public Opinion

Much of the information we need to make good decisions about public issues comes from the mass media. The **mass media** are forms of communication that transmit information to large numbers of people. Mass media include printed media such as books, magazines, and

newspapers. Mass media also includes types of electronic media such as film, radio, television, and the Internet.

Today a lot of information is available on many issues. Simply having access to information, however, does not always mean you are well informed. Sometimes the information that you receive is inaccurate, misleading, or one-sided. A newspaper, for example, might give more favorable coverage to a political candidate it supports and less favorable coverage to a candidate it opposes. Web sites often present just one point of view.

Effective citizenship requires you to think critically about what you see, hear, and read. To participate fully in the democratic process, you must be well informed. You must learn to recognize the difference between fact and opinion. You should learn how to gather information from reliable sources.

Propaganda Shapes Public Opinion

Many of the ideas in the mass media are directed at us for a purpose. Someone or some group is urging us to do something—to buy something, to believe something, or to act in a certain way. Ideas that are spread to influence people are called **propaganda**. Communications satellites, computer networks, and television broadcasts all help spread propaganda farther and faster than ever before.

SS.7.C.2.11

Analyze media and political communications (bias, symbolism, propaganda).

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

influence:
to change, or have an effect on
factor:
a cause

Concealed Propaganda

Citizens must be alert to propaganda. They must be able to recognize it and be aware of the various methods used by propagandists. Sometimes propaganda is presented as fact and its sources are kept secret. This is called concealed propaganda. Concealed propaganda is used to fool people without letting them know that its purpose is to influence their views. Many political advertisements contain concealed propaganda.

Revealed Propaganda

Revealed propaganda is more common in the United States and in other democracies. Revealed propaganda makes readers or listeners aware that someone is trying to influence them. Television and radio commercials are direct appeals to the public to buy products. The commercials that political parties run to convince voters to support their candidates may contain concealed propaganda, but they also use revealed propaganda. For example,

these commercials must be clearly labeled as paid advertisements. They also identify the organization that paid for the ad.

READING CHECK

Drawing Conclusions How do concealed and revealed propaganda affect public opinion?

Propaganda Techniques

Whether you realize it or not, you are exposed to propaganda in many different ways. The Institute for Propaganda Analysis has identified several techniques that advertisers commonly use to influence people. Many of these techniques may seem familiar to you.

Testimonials

Political candidates and advertisers often seek endorsements from famous people. For example, advertisers know that people admire sports heroes. Therefore, advertisers pay famous athletes to say they use and like their products.

6 Propaganda Techniques

Propaganda is speech that is meant to persuade. A variety of techniques are used to persuade people and to shape public opinion.

QUICK
FACTS



1 Testimonial

Bono of the rock band U2 tells about his work in Africa while lobbying the U.S. government to send aid to the continent.



2 Bandwagon

Organizations persuade young people to vote by showing celebrities, like Natalie Portman, who support their causes.



3 Name Calling

The Harry S. Truman campaign for president criticizes opponents.

The law requires that any endorsement by a celebrity must reflect the celebrity's honest experience or opinion. That is, if the celebrity says that he or she uses a product, the celebrity actually must use that product. An athlete in a commercial who says, "XYZ Shampoo makes my hair clean and shiny" must actually use XYZ Shampoo and must have the opinion that the shampoo makes his or her hair clean and shiny.

Bandwagon

People who write propaganda know that if you say something often enough and loud enough, people will believe it. If you can win some people over to your ideas, eventually more and more people will come over to your side. This is known as the bandwagon technique. "Everybody's doing it! Jump on the bandwagon!" This method appeals to people's desire to do what their friends and neighbors are doing. It takes advantage of the "peer pressure" factor.

Name Calling

A very common propaganda technique is name calling. Name calling is using an unpleasant label or description to harm a person, group, or product. For example, during an election campaign, both sides often use name-calling. You may hear that one candidate favors "reckless spending," or that another is "opposed to progress." You must ask yourself what proof is given of these charges and whether they are supported by any facts.

Glittering Generalities

Another technique used to influence people's thinking is the glittering generality. This technique uses words or vague statements that sound good but have little real meaning.

Political candidates often use glittering generalities because these statements tell voters nothing about what a candidate really believes. This type of propaganda often uses words such as *freedom* and *patriotism*.

SS.7.C.2.11
Analyze media and political communications (bias, symbolism, propaganda).

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INTERACTIVE ART



4 Glittering Generalities

Former Attorney General John Ashcroft gives a speech on the PATRIOT Act that includes an emotional appeal to the ideal of liberty.



5 Plain-Folks Appeal

Former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appeals for transportation funding by picking up a rake and helping workers fill potholes.



6 Card Stacking

One newspaper uses card stacking to show only one version of the disputed 2000 presidential election, which was undecided for weeks.

These words are chosen because they spark positive images with which most people in the country identify.

Plain-Folks Appeal

During election campaigns, many candidates describe themselves as being just plain, hardworking citizens. They stress that they understand the problems of average Americans. This plain-folks appeal is designed to show people that, as one of them, the candidate can best represent their interests.

Card Stacking

Another propaganda technique is card stacking. Card stacking uses facts that support only one side of a particular product, idea, or candidate. In other words, this technique stacks the cards against the truth. For example, newspapers may give front-page attention to the activities of the candidates they favor. The activities of the opposing party's candidates may be given less coverage or no coverage at all.

READING CHECK Comparing and Contrasting

Explain how testimonials are similar to and different from plain-folks appeals.

Measuring Public Opinion

Government officials are responsible for carrying out the wishes of the people. How do government officials find out what the public wants? One important way of measuring public opinion is to conduct a public opinion **poll**, or survey.

Polls are used to find out what people think about specific issues and about politicians and their policies. A poll attempts to measure public opinion by asking the opinions of a sample, or portion, of the public.

Great care must be taken to choose a sample that is representative of the public. Unrepresentative samples can cause serious errors in a poll's results. Suppose your school conducted a poll to find out whether people wanted the cafeteria to remain open during the entire school day. A poll of teachers would have different results than a poll that included students. People who design opinion polls must be very careful to survey people who represent the general public.

READING CHECK Summarizing

What do polls measure?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- Define** Write a brief definition of the following terms: **public opinion**, **mass media**, and **propaganda**.
 - Recall** How is public opinion shaped?
 - Evaluate** Which influence on public opinion is strongest? Explain your answer.
- Recall** What are six common propaganda techniques?
 - Draw Conclusions** Why might the plain-folks appeal persuade many voters?
 - Elaborate** With the spread of the Internet, will the use of propaganda become less common or more common? Give reasons for your answer.
- Define** Write a brief definition for the term **poll**.
 - Explain** How does a poll measure public opinion?

Critical Thinking

- Evaluating** Use your notes and a diagram like the one here to evaluate the effectiveness of the six common propaganda techniques.

Technique	Effectiveness

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Identifying Bias** Find an advertisement that uses some or all of the propaganda techniques covered in this section. Write a paragraph analyzing the message the advertisement promotes and explaining the techniques it uses.

Analyzing Public Opinion Polls



SS.7.C.2.10;
SS.7.C.2.11;
MA.7.S.6.1

Learn

In the United States elected officials are supposed to represent and act on the views of the people who elected them. They frequently rely on polls—lists of questions or surveys—to help them understand what citizens think about different issues. People who do polling usually ask about 1,500 people to answer questions they have developed. By selecting the people carefully, pollsters can get an idea of how the American public as a whole feels about the issues.

Polls measure public opinion. However, polls often emphasize one finding over another. They present their findings in such a way as to mislead readers. For example, a poll might say that 98 percent of people polled plan to vote for a certain candidate. However, the poll might not mention that only a very small number of people were polled.

Analyzing polls is an important part of understanding the media. Follow the steps below to learn how to analyze a public opinion poll.

Practice

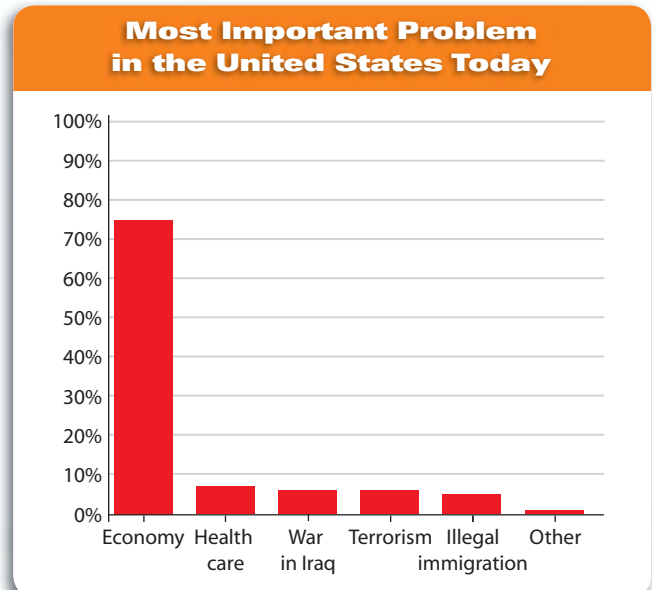
- 1 Identify the topic of the poll. Understanding what the subject of the poll is can help you think critically about its findings.
- 2 Identify the people who were polled. It is important to understand who was asked the poll questions. Was it a large, diverse group, or a small, select group? Consider how the people who answered the poll might affect its results.
- 3 Analyze the format of the poll. Were people asked to answer yes or no, or were they given a variety of answers? The questions and answer choices might have a certain point of view.

- 4 Understand who sponsored or paid for the poll. What kind of an organization sponsored the poll or developed the questions?

Apply

The graph below represents the results of a public opinion poll from 2008. The poll, sponsored by CNN, asked about 1,010 adults to identify the problem they believed to be the most important one facing the United States today. Use this graph and the steps for analyzing a poll to answer the questions below.

1. Who was polled? What are some points of view the pollsters brought to the poll? How do you know?
2. Who sponsored or paid for the poll? Do you think they influenced the outcome of the poll? Why or why not?
3. List the elements of this poll that make it neutral. Explain.



SECTION 2



SS.7.C.2.10; SS.7.C.2.13; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

Interest Groups

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

Interest groups work to persuade the government to adopt particular policies and address specific issues.

Reading Focus

1. What are interest groups, and what are the different types of interest groups?
2. How do lobbyists try to influence government and public opinion?
3. Do interest groups have too much power?

Key Terms

interest groups, p. 278
lobby, p. 278
lobbyist, p. 278
public-interest groups, p. 279



Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on interest groups.



