

MR. LIPMAN'S AP GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS POWERPOINT



CHAPTER 13 – THE ELECTION PROCESS

The Purpose of Elections

- Legitimize government, even in authoritarian systems.
- Organize government.
- Choose issue and policy priorities.
- Electorate gives winners a **mandate**.

BEFORE THE ACTUAL ELECTION YOU USUALLY NEED A PRIMARY:



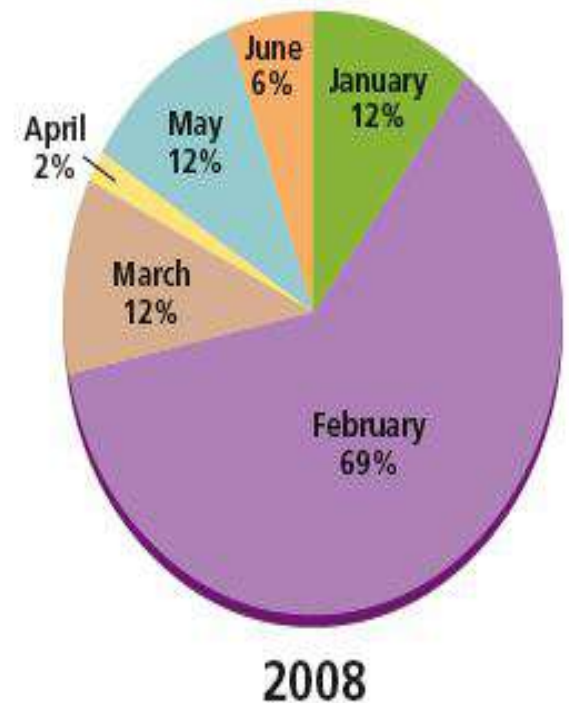
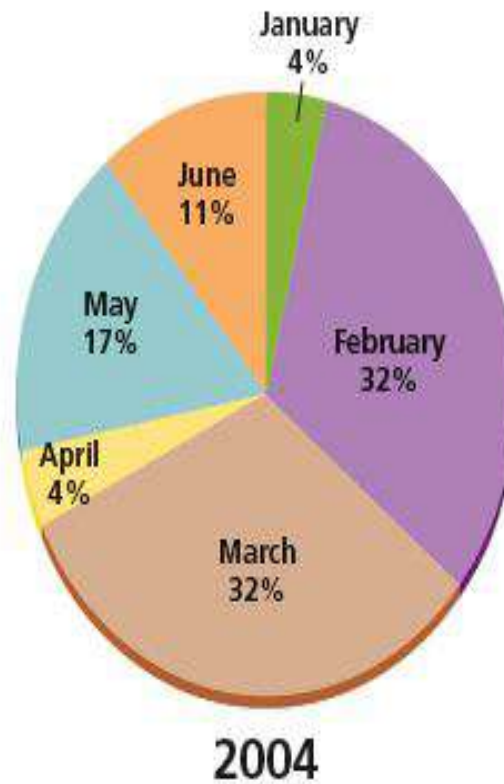
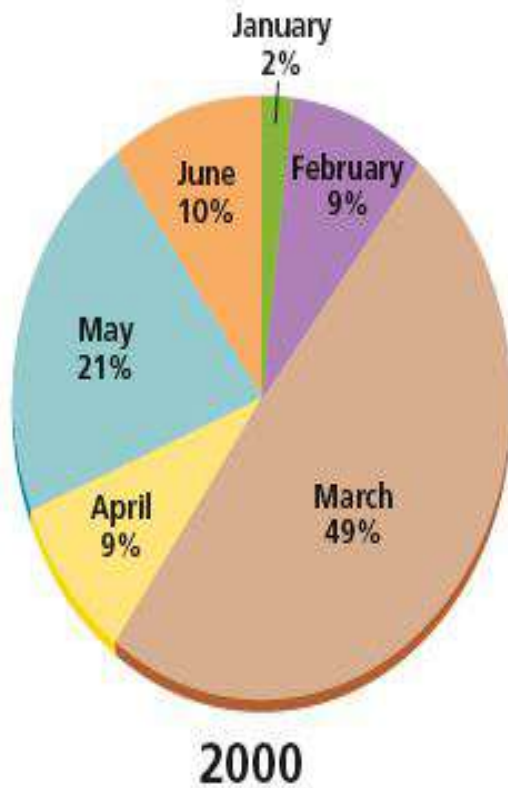
1. **CLOSED PRIMARY** – REGISTERED VOTERS OF A PARTICULAR PARTY

