

# GOVERNMENT AP

## Chapter 9: Nominations, Elections, and Campaigns

### MERIDIAN NOTES

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### Vocabulary

1. Election Campaign	An organized effort to persuade voters to choose one candidate over others competing for the same office.
2. Primary Election	A preliminary election conducted within a political party to select candidates who will run for public office in a subsequent election.
3. Closed Primary	A primary election in which voters must declare their party affiliation before they are given the primary ballot containing that party's potential nominees.
4. Open Primary	A primary election in which voters need not declare their party affiliation and can choose one party's primary ballot to take into the voting booth.
5. Modified Closed Primary	A primary election that allows individual state parties to decide whether they permit independents to vote in their primaries and for which offices.
6. Modified Open Primary	A primary election that entitles independent voters to vote in a party's primary.
7. Presidential Primary	A special primary election used to select delegates to attend the party's national convention, which in turn nominates the presidential candidate.
8. Caucus / Convention	A method used to select delegates to attend a party's national convention. Generally, a local meeting selects delegates for a county-level meeting, which in turn selects delegates for a higher-level meeting; the process cumulates in a state convention that actually selects national convention delegates.
9. Front-Loading	State's practice of moving delegate selection primaries and caucuses earlier in the calendar year to gain media and candidate attention.

10. General Election	A national election held by law in November of every even-numbered year.
11. Straight Ticket	In voting, a single party's candidates for all the offices.
12. Split Ticket	In voting, candidates from different parties for different offices.
13. First-past-the-post elections	A British term for elections conducted in single in single-member districts that award victory to the candidate with the most votes.
14. Open Election	An election that lacks an incumbent.
15. Federal Election Commission (FEC)	A bipartisan federal agency of six members that oversees the financing of national election campaigns.
16. Hard Money	Financial contributions given directly to a candidate running for congressional office or presidency.
17. Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act (BCRA)	A law passed in 2002 governing campaign financing; took effect with the 2004 election.
18. Soft Money	Funds that are not raised and spent for a specific federal election campaign.
19. 527 Committees	Committees named after Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code; they enjoy tax-exempt status in election campaigns if they are unaffiliated with political parties.