Supporters of the rights of people with disabilities protest in front of the White House.

SS.7.C.2.10 Examine the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing government.

CIVICS IN PRACTICE

Americans can express their opinions to government officials in many ways. One of the most effective ways to express an opinion is to join an interest group. Your legislator represents a district of about 640,000 people. One lone voice has only a small chance of being heard. By joining a group that shares your point of view, you can make your voice heard.

What Is an Interest Group?

Many Americans are members of one or more **interest groups**. These groups are organizations of people with a common interest. They try to influence government policies and decisions. An interest group is also known as a pressure group, or **lobby**. A person who is paid by a lobby or interest group to represent that group's interests is called a **lobbyist**.

Interest groups are not the same as political parties. Both seek to influence government. However, interest groups are more concerned with influencing public policies than in electing candidates.

The Motor Voter Act

Recent legislation now allows people in most states to register to vote while they apply for or renew their driver's license.

Why it Matters

Voting is your opportunity to participate in our democratic system. Most states require you to register before you vote. The Motor Voter Act makes it easier for all citizens—especially young people—to register to vote. The law also allows you to register in other public offices. Or you can mail in a form that is available on the Internet.

The Motor Voter Act has had a significant impact on voter registration. In 2001 and 2002, almost 20 million new voters registered. More than 70 percent of those were the result of provisions of the Motor Voter Act.



ANALYSIS SKILL

EVALUATING THE LAW

Do you think linking voter registration to driver's license applications is a good idea? Why or why not?

hmhsocialstudies.com **ACTIVITY**

Types of Interest Groups

The different kinds of interest groups include business associations, labor unions, farm organizations, veterans' organizations, teachers' associations, and consumer groups. Some interest groups represent the economic interests of their members. These groups include the National Association of Manufacturers, the United Mine Workers of America, and the American Farm Bureau Federation. Members of economic-interest groups seek to influence government policies that affect their industry or profession. For example, the American Farm Bureau Federation works to have bills passed that help farmers recover losses from natural disasters and falling crop prices.

Some interest groups are issue-oriented. That is, they focus on a specific issue or cause. For example, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

works to promote racial equality. The National Organization for Women (NOW) is a special interest group that seeks to protect the rights of women.

Other groups, referred to as **public-interest groups**, promote the interests of the general public rather than just one part of it. These groups work to protect consumers, wildlife, and the environment.

Many interest groups hire lobbyists to represent them. Lobbyists work at all levels of government, although most are located in Washington, D.C. Some lobbyists are former members of the state legislatures or public agencies they now seek to influence. Other lobbyists are lawyers, public-relations experts, journalists, or specialists in particular fields.

READING CHECK

Finding Main Ideas What are interest groups?

Lobbyists Influence Government

Many national, state, and local laws are the result of a struggle among various interest groups. One example is the minimum wage law. This law states that workers may not be paid less than a certain amount of money per hour. Labor groups often seek an increase in the minimum wage. Business groups generally oppose such an increase. Lobbyists for both interest groups present their arguments to Congress. After listening to both sides and considering all the facts, Congress makes its decision. The result is usually a compromise.

Lobbyists Work with Congress

Lobbyists use a variety of methods to promote the actions they seek. They argue in support of bills they favor. They argue against bills they oppose. Sometimes lobbyists ask members of Congress to sponsor bills favored by members of the interest group. Lobbyists supply information for the bill. They may even help write the bill. Government officials often contact lobbyists to learn what interest groups think about certain issues affecting those groups.

Lobbyists Influence Public Opinion

Interest groups attempt to influence not only the government but public opinion as well. For example, interest groups place advertisements in the mass media in support of their positions. The groups often promise to help government officials in their next election campaigns by supplying workers and contributions. Sometimes lobbyists urge local groups and individuals to send letters and emails to public officials. They hope that public support will influence the lawmakers' decisions.

READING CHECK

Summarizing How do lobbyists try to influence government and public opinion?

Interest Groups and Power

Interest groups may use any legal means to influence public officials and the public itself. To keep a record of groups, federal and state governments require lobbyists to register. They must indicate whom they are working for and how much money they spend on their lobbying efforts. The Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 tightened regulations by closing many loopholes, or ways of evading the law.

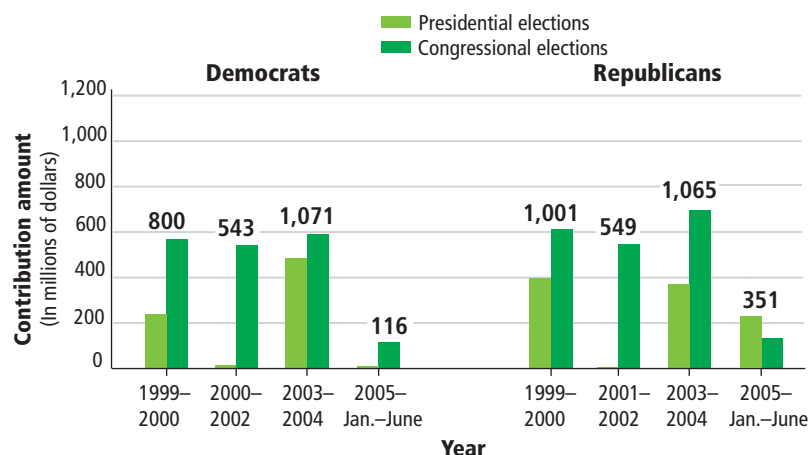
Special-Interest Groups

QUICK FACTS

Special-interest groups sometimes support candidates who share their views by donating money. Political action committees, a type of special-interest group, collect and distribute funds to candidates in local, state, and national elections. Contributions from special-interest groups are carefully monitored.

In what year did Republicans receive the most contributions from political action committees?

Political Action Committee Contributions



Source: Federal Election Commission

Some people are critical of interest groups and their lobbyists. They believe these groups play too great a role in the lawmaking process. Critics charge that too much attention is paid to the interest group that is the most organized and best funded. As a result, some important interests—such as those of disadvantaged citizens—do not always receive equal attention from government officials.

Despite this criticism, interest groups do play an important role in the political process. Although you may not be aware of it, you probably belong to one or more interest groups. We the people—in our roles as students, consumers, workers, and veterans—make up interest groups. In a free society, citizens have the right to make their opinions known to government leaders. Interest groups are evidence of this political freedom.

READING CHECK

Identifying Points of View

Why do some critics feel that lobbyists are too powerful in American politics?



FOCUS ON Judy Heumann (1948–)

Judy Heumann was born in New York City. When she was 11½ years old, she contracted polio and was confined to a wheelchair. Because public schools could not meet the needs of disabled students, she was home-schooled until the fourth grade. After graduation, Heumann studied to become a teacher. However, New York would not certify her because of her physical disability. Heumann won a lawsuit against the state and later helped found Disabled in Action, a disabled-rights organization. She also served with the Center for Independent Living, which helps integrate disabled individuals into local communities. In 2010 she was appointed special advisor for international disability rights at the U.S. Department of State.

Summarizing How has Heumann helped focus attention on the rights of the disabled?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

1. **a. Define** Write a brief definition for each of the following terms: **interest groups**, **lobby**, **lobbyist**, and **public-interest groups**.
b. Summarize Why are there so many kinds of interest groups?
c. Describe How does a public interest group differ from other kinds of interest groups? Use examples to support your answer.
2. **a. Explain** How do lobbyists play an important role in government?
b. Evaluate Lobbyists sometimes write legislation for Congress members to sponsor. In your opinion, is this practice good or bad for the country? Explain your answer.
3. **a. Explain** Do interest groups have too much influence on the government? Why or why not?
b. Evaluate How important do you think it is that interest groups be required to disclose all their sources of support? Explain your answer.

Critical Thinking

4. **Categorizing** Copy the graphic organizer. Use it and your notes to describe and give an example of each type of interest group.



FOCUS ON WRITING

5. **Supporting a Point of View** Do you agree or disagree with the statement that “interest groups are evidence of political freedom”? Write a paragraph explaining your point of view. Be sure to include a suggestion for what might be done to better serve the interests of groups that lack money and representation.

SECTION 3



SS.7.C.2.9; SS.7.C.2.10; SS.7.C.3.12; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

Taking Part in Government

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

Americans can participate in government by voting and speaking out on the issues that matter to them.

Reading Focus

1. What are the four ways that all citizens can participate in government?
2. Why is voting important, and why do so few U.S. citizens vote?
3. How do volunteers and interest groups help political campaigns?

Key Terms

volunteers, p. 285
political action committees (PACs), p. 286



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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on how citizens can participate in government, why voting is important, and how people can take part in political campaigns.



Maybe you do not want to run for public office. Not everyone dreams of being president. However, you can still take part in government.

Voting is a start. In fact, our government depends on the participation of citizens. If you do not pitch in, others will, and you might not be happy with the results. Remember, you have a voice in our political system. Being a good citizen means taking part and letting your voice be heard.

Four Ways Citizens Can Participate in Government

As a good citizen, it is your responsibility to participate in political activities. These activities are vital to the preservation of a democratic government. Any American can participate in government in at least four ways: speaking out on public issues, participating in a community action group, working on a political campaign, and—most importantly—voting.

Suppose the street corner near your home needs a traffic light. Or suppose you are opposed to a proposed 15-cent increase

Voting is the right of every American citizen over the age of 18.

in your city's bus fare. Or perhaps the House of Representatives will vote soon on an issue that is important to you. How can you make your opinion on these issues known quickly?

Write letters to local officials or to your representative in Congress. Members of Congress receive a lot of mail. They welcome these letters as a way of learning what the people they represent think about the issues. Contact public officials by telephone, e-mail, or fax. Visit an official's office to express your

opinions. Many officials have regular office hours for meetings with their constituents.

The quality of life in towns and cities depends largely on how well local governments serve their citizens. That is why it is important for all Americans to be active in their communities.

Community involvement is an important part of participating in government. In many cities, people work to improve their neighborhoods by forming block associations.

Every Vote Counts

**QUICK
FACTS**

One person's vote can make or break the results of an election, as the examples below indicate. There is no way to know if that make-or-break vote will be your vote. This is why it is important to always vote. Fortunately, voting is easy to do. Just follow the simple steps to the right:

1. Pick up a voter registration form from a library, license bureau, grocery, etc.
2. Fill out the form and mail it in.
3. Educate yourself about the candidates and issues.
4. Use the Internet or newspaper to find your local polling place.
5. Cast your ballot on voting day.