2. **OPEN PRIMARY** – INDEPENDENTS AND OFTEN MEMBERS OF ANY PARTY

○ 3. **Non-Partisan Primary** – Voting without regard to party affiliation

4. **CROSSOVER VOTING** – VOTING IN A PRIMARY FOR A DIFFERENT PARTY THAN YOU ARE REGISTERED IN.

When do states choose their nominee for president?



What is a primary election?

- Election in which voters decide which candidates will actually fill elective public offices.
- Election in which voters decide which of the candidates within a party will represent the party in the general election.
- An election that allows citizens to propose legislation or state constitutional amendments by submitting them to the electorate for popular vote.
- An election whereby the state legislature submits proposed legislation or state constitutional amendments to the voters for approval.
- An election in which voters can remove an incumbent from office prior to the next scheduled election.

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THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES



- Winner Take All
- Proportional
- Caucus
- Front Loading by States
- National Convention: Out of Power Party goes first.
- Labor Day is the traditional “kick-off” but that has changed in recent years

Getting the Voters Involved



- **Electorate:** Those eligible to vote
- **Initiative:** citizens propose legislation and then vote on it.
- **Referendum:** state legislature submits proposed legislation to voters (aka “punting”)
- **Recall:** Voters seek to remove an elected official.
- **Incumbent:** an official already in office

How do states regulate voter eligibility?



- Prohibit all ex-felons from voting (9 states)
- Allow incarcerated felons to vote from prison (2 states)
- Require all voters to show some form of ID to vote (18 states)
- Require or request that all voters show a photo ID to vote (8 states)
- Require no voter registration (1 state)
- Allow Election Day registration (9 states and DC)
- Require voters to register to vote at least 30 days prior to an election (16 states)
- Allow no-excuse absentee balloting (20 states)
- Allow early voting (35 states)

Sources: Pew Center on the States, www.pewcenteronthestates.org, and CIRCLE, www.civicyouth.org.

The U.S. president is elected every four years in general elections by

- A. popular vote.
- B. state-based caucuses.
- C. the Electoral College.
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THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE



- 538= 435 plus 100 plus 3
- Originally designed to operate without political parties and to produce a non-partisan president
- Red is GOP and Blue is Democratic
- Largest is California (55); then Texas (38); then New York and Florida (29)....
- Average district size is now going to be over 570K

PARTY REALIGNMENTS



- Before they occur there is usually a critical election
- Last big three were 1860; 1896; 1932
- “A fundamental and enduring alteration in the political party make-up”
- Secular realignment is a gradual re-arrangement of party coalitions

All of the following factors increase the likelihood that an incumbent will win reelection EXCEPT

- A. a paid staff.
- B. a large war chest.
- C. name recognition.
- D. greater visibility.
- E. scandals.

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CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS



- Incumbents have a huge advantage:

- Mass mailings
- Well known
- Constituent Services
- Large War Chests

****OTHER KEY TERMS TO REMEMBER****

1. Redistricting
2. Gerrymandering
3. Midterm Elections (low turn out)
4. Coattails in a Presidential Election

Which of the following individuals is most likely to vote for the Democratic party?

