

Chapter 10

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After studying Chapter 10, you should be able to:

1. Explain the functions and unique features of American elections.
2. Describe how American elections have evolved using the presidential elections of 1800, 1896, and 2004 as examples.
3. Discuss the factors that affect a citizen's choice of whether to vote.
4. Explain how Americans vote and what factors influence how they vote.
5. Explain how the electoral college works and what biases it can introduce.
6. Understand how elections affect democracy, public policy, and the scope of government.

The following exercises will help you meet these objectives:

Objective 1: Explain the functions and unique features of American elections.

1. List the three kinds of elections found in the United States and their purpose.

1.

2.

3.

2. What is the difference between an initiative petition and a referendum?

Objective 2: Describe how American elections have evolved using the presidential elections of 1800, 1896, and 2004.

1. Complete the following table on the elections of 1800, 1896, and 2004.

Year	Candidates and Party	Winner	Major Issues	Campaign Style	Significance of Election
1800					
1896					
2004					

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2. What were the major reasons why people voted for either George W. Bush or John Kerry in the 2004 presidential election?

George W. Bush:

John Kerry:

Objective 3: Discuss the factors that affect a citizen's choice of whether to vote.

1. List and explain three major reasons why people might vote.

1.

2.

3.

2. What is the major provision of the 1993 Motor Voter Act?

3. List and explain six demographic factors that are related to voter turnout.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

2. What are the two reasons why the electoral college is important to presidential elections?

1.

2.

Objective 6: Understand how elections affect democracy, public policy, and the scope of government.

1. What are the two tasks that elections accomplish, according to democratic theory?

1.

2.

2. According to the text, what is the clearest way in which elections broadly affect public policy?

3. What does retrospective voting mean?