City Commissioner Michele A. McFall-Conte

In 2001 Michele A. McFall-Conte was elected to the city commission of Deltona, Florida, after a coin toss settled a 565–565 tie.



Governor Christine Gregoire

In 2004 Christine Gregoire was elected governor of Washington by only 129 votes out of the 2.9 million cast.



President John F. Kennedy

In 1960 Kennedy won the popular vote against Richard M. Nixon by just under 120,000 votes out of 68,836,385 votes cast.

**ANALYSIS
SKILL**

ANALYZING INFORMATION

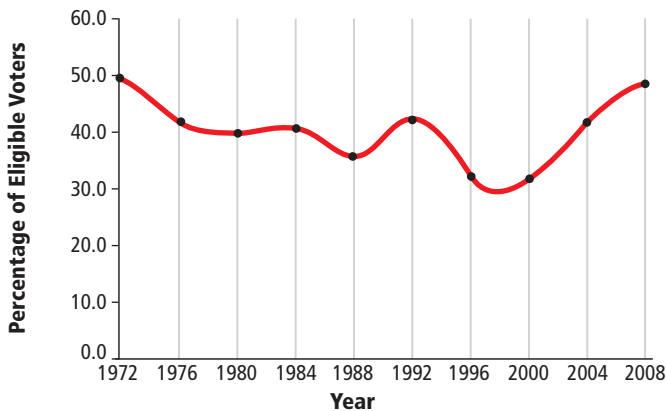
Why can even just one vote make a difference in an election?

Less Than Half

The percentage of eligible voters aged 18 to 24 who voted in presidential elections dropped more than 10 percent between 1968 and 1980. However, voter participation among this age group has been increasing since 2000. In 2008, 49 percent of eligible 18- to 24-year-olds voted.

Why might fewer young voters take part in presidential elections?

Percentage of Eligible Voters Aged 18-24 Who Voted in Presidential Elections



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Residents of an apartment building might form a tenants' group to improve the condition of their building. Citizens in a town might organize to raise money for new library books or to repair the school's baseball field. Citizen involvement helps make democracy work.

READING CHECK

Identifying Cause and Effect

Why do people form community groups, and how do these groups make a difference?

Voting Is Important

When you are old enough, you can vote in local, state, and national elections. Voting is democracy in action. In fact, voting is probably the single most important opportunity for citizens to participate in government. It is also an important responsibility.

Because society relies on people performing a variety of duties, only a small percentage of citizens can serve in the government. Therefore, we elect officials to represent

us. Every citizen can take part in selecting the various leaders who will represent and serve them.

Elections offer every citizen the chance to help determine what actions the government will take. You make your opinions on public issues known when you vote. When you choose candidates, you are expressing your opinions about their leadership abilities as well as their programs.

Voting is not only a right, it is an important responsibility. Yet millions of U.S. citizens do not vote. In fact, the United States has one of the lowest voter turnouts of any democratic country in the world. In recent presidential elections about 60 percent of eligible voters cast a ballot. This low voter turnout leaves the selection of government officials to slightly more than half of the country's people.

Why Do So Few People Vote?

According to a November 2008 survey by the United States Census Bureau, 64 percent of American citizens age 18 and over voted in the 2008 presidential election. This survey showed that of 206 million United States citizens 18 and older, 146 million, or 71 percent, reported they were registered to vote. And among those registered, 131 million, or 90 percent, said they voted. But that means that some 60 million people who could register to vote did not register. Even among those who were registered to vote, there were millions of people who did not vote. Why do people not register? Why do people not vote?

Apathy, or a lack of interest or concern about the issues, discourages many people from voting. Some people do not register and thus are not eligible to vote. Others may not like any of the candidates running for office. Some people are ill and cannot reach the polling places on election day. Still others may be unexpectedly away from home and cannot reach the polling places where they are registered to vote. Others move and do not meet residency requirements for voting.

Another reason for not voting is a person's belief that his or her vote does not count. Many people who do not vote think that their votes will not make a difference in the election's outcome. Of course, this is not true. The vote of every individual helps determine who wins or loses an election. By voting we influence the laws and policies that greatly affect our lives. The importance of every vote is demonstrated by the results of the 2000 presidential election.

The Florida results were so close that Florida state law required recounts. Each campaign also challenged how votes in various parts of the state had been counted.

the Court ruled that using different standards for counting a vote in different counties violated the Constitution. Therefore, the hand recounts in several Florida counties were not valid. Florida's electoral votes went to George W. Bush. He was the winner with 271 electoral votes to Al Gore's 266. Nationwide, Gore won 50,999,897 popular votes, and Bush won 50,456,002 popular votes. Bush became the first president in more than 100 years who did not win the popular vote.

Conclusions How do the results of the 2000 presidential election show the importance of voting?

Another way that you can influence political decisions is by participating in election campaigns. You must be 18 years old to vote. However, people of any age can work as volunteers in political campaigns. **Volunteers** are individuals who work without pay to help others.

THE POLITICAL SYSTEM 285

Special-Interest Spending

In 2002, to make campaigns fairer, Congress passed a law to limit how much money groups and individuals can donate to candidates and parties. However, interest groups called 527s can still accept contributions of any amount, as long as they support *issues*, rather than candidates.

Many American voters who used to contribute directly to political parties now give money to 527s, which represent a variety of groups, including unions, human rights advocates, and the entertainment industry. From 2003–2004, 527s received almost \$600 million. Much of this money went toward expensive “issue ads.” None of these ads was endorsed by a candidate. However, their messages of support were usually very clear. In the 2004 presidential election, interest groups in favor of one of the candidates spent more money on television ads than the candidate and his own party did!

The next time you see a political ad, listen to or read it carefully. Learn if it was made by a candidate’s party or by an interest group. Then evaluate its message.

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING ECONOMICS

How might the spending power of 527 groups affect political campaigns? Give an example to support your answer.

Working as a campaign volunteer is an effective way to have a say in who represents you. You can also learn firsthand how the American political system works.

Interest groups often take part in political campaigns. They sometimes provide volunteers to help candidates who are sympathetic to their causes. They can also make financial contributions to election campaigns.

Federal law prohibits interest groups from contributing money directly to candidates. However, they may contribute through **political action committees (PACs)**. PACs collect voluntary contributions from members. They use this money to fund candidates that their committees favor. The number of PACs has risen dramatically in recent years—from 608 in 1974 to about 3,800 in 2000. PACs contributed nearly \$260 million to candidates running in the 2000 national election. This is a figure that demonstrates their significance to the political process.

READING CHECK

Finding the Main Idea How do interest groups take part in political campaigns?

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT



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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- a. Recall** What are four ways that a citizen can participate in government?

b. Elaborate What is meant by the statement that “citizen involvement helps make democracy work”? Give an example to support your answer.
- a. Explain** Why is voting considered such a fundamental right and responsibility?

b. Evaluate In your opinion, what could be done by political candidates to increase voter turnout and voter participation? Explain your answer.
- a. Define** Write a brief definition for each of the following terms: **volunteers** and **political action committees**.

b. Explain How can volunteers and interest groups participate in political campaigns?

Critical Thinking

- Comparing and Contrasting** Copy the graphic organizer. Use it to compare and contrast the ways that volunteers and interest groups help political campaigns.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Problem Solving** Imagine that the president of the United States has invited you to the White House to deliver a speech titled “How to Encourage Citizen Participation in Politics.” Write a draft of the speech.

STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

PROJECT Citizen



Honoring a Hero

The United States has many holidays to honor people and events. We have holidays honoring George Washington, our country's independence, and Martin Luther King Jr. Did you know that none of these state or national holidays honors a woman? Project Citizen students in Dongola, Illinois, are hoping to change that.

Community Connection Students in Ms. Cindy Vines's social studies class had been learning about Jane Addams. She spent her life helping people. In 1889 Addams founded Hull House in Chicago. It was a place where women, children, immigrants, and others in need could come for aid. Addams's work led to changes all over the country in areas such as education and child labor. Students at Dongola want to create an Illinois holiday on the first Monday in March—Women's History Month—honoring this important woman.

Taking Action The teens have made dozens of phone calls to local officials. They gave information to state legislators during Youth Democracy Day in Springfield, the state capital. One member of the Illinois General Assembly, Representative Brandon Phelps, promised the Dongola teens that he would introduce a bill. It requested a statewide holiday to honor Jane Addams. Meanwhile, the students continued to work together in their community to raise awareness and support for Jane Addams Day became an Illinois state holiday in 2007.



Students in Dongola, Illinois, speak out in favor of a state holiday honoring Jane Addams.

SERVICE LEARNING



1. Why did the Dongola students believe that establishing a Jane Addams holiday was worth their efforts?
2. If you were to propose a new statewide holiday, who would you choose to honor? Why?

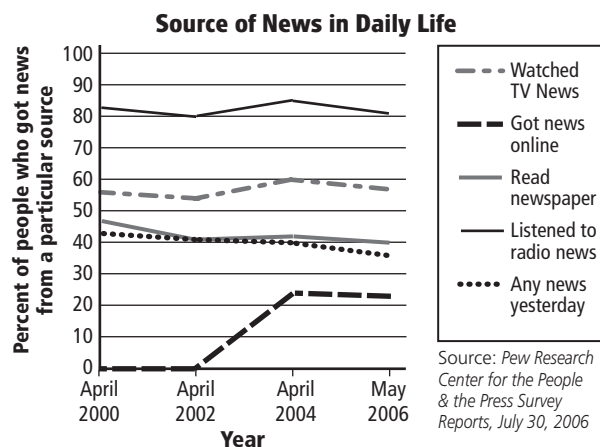
hmhsocialstudies.com **ACTIVITY**

CHAPTER 11 REVIEW



FLORIDA CIVICS EOC PRACTICE

1. The graph below describes developments in how Americans access the daily news.



According to the chart, what has happened to other news sources as the percentage of people who get their news online has grown?

- The percentage of people getting their news from other sources has decreased.
 - The percentage of people getting news from other sources has remained about the same.
 - The percentage of people getting news from other sources has also increased.
 - The percentage of people relying on yesterday's news has increased.
2. Of the following, which is the most reliable method for evaluating a candidate for political office?
- testimonials by celebrities
 - public opinion polls that show the candidate in the lead
 - extent of the candidate's plain-folks appeal
 - examining the candidate's record and qualifications

Reviewing Key Terms

For each term or name below, write a sentence explaining its significance to the political system.

- public opinion
- mass media
- propaganda
- poll
- interest groups
- lobby
- lobbyist
- public-interest groups
- volunteers
- political action committees (PACs)

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 272–276)

- Recall** What is the relationship between public opinion and mass media?
- Evaluate** Which of the six propaganda techniques do you think is most effective? Give reasons to support your answer.

SECTION 2 (Pages 278–281)

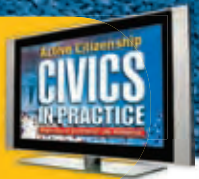
- Describe** How do interest groups differ from political parties?
- Elaborate** How do lobbyists and interest groups try to influence public policy and public opinion?

SECTION 3 (Pages 282–286)

- Identify** What are four ways that a citizen can take part in the political system?
- Analyze** Why is voting such an important right and duty in a democratic society?

Active Citizenship video program

Review the video to answer the closing question:
Why are both new voters and young voters important to the election process?



Using the Internet



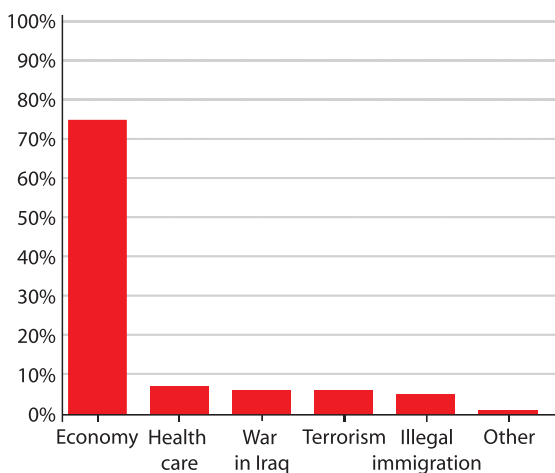
- 14. Lobbying for Understanding** Interest groups play an important role in influencing government decisions and in shaping public opinion. They often hire lobbyists to promote the policies they favor. Enter the activity keyword to learn about selected interest groups and lobbyists. Then determine how and why these groups try to influence legislation and elections. Include both positive and negative viewpoints on their work. Then present a skit portraying a lobbyist activity.

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Civics Skills



Most Important Problem in the United States Today



Analyzing Public Opinion Polls Use the graph above to help you answer the questions below.

- 15.** What is the subject of this public opinion poll?
- 16.** What did the majority of the group polled believe was the top problem in the United States at the time this poll was taken?
- 17.** Suppose this poll had been sponsored by the Burgess High School Young Democrats Club. How might that affect the poll results?

Reading Skills



Using Questions to Analyze Text Use the Reading Skills taught in this chapter to answer the question about the reading selection below.

According to a November 2008 survey by the United States Census Bureau, 64 percent of American citizens age 18 and over voted in the 2008 presidential election. This survey showed that of 206 million United States citizens 18 and older, 146 million, or 71 percent, reported they were registered to vote. And among those registered, 131 million, or 90 percent, said they voted. (p. 284)

- 18.** Write three questions you have about the information in the passage above. Remember to use How? and the five Ws—Who? What? When? Where? and Why?

FOCUS ON WRITING

19. Writing an Outline for a Documentary Film

Look back through your notes for the chapter. Choose one topic that you think would make a good 10-minute documentary film. Your outline should be organized by scene (no more than three scenes), in chronological order. For each scene, give the following information: main idea of scene, costumes and images to be used, audio to be used, and length of scene. As you plan, remember that your audience will be students your own age.



FLORIDA...

The Story Continues

CHAPTER 12, Paying for Government

PEOPLE

Floridians do not pay income taxes. In many states, people pay state taxes on the money they make. In Florida, they do not. However, people still expect the state to pay for roads, community colleges, prisons, and other things. So the State raises money by charging many taxes and fees. Sales tax is one of these taxes. So is the communication tax that is added to most cell phone bills.

EVENTS

Fees help pay for state services. The documentary stamp fee brings Florida millions of dollars each month. This fee is charged every time someone buys a home or other property. The price of the stamp is based on the price of the property. License plate fees also help pay for state services. People pay extra for vanity plates containing words. They also pay extra for plates that promote causes, like protecting sea turtles. However, everyone who buys license plates pays added fees, even if they are not getting special plates. These extra fees help to pay for emergency medical services, law enforcement radio systems, and the juvenile justice system.

PEOPLE

Lawbreakers help pay for government. In 2009, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection fined companies more than nine million dollars for polluting. The state uses some of the fines to improve the environment. Florida collects other fines, too. In 2010 millions of dollars were collected from people who ran red lights and were caught by traffic cameras.

EVENTS**1839: People paid property taxes even before Florida became a state.**

Property taxes were introduced in Florida in 1839, taxing land people owned. These taxes were an important source of state revenue. This changed in 1934 when the state stopped collecting property taxes. From then on, cities and counties collected the money. Today, cities and counties use the money from property taxes to pay for local public services.

PLACES**1967: Some Florida cities and counties are allowed to charge special “Tourist Development Taxes” (TDTs).**

Tourism is a huge business in Florida. So the state of Florida, the cities, and the counties spend millions of dollars to attract tourists. They get some of this money from TDTs. One TDT is the extra tax on hotel rooms and places that tourists rent. Part of that money is used to improve beaches. Another part is used to build theme parks and sports stadiums.

EVENTS**Present: The Florida state government has checks and balances.**

The constitution of Florida divides the powers of state government into three branches: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The branches are separate, but they are not entirely independent. Each branch of the government shares in the powers of the other two. This means that each branch can also limit the powers of the other branches. This ability to limit the powers of other branches serves as a check and balance.



Unpacking the Florida Standards <...>

Read the following to learn what this standard says and what it means. See FL8-FL20 to unpack all the other standards related to this chapter.

Benchmark LA.7.1.7.1 The student will use background knowledge of subject and related content areas, prereading strategies, graphic representations, and knowledge of text structure to make and confirm complex predictions of content, purpose, and organization of a reading selection.

What does it mean?

Explore a variety of reading skills and strategies to become an active reader. Use information that you already know, prereading strategies, graphic organizers, and knowledge about text structure to figure out what the text means and find important information. Go to the Reading Skills lessons and the Taking Notes graphic organizers that appear in each chapter for help. See also the Become an Active Reader pages at the front of this book.

CHAPTER 12

PAYING FOR GOVERNMENT

Essential Question How does the government raise money and manage the national budget process?



Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

SS.7.C.2.11 Analyze media and political communications (bias, symbolism, propaganda). **SS.7.E.1.6** Compare the national budget process to the personal budget process. **SS.7.E.2.1** Explain how federal, state, and local taxes support the economy as a function of the United States government. **LA.7.1.6.1** The student will use new vocabulary that is introduced and taught directly. **LA.7.1.6.2** The student will listen to, read, and discuss familiar and conceptually challenging text. **LA.7.1.7.1** The student will use background knowledge of subject and related content areas, prereading strategies, graphic representations, and knowledge of text structure to make and confirm complex predictions of content, purpose, and organization of a reading selection. **MA.7.A.1.2** Solve percent problems, including problems involving discounts, simple interest, taxes, tips, and percents of increase or decrease.



WHY CIVICS Matters

Taxes are one important way the government collects money. As a citizen, you should know how government collects and spends your tax money.

PROJECT **Citizen**



STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

HELPING TEENS IN NEED In some communities there are teens who are homeless. If you lived in one of these communities, what would you do to provide a place for homeless teens to do their homework and have access to other services? As you read this chapter, think of how you might change your community to help homeless teens.

FOCUS ON WRITING

WRITING A NEWSPAPER OR MAGAZINE ARTICLE

For much of the country's history, newspapers and magazines have been an important way for citizens to learn about what their federal, state, and local governments are doing. In this chapter, you will read about how government is funded and how it manages and spends money. Then you will write a newspaper or magazine article about one aspect of government taxes or government spending.

Reading Skills

In this chapter you will read about how the government raises and spends money. You will also learn about the types of taxes that fund federal, state, and local governments. You will read about the various agencies that collect tax

revenue and ensure that it is spent properly. You will discover how the federal budget is prepared and approved. Finally, you will study the national debt and why the government borrows money for the budget.

Problem Solving

FOCUS ON READING

Governments often face problems. Officials and citizens usually work together to propose solutions to these problems. Understanding the problem-solving process will help you evaluate proposed solutions and deal with problems as they appear.

Solving Problems Problem solving involves several steps: asking questions, identifying and evaluating information, comparing and contrasting, and making judgments. It is a process for thinking through almost any situation.

Use the following steps to understand and solve problems.

- 1. Identify the problem.** Ask questions to make sure you know exactly what the situation is and why it is a problem.
- 2. Gather information.** Ask questions and conduct research to learn more about the problem.
- 3. List options.** Identify possible options for solving the problem.
- 4. Evaluate the options.** List the advantages and disadvantages of each possible solution.
- 5. Choose and implement a solution.** Choose the solution that seems best and apply it.
- 6. Evaluate the solution.** Once the solution has been tried, evaluate how effectively it solved the problem.

Helpful Hints for Problem Solving

- 1.** Be sure to clearly identify the problem.
- 2.** List as many options as possible when considering solutions.
- 3.** Evaluate whether a solution worked or not. Understanding why a solution succeeded or failed can help you the next time you face a similar problem.



LA.7.1.6.2

21ST
CENTURY

You Try It!

The following passage is from the chapter you are about to read. Read it and then answer the questions below.

Import Taxes

*From
Chapter 12,
p. 303*

The U.S. government collects taxes on many products imported from foreign countries. This import tax is called a tariff, or sometimes a customs duty. At one time customs duties were the main source of revenues for the federal government. For example, in 1850 about 90 percent of the federal budget came from customs duties.

Today the United States uses tariffs primarily to regulate foreign trade rather than to raise money. For example, tariffs can be used to raise the prices of imported goods. Tariffs make goods from other countries either as expensive or more expensive than American-made products. In this way tariffs can protect American industry from competition from foreign industry. On the other hand, tariffs can also hurt American consumers by raising the prices of certain products. Using tariffs as a way to control trade, rather than as a source of revenue, is often a difficult balancing act.

After you have read the passage, answer the following questions.

1. What problem is described in this passage?
2. What additional sources could you use to gather more information about the problem?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using tariffs to control trade?
4. What other options for controlling foreign trade does the government have?
5. What solution would you propose? Give reasons to support your answer.

KEY TERMS

Chapter 12

Section 1

interest (p. 295)
national debt (p. 295)
revenue (p. 296)
fees (p. 297)
fine (p. 297)
bond (p. 298)

Section 2

income tax (p. 299)
progressive tax (p. 300)
profit (p. 300)
regressive tax (p. 302)
property tax (p. 302)
tariff (p. 303)

Section 3

balanced budget (p. 307)
surplus (p. 307)
deficit (p. 307)
audit (p. 307)

Academic Vocabulary

Success in school is related to knowing academic vocabulary—the words that are frequently used in school assignments and discussions. In this chapter, you will learn the following academic word:

primary (p. 296)

As you read Chapter 12, notice both the problems and solutions involved in the raising and spending of money by the government.

SECTION 1



SS.7.E.2.1; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

Raising Money

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea


Each year the local, state, and federal government provide Americans with services such as police, schools, highway construction, and defense. These services cost huge amounts of money. The government pays for these services with taxes collected from citizens.

Reading Focus

1. Why is the cost of government so high?
2. What guidelines do governments use when taxing citizens?
3. Other than taxes, what are two ways to pay for government?

Key Terms

interest, *p. 295*
national debt, *p. 295*
revenue, *p. 296*
fees, *p. 297*
fine, *p. 297*
bond, *p. 298*

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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on how governments raise money.



Many different kinds of taxes such as sales taxes on meals, pay for the goods and services you receive from government.

CIVICS IN PRACTICE

Why should you pay taxes? One reason is that taxes help pay for the many services you receive. For example, imagine the United States without the Interstate Highway System. Taxes—money from people like you—helped pay for this huge highway network. As a citizen, it is up to you to pay a fair share for what you receive. At the same time, it is the right of citizens to question government spending and to make sure that taxes are spent wisely and fairly. You are entitled to know how and where your money goes.

The High Cost of Government

It costs an enormous amount of money today to run the government. One reason it costs so much is that the United States serves a larger population than ever before—more than 300 million people. As the population has grown, the cost of living has also risen. Today a dollar will not buy as much as in earlier years. Adding to the costs, the government provides many more programs and services today than in the past.

National and Personal Budget Processes

QUICK FACTS

The national, or federal, budget process is similar in many ways to the personal budget process. In both, the first step is to identify sources of revenue, or money. The main source of revenue in the national budget comes from taxes. By contrast, revenues in a personal budget come mostly from wages and salaries.

The next step is to identify *mandatory* and *discretionary* categories of spending. Mandatory expenses are items that are necessary and have to be paid. Discretionary expenses are controllable and a matter of choice. For example, in a personal budget, a house payment or rent is a mandatory expense, but food and leisure expenses are discretionary.

The final step involves the actual preparation of a budget. In this step, individuals, families, and the government decide on a time period and on how much money should be spent on expenses.



Our nation's budget is for a fiscal year, a 12-month period. Personal budgets are usually prepared on a weekly or monthly basis.

ANALYSIS SKILL

COMPARING

How does the national budget process compare to the personal budget process?

The Federal Budget

Government programs and services are expensive. The single largest cost to the federal government is in benefit payments to people who are elderly, disabled, or living in poverty. For example, in 2010, total government spending was about \$3.5 trillion. Of that amount, about \$1.5 trillion, or about 43 percent, went to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs. The numbers of people who receive these benefits will continue to rise.

The government also spends a large amount of money on national defense. From 1990 to 2001, defense spending decreased. After 2001, however, defense costs began to rise. Following terrorist attacks in 2001, government leaders pushed for even greater increases. In December 2001 Congress approved a \$318 billion defense bill. The Iraq War, which lasted eight years, cost about \$700 billion. By 2010, defense spending accounted for about 20 percent of the federal budget. Defense spending will continue to account for a large portion of government spending.

Another large part of the budget is debt. Over the years, the government has spent more money than it has raised. To make up the difference, the government borrows money. Like any borrower, the government pays interest on this money. **Interest** is the payment made for the use of borrowed money. Interest is a certain percentage of the amount of money borrowed. When large amounts of money are borrowed, the amount of interest is also large. This interest plus the total amount of money that the U.S. government has borrowed is known as the **national debt**.

READING CHECK

Finding Main Ideas What are the main expenses of the federal government?

The Tax System

Federal, state, and local governments all raise most of the money to pay for services and programs by collecting taxes. Taxes are compulsory—citizens and businesses are required to pay them. One reason taxes are

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

primary:
main, most
important

compulsory is to allow governments to estimate the amount of money they will raise. This helps governments plan for the future. Another reason taxes are compulsory is to make sure people pay them. If taxpayers could choose how much and when to pay, governments might never have enough money to pay for what they need.

Establishing Priorities

All citizens have the right to expect that the government will spend the taxpayers' money wisely. Government officials, therefore, face difficult decisions. What government programs most need money? What programs will bring the greatest benefits to the most people? Government officials must decide which activities need funding, in order of their urgency and need. This process is called establishing priorities. Programs with highest priority get funded first. Programs with a lower priority may not receive funds. In recent years there has been much debate over the country's priorities.

Purposes of Taxation

The **primary** purpose of taxes is to raise **revenue**, or money. At the federal, state, and local level, this revenue funds the everyday running of government. Each level also uses tax dollars to provide goods and services, such as national defense, public schools, police protection, and roads.

These goods and services benefit individuals, businesses, and the economy. For example, you probably use a government road or sidewalk to go to school. A business might use the same road to transport goods and services. Moreover, the government likely hired a private construction firm to build this road and pays for workers to maintain it.

Another purpose of taxes is to regulate, or control, some activities. For example, taxes on imports are sometimes set at a high level. The goal is not to raise large sums of money but to discourage imports and to support economic activity in the United States. High taxes on cigarettes and alcoholic beverages are partly intended to discourage their use.

Linking to Today

Taxes, Then and Now

In the 1700s, before and after the Revolutionary War, government was funded with sales taxes collected on goods like tea and whiskey. Then, in the 1800s, the government found it needed to collect property and income taxes to cover things like the cost of war and building new roads.

In modern times, Americans pay taxes on where they live, what they buy, and the money they make from their jobs. However, we also have the right to elect officials whom we believe will spend that money in the best way possible.



ANALYSIS SKILL

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

Why do you think taxes are often an important issue in political campaigns?

Principles of Taxation

Governments try to follow certain principles, or rules, when they set up tax systems. These rules aim to raise the funds necessary to run the government without creating too great a burden for taxpayers.

Ability to Pay Taxes are set at different rates. This makes it possible for citizens at all income levels to pay. For example, taxes on people's earnings are lower for those with low incomes. Taxes are higher for those with high incomes. People with very low incomes do not pay income taxes.

Equal Application The principle of equal application of taxes is an important part of the U.S. tax structure. Equal application means that taxes are applied at the same rate for similar taxable items. For example, a local tax on property is the same for all property worth the same amount of money. Sales taxes and other taxes collected on the goods we buy are the same for everyone purchasing goods of equal price.

Scheduled Payment Taxes are paid on a set schedule. Employers withhold a portion of taxes from their workers' paychecks. They send this tax revenue directly to the government on a regular schedule. People who are self-employed are responsible for withholding the necessary funds for their taxes. They also send this money directly to the government in installments during the tax year.

Imagine that all taxes had to be paid in one lump sum. Most Americans would find paying taxes in one lump sum very difficult. Instead, federal and state governments collect income taxes over the course of the year. People who owe more than the amount withheld from their paychecks must pay in full by an April 15 deadline. However, taxpayers can request to pay any taxes that they still owe in installments. These are payments

made throughout the year on a set schedule. These late payments are charged interest and penalty fees.

READING CHECK

Drawing Inferences and Conclusions Why are some taxes set at different rates?

Other Ways to Pay for Government

Governments at all levels get most of their money from taxes of one kind or another. However, there are also other sources of revenue available. Governments may raise fees or fines. They may borrow money.

Fees and Fines

Fees are payments charged by governments for various licenses. Hunting licenses and marriage licenses are examples. The federal government raises billions of dollars annually. It does this by collecting a range of fees. The federal government receives fees for trademark registration, grazing rights on federal land, and entrance fees to national parks. State governments raise large sums of money from the fees paid by residents for driver's licenses and automobile license plates.

Money charged as a penalty for breaking certain laws is called a **fine**. Local governments in particular raise revenue from fines for actions such as illegal parking, speeding, and other traffic violations.

Governments also provide some special services that are paid for directly by the people or organizations who use these services. For example, the federal government sells timber from national forest reserves. It sells electricity from certain federal dam projects. State governments collect payments from drivers who use certain toll roads and bridges. Many local governments install parking meters to collect payments from individuals who park their cars along city streets.


Government Borrowing

As you have read, governments raise most of their funds through taxes and other revenue. Occasionally, tax revenue is not enough to pay for government expenses. As a result, governments must borrow money to meet their expenses. Large projects, such as bridges or schools, cost a lot to build. State and local governments usually cannot pay for them in full out of the government's income for a single year. Therefore, state and local governments must borrow the additional money needed.

Governments borrow money by issuing bonds. A government **bond** is a certificate. It states that the government has borrowed a certain sum of money from the owner of the bond. The government promises to repay the loan on a certain date. It will also pay interest on the amount borrowed. Bonds allow governments to raise money for public projects while giving investors an opportunity to make a profit.

When a government issues a bond, it is taking on debt that it must repay. For this reason, most local governments must have voter approval before they can issue a bond. Voters have a chance to support or oppose specific bond proposals in a bond election.

Government Bonds



Travis voters approve bonds

■ \$185 million will be used for road and park projects, land purchases

By ALEX TAYLOR
American-San Antonio Staff

State and local governments often use bonds to finance long-term projects, such as highway construction.

For example, bond elections often take place when school districts need to raise money to build or repair facilities. If a bond is not approved, officials have to find other ways to raise the money or to address that particular need.

READING CHECK

Analyzing Information Why do governments borrow money?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT



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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **interest** and **national debt**.
 - Elaborate** Why are businesses and citizens required to pay taxes?
- Define** Write a brief definition of the term **revenue**.
 - Explain** What are the purposes of paying taxes?
 - Predict** What might happen if the government did not collect any taxes?
- Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **fees**, **fine**, and **bond**.
 - Summarize** What principles does the government use to set up taxes?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** Copy the graphic organizer. Use it and your notes to identify the three principles of taxation and to explain why each one is important.

Principle			
Importance			

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Decision Making** Write a proposal explaining what government programs and services you think should have the highest priority and why.

SECTION 2



SS.7.E.2.1; LA.7.1.6.1; LA.7.1.7.1

Types of Taxes

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

Taxes are the main source of revenue for the local, state, and federal governments. The types of taxes each level of government uses to raise money vary.

Reading Focus

1. What are the two main kinds of income taxes?
2. What are the other major types of taxes?

Key Terms

income tax, *p. 299*
progressive tax, *p. 300*
profit, *p. 300*
regressive tax, *p. 302*
property tax, *p. 302*
tariff, *p. 303*



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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on different types of taxes.



Taxpayers rush to post offices to mail their federal income tax returns by the April 15 deadline.



Different levels of government rely on a variety of the taxes that you pay. For example, the federal government relies on income taxes.

You are probably also familiar with sales taxes. State and local governments depend on them for their revenue. School districts rely on property taxes. Wherever you live and whatever job you have, you will pay taxes of one kind or another.

Income Taxes

The largest source of revenue collected by the federal government is the tax on the earnings—the income—of individual citizens and businesses. These taxes on earnings are called **income tax**. Americans filed more than 144 million individual federal tax returns in 2009. The federal government collected some \$1.2 trillion in tax revenues from these returns. The amount any one citizen pays is calculated according to how much the person earns and other considerations set out in the U.S. tax code.

PRIMARY SOURCE

POLITICAL CARTOON Social Security

For many Americans, income taxes are deducted directly from their paychecks. Federal and state income taxes as well as Social Security and Medicare taxes are deducted each time an employee is paid.



The Federal Insurance Contributions Act, or FICA, collects Social Security taxes from workers' paychecks.

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

Do you think having income taxes deducted from each paycheck is a good idea? Why or why not?

FOCUS ON

In 2009, the IRS collected about \$110,156,800,000 in taxes from Florida businesses and individuals.

How Much Do We Pay?

The government permits all taxpayers to deduct, or subtract, a certain amount of money from their taxes for themselves and each dependent. A dependent is a person who relies on another person, usually a family member, for financial support. These amounts are called exemptions.

The individual income tax is a progressive tax. A **progressive tax** is a tax that takes a larger percentage of income from higher-income groups than from lower-income groups. Progressive taxes are based on a person's ability to pay.

How Do We Pay?

Most taxpayers do not pay all their income tax at the time they file their annual tax returns. Instead, their employers take income tax payments out of each paycheck. This happens throughout the year. Employers then forward the tax money on to the government. This system of making small tax payments each payday makes it easier for the government to collect the payments. This system also makes payment easier for most Americans to afford. Even so, it can take the federal government some time to accurately calculate the federal tax revenues for a single year. This is due in part to factors such as refunds and late payments.

Social Security Taxes

When an employer deducts income tax from an employee's paycheck, he or she also deducts Social Security tax. Money collected from this tax is used mainly to provide income to retired people and people with disabilities. You can read more about Social Security in another chapter.

State and Local Income Taxes

All but a few of the state governments and some city governments also collect an individual income tax. Each of these states and cities has its own income tax laws and rates. Such tax rates are much lower than those for the federal income tax.

Corporate Income Taxes

Like individual income taxes, corporate income taxes are an important source of revenue for both the federal and state governments. This tax is based on a corporation's profits. **Profit** is the income a business has left after paying its expenses. In 2009, the federal government collected more than \$225 billion in corporate income taxes. These taxes came from 2.5 million companies.

READING CHECK

Summarizing What are the different types of income taxes?

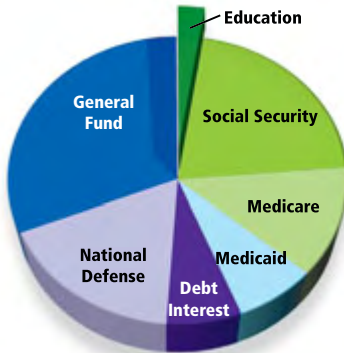
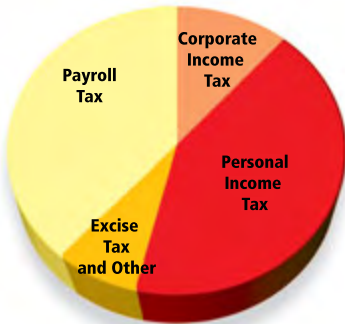
Government Taxing and Spending

Each level of government collects taxes from many different sources and spends them on slightly different programs.

Revenues

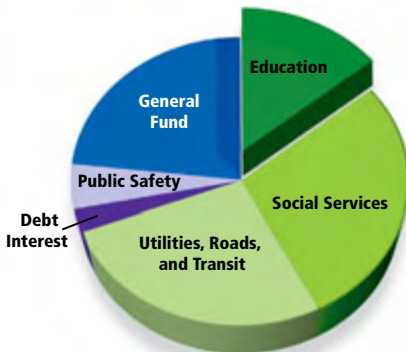
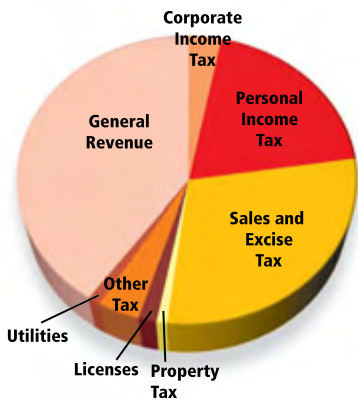
Expenditures

Federal



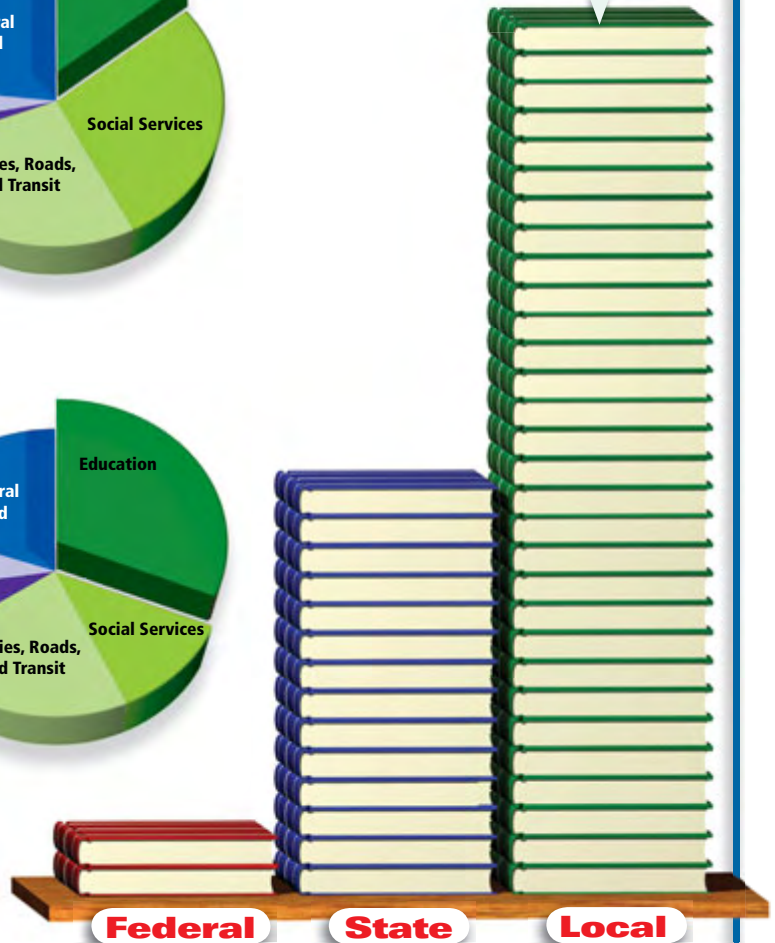
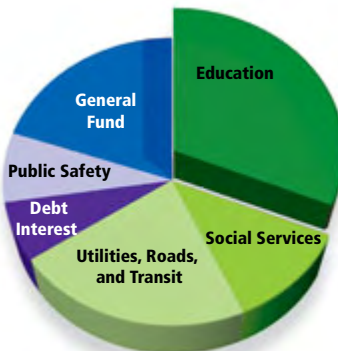
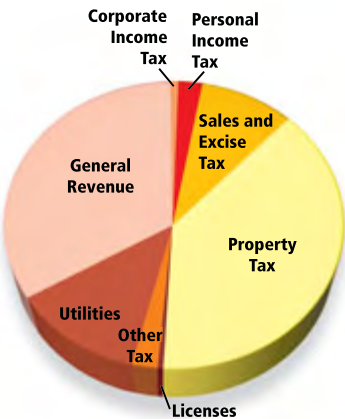
This graph shows the percentage of revenues each level of government spends on education. One book equals one percent of total spending. As you can see, local governments spend a much larger percentage of their revenue on education.

State



Education Spending

Local



ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING INFORMATION

1. Why do you think that local governments spend the largest portion of their revenue on education?
2. What are the largest forms of revenue for federal, state, and local governments?

Other Kinds of Taxes

QUICK
FACTS

Governments at all levels rely on other taxes in addition to income taxes. Some taxes, such as sales taxes, are broad-based. Other taxes, such as fees and gift taxes, are collected from fewer people.

What is the difference between a user fee, such as a park entrance fee, and a general sales tax?



Excise

Sales



Fees

MT. RAINIER
NATIONAL PARK



Other Major Taxes

Income taxes are important to all levels of government. However, state and local governments rely on a variety of other taxes for their revenue. The federal government also relies on other kinds of taxes for some of its revenue.

Sales and Excise Taxes

Most states and many cities have a sales tax. This tax is collected on most products sold. A sales tax is a **regressive tax**. A regressive tax is a tax that takes a larger percentage of income from low-income groups than from high-income groups. This is true even though both groups pay the same sales tax rates. For example, a wealthy person and a poor person both buy the same television. A five-percent sales tax on the television will take a higher percentage of the poor person's total income.

Excise taxes are similar to sales taxes. The difference is that an excise tax is a tax collected only on certain services and goods, usually luxury items, sold in the United States. Items on which excise taxes are collected include air travel and luxury automobiles.

Property Taxes

The chief source of income for most local governments is the property tax. A **property tax** is a tax on the value of the property owned by a person or by a business. Property taxes are collected on real property and personal property.

Real property includes land, buildings, and other structures. Personal property includes such items as stocks, bonds, jewelry, cars, and boats. Much of the funding for public schools in the United States comes from local property taxes.

Estate, Inheritance, and Gift Taxes

When a person dies, that person's heirs may have to pay estate taxes on property left by the deceased. An estate tax is a federal tax on all the wealth a person leaves. Individuals may also be taxed on the share of the estate that they inherit, or receive. The inheritance tax is based on the portion of an estate received by an individual after the estate is divided.

Even a gift of money may be subject to a tax by the federal government. Any person who gives a gift worth more than \$13,000 must pay a gift tax.



Import Taxes

The U.S. government collects taxes on many products imported from foreign countries. This import tax is called a **tariff**. It is sometimes called a customs duty. At one time customs duties were the main source of revenues for the federal government. For example, in 1850 about 90 percent of the federal budget came from customs duties.

Today the United States uses tariffs primarily to regulate foreign trade and support the U.S. economy. For example, tariffs can be used to raise the prices of imported goods. Tariffs make goods from other countries either as expensive or more expensive than American-made products. In this way tariffs can protect American industry from competition from foreign industry. On the other hand, tariffs can also hurt American consumers. They may raise the prices of certain products. Using tariffs to control and support the economy, rather than simply as a source of revenue, is often a difficult balancing act.

READING CHECK

Analyzing Information Why is it good for governments to rely on a wide variety of taxes?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

1. **a. Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **income tax**, **progressive tax**, and **profit**.
b. Evaluate Do you think that a sales tax is a fair tax for all Americans?
2. **a. Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **regressive tax**, **property tax**, and **tariff**.
b. Explain What is the difference between an estate tax and an inheritance tax?

Critical Thinking

3. **Categorizing** Copy the graphic organizer. Fill in each box with a type of tax and an example of something to which that tax could be applied.

Types of Taxes	

FOCUS ON WRITING

4. **Supporting a Point of View** Should all U.S. taxes be made progressive taxes? Why or why not?

Analyzing a Documentary

Learn

Not all films are works of fiction. Documentaries are non-fiction films or television programs that present information on a particular topic in a factual way. Documentaries might focus on the life of a particular person, like Abraham Lincoln, or they may concentrate on an important event, such as the first moon landing. In either case, a documentary uses a combination of original source documents, personal interviews, photographs, and film to convey information about a subject.

A good documentary should add to your knowledge of a subject. But documentaries, like other forms of media, are biased in that they are told from the perspective of their creators. When you watch a documentary, it is important that you evaluate it carefully. Use the tips below to help you analyze a documentary.

Practice

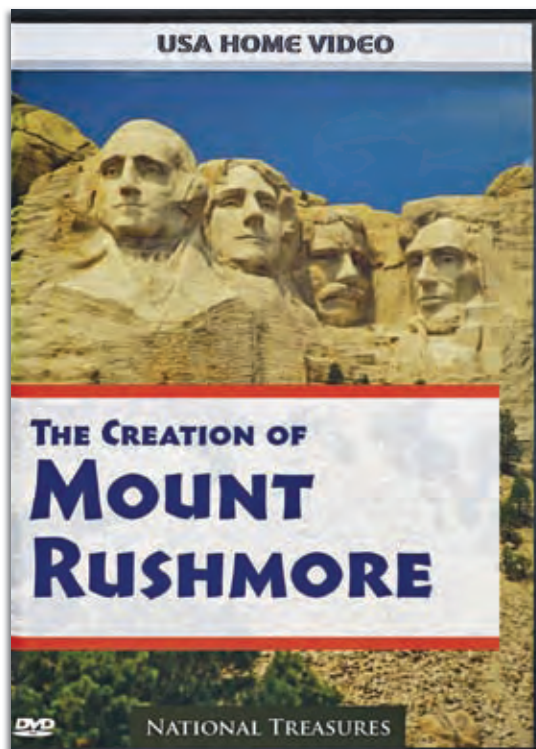
- 1 **Identify the point of view.** Documentary films present a topic in a certain way. It is important to be aware of how the director is trying to shape your opinion.
- 2 **Notice how the visuals and images make you feel.** Techniques like music, close-ups, slow-motion shots, or stills of a scene may be used to elicit emotional responses from the viewers. Notice how such techniques affect you emotionally. How do they affect the tone of the documentary?
- 3 **Investigate the source.** Who produced and directed the documentary? Ask yourself if the filmmakers have a special interest in presenting a particular point of view.

- 4 **Check the facts.** Be careful not to believe everything you see and hear. Use outside sources to confirm the information presented in the documentary.

Apply

Imagine that you have just watched a documentary about the artists that created the monument at Mount Rushmore. Use the image below and your knowledge of documentaries to answer the questions.

1. Who produced the film? How might that affect the point of view of the documentary?
2. What possible points of view might a documentary about Mount Rushmore present?
3. What sources might you use to verify the information presented in the documentary?





Managing the Country's Money

BEFORE YOU READ

The Main Idea

The federal, state and local governments collect and spend many billions of dollars each year. Each level of government has systems to manage public funds.

Reading Focus

1. How do governments collect public money?
2. What steps are involved in spending public money?
3. How do governments account for your money?

Key Terms

balanced budget, p. 307
surplus, p. 307
deficit, p. 307
audit, p. 307



Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the steps involved in planning the federal budget.



The U.S. Customs Service collects duties on goods brought into the United States.



You earn money. You spend money. Your goal is to spend less than you earn. This is called money management, or budgeting. Local, state, and national governments try to do the same. As a citizen you can contact your state representatives and members of Congress to let them know your concerns regarding government spending.

Collecting Public Money

Each level of government has a department whose responsibility it is to collect taxes. At the federal level, the collection of taxes is handled by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The IRS is an agency of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Another agency of the federal government, the U.S. Customs Service, collects tariffs on imported goods.

State and local governments have established their own tax collection agencies. State tax collection agencies collect taxes such as state income taxes and inheritance taxes. Taxes collected by local tax collection agencies include local property taxes.

After tax money is collected, it is sent to the treasuries of the various governments. The U.S. Treasury Department spends federal tax dollars under the authorization of Congress.

In state and local governments the comptroller acts as the watchdog of the treasury. The comptroller is responsible for ensuring that public funds are spent only as authorized by the state legislature or city council.

READING CHECK

Analyzing Why is a state's comptroller of public accounts called a watchdog of the treasury?

Spending Public Money

As you have read, governments collect money to provide goods and services that taxpayers and other citizens want and need. Often, planning how to spend the money is the source of much political debate. As a citizen, you need to understand how governments at all levels plan to spend your money.

Planning Government Spending

All governments have budgets. As you know, a budget lists the amount and sources of expected revenue, or money income. A budget also specifies the proposed expenditures,

or money to be spent, for various public purposes. A budget is usually written to pay for the government's operations for one year.

The management of public funds is divided between the executive and legislative branches of government. The chief executive, such as the president, governor, or mayor, is responsible for drawing up the budget. However, the legislative branch must pass a budget into law before any public money can be spent. Once the budget has been passed, the executive branch must spend the money according to the approved budget.

Preparing the Federal Budget

In the federal government the president prepares a budget that details how public funds should be raised and how they should be spent. Planning the federal budget is very complicated. The president needs the help of several government agencies.

The chief agency that helps the president prepare the budget is the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The OMB forecasts the amount of tax income the government will receive in the coming year.

Each of the executive departments makes a careful estimate of how much money it plans to spend the following year. All these estimates are submitted to the OMB. The president and the director of the OMB study the many requests. They establish priorities for the various departments' needs.

Congress and the Budget

Once the federal budget is prepared, the president sends it to Congress. Along with the budget, the president sends a message. It explains the budget and urges that it be passed.

Congress makes its own study of the proposed budget. As you have learned, only Congress has the power to raise and spend money. The House of Representatives and the Senate debate the various items in the budget. They make changes. Both houses of Congress must approve the final version of the federal budget. The budget is passed in the form of



FOCUS ON Alexander Hamilton (1757–1804)

Born on the West Indies island of Nevis in 1757, Alexander Hamilton moved to New York in 1772

for his formal education. Hamilton's abilities regarding finances revealed themselves at an early age.

In 1789 President George Washington appointed Hamilton as the first secretary of the treasury. As secretary of the treasury, Hamilton began a number of important proposals for the new nation. He created a plan to collect import duties and excise taxes for raising revenue and for paying off the national debt. He also developed plans for a congressional charter for the first Bank of the United States.

Hamilton was fatally wounded during a duel on July 11, 1804. He died in New York City the following day.

Making Inferences Why were Hamilton's proposals to pay America's debts and create a national bank so important to the new nation?

appropriations bills. Appropriations bills are bills that authorize the spending of funds. If approved, these bills are sent to the president to be approved or vetoed. These bills become the laws under which your tax dollars will be spent for the coming year.

The National Debt

When a government has a **balanced budget**, its revenue equals its expenditures. That is, the amount of money the government collects equals the amount of money it spends. However, frequently a government budget is not balanced. When a government collects more money than it spends, it has a **surplus**, or an excess of money. When a government spends more money than it collects, it has a **deficit**, or a shortage of money. When it runs a deficit, the federal government must borrow money each year to make up the difference between income and expenses. Borrowing money contributes more to the national debt. In 2005 the debt total neared \$8 trillion, and by 2011 it topped \$15 trillion.

Part of the revenue collected each year must be used to pay the interest on the national debt. This portion of the budget cannot be used to fund programs and services for the people. The interest on the debt is so high that future generations will be repaying the money that is being borrowed now. In addition, the federal government borrows much of the money it needs to make up for the deficit by issuing government bonds. Increasingly, these bonds are being bought by foreign investors. This means public tax dollars are going overseas to pay interest on these bonds.

There is no constitutional limit on the size of the national debt. Congress establishes a limit above which the debt cannot go. However, it periodically raises this limit as the need for more spending arises.

READING CHECK

Categorizing How are the budget responsibilities divided among the executive and legislative branches of government?

MATH 101

Calculating Using CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the percentage change over time in the average cost of a market basket of goods and services purchased by consumers. The quantity and quality of the items in the basket are kept constant, so any changes in the cost of the basket are because of price changes and not because of changes to the items in the basket. An index number for each item in the basket and for the complete basket is given each year. You can calculate the percentage increase or decrease in prices by using these index numbers in this formula:

$$\left[\left(\frac{\text{Latest Index number}}{\text{Past Index number}} \right) \times 100 \right] - 100 = \text{Percent Change}$$

Here are a few examples of CPI (1982–1984 = 100):

Year	CPI
1990	130.7
1995	152.4
2005	195.3

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING INFORMATION

If a skateboard has an index number of 113 in 2006 and an index number of 89 in 1994, what has been the percentage increase in the price of the skateboard?

Accounting for Public Money

As a citizen, you have the right to know that your money is being handled properly. To ensure that funds are spent according to law, all levels of government provide for an audit of their accounts. An **audit** is a careful examination by trained accountants of every item of income and every expenditure.

Audits at Every Level

All governments must account for their revenues and expenditures. For example, in most states, local school districts must submit audit reports of their spending to the state department of education. At the federal level, the Government Accountability Office examines most federal expenditures.

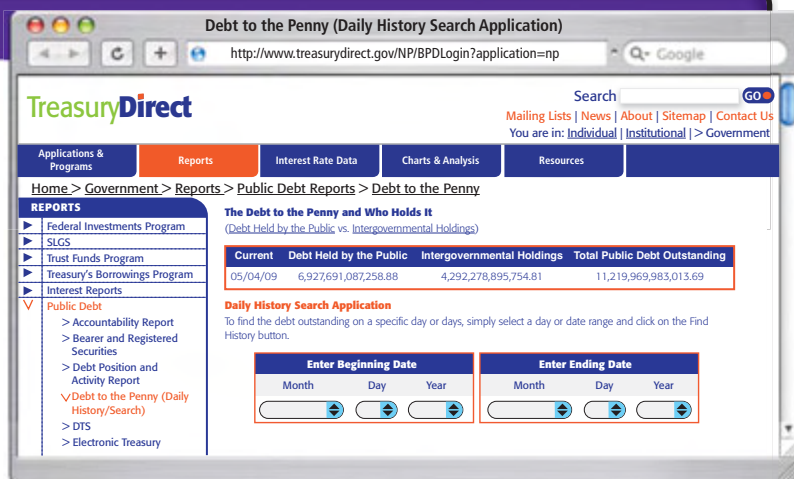
MEDIA INVESTIGATION

INTERNET

Data and the Internet

What is the current national debt? If you use the Internet to search for an exact figure, you may be surprised to find many different answers. Finding reliable facts and figures on the Internet can be challenging. However, certain clues will help you decide if an Internet source is reliable.

For example, reliable sources will provide the author's full name and contact information. They also should provide sources for their information. Be cautious of information you find on Web sites that do not provide this information.



ANALYSIS SKILL

MEDIA LITERACY

What should you look for to determine if a Web site is reliable?

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Citizen Responsibility

Even with audits and accountability, citizens must keep an eye on government revenue and spending. This means citizens must take an active role in the budgetary process. They must understand taxes, the use of public funds, and the national debt. When there is a problem or a question, citizens must make their voices

heard and get an answer. They should also vote on the local and national level for politicians and policies that match their economic beliefs. After all, it is their money that is being spent.

READING CHECK

Finding the Main Idea How do governments and citizens ensure that public funds are being spent properly?

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas and Terms

- Recall** What agencies collect revenue for the federal government?
 - Explain** What is the purpose of a government budget?
- Define** Write a brief definition of the terms **balanced budget**, **surplus**, and **deficit**.
 - Contrast** What are the differences between the budget responsibilities of the president and Congress?
 - Evaluate** Do you think that the budget always reflects all of the needs of American citizens?
- Define** Write a brief definition of the term **audit**.
 - Predict** In your opinion, how does a growing national debt affect future generations?

Critical Thinking

- Categorizing** Use the graphic organizer and your notes to identify the responsibilities of the two branches of government in creating the federal budget. Add rows to the organizer as necessary.

Executive Branch	Legislative Branch

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Supporting a Point of View** Write a letter to the president with your recommendations for keeping the federal budget balanced.

STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

PROJECT Citizen



Helping Homeless Teenagers

What would it be like to not have a home or anywhere to turn for help? For some teenagers, this question is a reality. Acting on a proposal by local students, the city of Newberg, Oregon, opened a drop-in center. It helps teenagers who do not have a place to live.

Community Connection Project Citizen students in Ms. Terry McElligott's class were concerned about the fate of homeless teenagers. In one year alone, more than 100 runaways were reported to police in Newberg. "As I got farther into the project I learned how many kids are on the streets," said team member Paula McKinney.

Taking Action The students contacted existing teen shelters. They wanted to learn what sort of services would be needed to help the homeless. They also gathered input from local groups that helped teens. Students took on different roles in researching and preparing a proposal for the city to create a drop-in center where homeless teenagers could receive help and turn their lives around. They presented their proposal to the Newberg City Club and the School District Board of Directors. They also wrote to city leaders and contributed to articles in the local newspaper. They published brochures sent out with the school newsletter. They interviewed citizens to build support for their plan. Finally, the city agreed to sponsor a drop-in center for teenagers in crisis. Officials used the careful research and reports the students had provided to apply for funding to pay for the new center.



Communities around the country support youth centers to help homeless teenagers.

SERVICE LEARNING



1. How did students in Newberg respond to the problem of teenage homelessness in their community?
2. What methods did the students use to gain support for their idea?

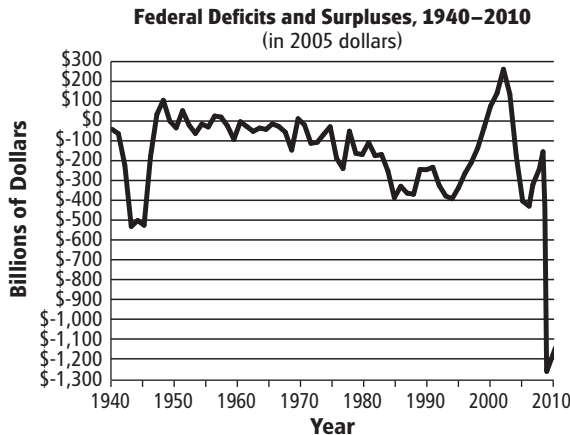
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CHAPTER 12 REVIEW



FLORIDA CIVICS EOC PRACTICE

1. The graph below shows federal deficits and surpluses for the years from 1940 to 2010.



Source: U.S. Office of Management and Budget

About when did the United States start to drop from an all-time (within the span of years on the graph) high surplus to a deficit of more than \$400 billion?

- A. 1947 C. 1985
B. 1950 D. 2000
2. What is the term for a tax that takes a larger percentage of income from low-income groups than from high-income groups?
- A. excise tax
B. property tax
C. regressive tax
D. progressive tax

Reviewing Key Terms

For each term below, write a sentence explaining its significance.

1. interest
2. national debt
3. revenue
4. fees
5. fine
6. bond
7. income tax
8. progressive tax
9. profit
10. regressive tax
11. property tax
12. tariff
13. balanced budget
14. surplus
15. deficit
16. audit

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 294–298)

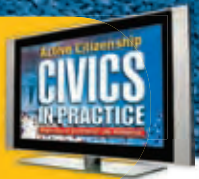
17. **a. Recall** What are three reasons for the high cost of government?
- b. Describe** What are the purposes of taxation, and what principles does the government use to try to make taxation fair?
- c. Elaborate** Explain one method governments use to finance large, long-term projects.

SECTION 2 (Pages 299–303)

18. **a. Recall** What are five main types of taxes that people have to pay?
- b. Explain** How is individual income tax calculated, and how do citizens pay individual income taxes?
- c. Evaluate** Do you think that the income tax should be a progressive tax? Why or why not?

Active Citizenship video program

Review the video to answer the closing question:
What are at least three benefits of working with others to improve your community?



SECTION 3 (Pages 305–308)

- 19. a. Recall** What is the difference between a surplus and a deficit?
- b. Elaborate** How do the president and the Congress each play a role in the federal government budget process?
- c. Identifying Points of View** In recent years some federal officials and members of the public have sought a constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget each year. However, Congress and many citizens have strongly resisted such an action. What are the reasons for supporting or opposing a balanced budget amendment?

Civics Skills

Analyzing a Documentary Use the steps for analyzing a documentary that you learned earlier in the chapter to answer the questions below.

- 1 Identify the point of view.
- 2 Notice how the visuals and images make you feel.
- 3 Investigate the source.
- 4 Check the facts.

- 20.** What types of information in a documentary might indicate the filmmaker's point of view?
- 21.** Why might documentary filmmakers want to try to elicit some type of emotion from their viewers?
- 22.** Why is it important to verify the information presented in a documentary?

Reading Skills

Problem Solving Use the Reading Skills taught in this chapter to answer the questions about the reading selection below.

Government officials, therefore, face difficult decisions. What government programs most need money? What programs will bring the greatest benefits to the most people? Government officials must decide which activities need funding, in order of their urgency and need. This process is called establishing priorities. (p. 296)

- 23.** What is the problem described in this passage?
- 24.** List three standards you would use to determine which government programs received the highest priority for funding.
- 25.** List several possible solutions to the problem described in the passage. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

Using the Internet

- 26. Exploring Government Finance** Through your online textbook, build your understanding of the current federal budget and national debt. Then create a chart illustrating major expenditures in the current federal budget and a graph that illustrates the changes in the national debt from 1985 to the present.

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FOCUS ON WRITING

- 27. Writing Your Article** Review your notes from this chapter. Then choose the subject you think would make the best newspaper or magazine article. Write an attention-grabbing headline or title. Then write your article, giving both your opinion and as many facts as possible.

Sales Tax on the Internet

You go to a store and buy a new CD or book. In most states you pay an extra amount of 4 to 8 percent of the purchase price. This sales tax goes to the state or local government. You buy the same item on the Internet. However, you will probably not pay sales tax. Some business owners say this system gives Internet retail companies an unfair advantage.

Why it Matters

People do have to pay taxes on goods purchased online from businesses in their own state. Out-of-state Internet sales, however, involve interstate commerce, which only Congress can regulate. In 1992 the Supreme Court ruled that cities and states cannot charge sales tax for any items purchased over the Internet from out-of-state companies. Since the time the Supreme Court made its ruling, however, Internet sales have exploded. They have cut into the sales of many local stores—and the sales taxes they collect.

The Internet taxation issue trickles down even farther. The Internet shopping boom has hurt cities and states that rely on sales taxes to fund services. In the 1990s, some states responded. They tried to pass special taxes on companies doing business over the Internet. Congress prohibited this practice in 1998. However, it encouraged states to begin working together to create a system that helps businesses easily calculate and pay any taxes they owe.

Since 2000 some 40 states have joined together to work toward this sales tax system. A number of Internet retailers have also started voluntarily collecting taxes on out-of-state sales. In addition, a California court ruling strengthened the effort to collect sales taxes. It ordered a national music and book chain to pay taxes on Internet sales. Why? The court noted that, while customers purchased books online, they could return them at the company's local stores. This counted as local commerce.



Consumers, state governments, and retailers are working together to solve the issue of Internet sales taxes.

ANALYSIS SKILL

EVALUATING THE LAW

1. How does not paying sales tax on Internet purchases harm local businesses and city and state governments?
2. Do you think that people should pay sales tax on all Internet purchases? Why or why not?

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