- A. a high income individual
- B. a highly educated individual
- C. a Protestant
- D. an African American
- E. a man

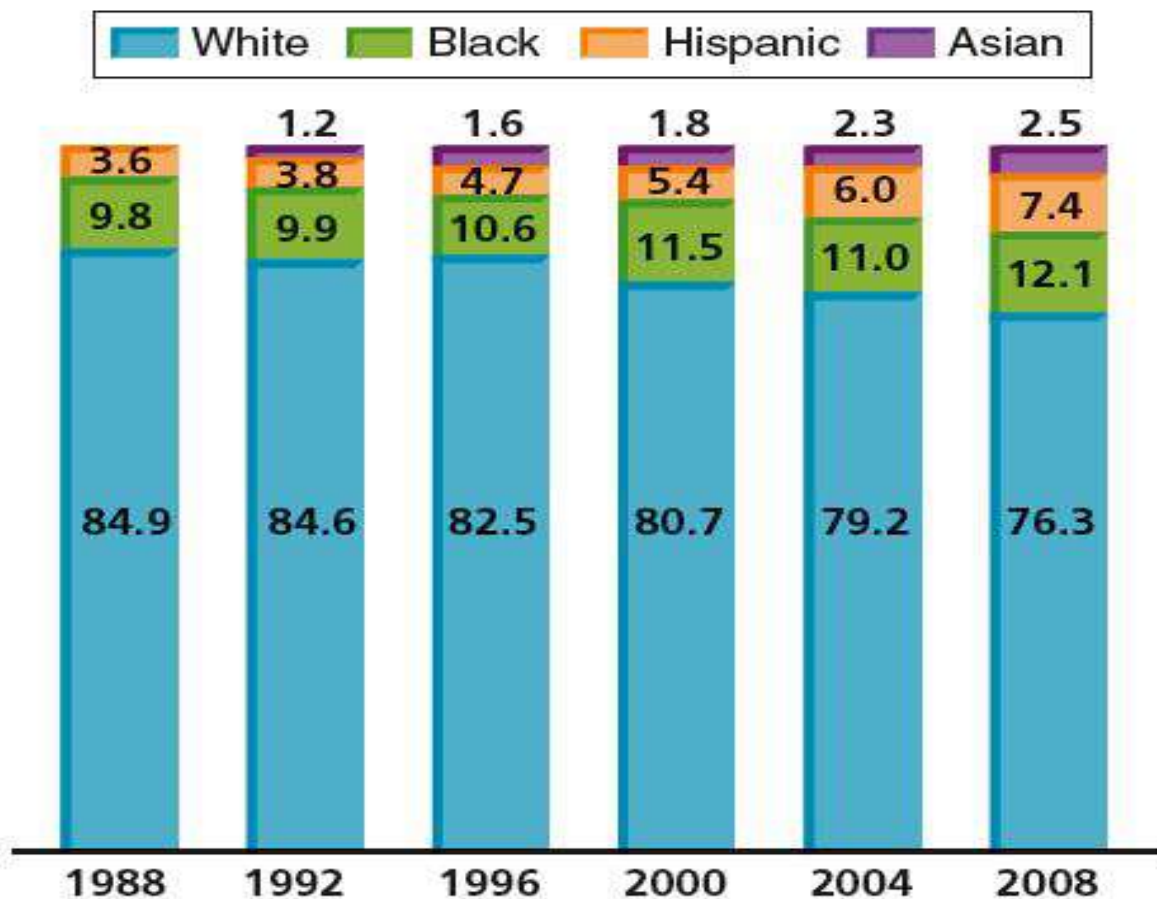
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How has the racial and ethnic composition of voters changed?



Source: Pew Research Center, "Dissecting the 2008 Electorate: Most Diverse in U.S. History," April 30, 2009. www.pewresearch.org.



ODDS AND ENDS



- 1. Education (more equals higher turnout)
- 2. Income (higher usually related to turnout)
- 3. 26th Amendment (1971- age now 18)
- 4. African-Americans tend to vote less than whites.
- 5. Puerto Ricans can only vote on Mainland
- 6. McCain-Feingold and the attempt at Campaign financing reform

Which of the following individuals is most likely to vote?

- A. A white person with an annual income of \$35,000 or higher
- B. A Hispanic person with an annual income of \$35,000 or less
- C. A 21 year old who did not finish high school
- D. An felon serving a prison sentence
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WHY IS VOTER TURNOUT SO LOW



- Registration Difficulty
- Extend Voting in Presidential Elections to 2 or 3 days?
- Reduce Voting Age to 16? (see page 492)
- Reduce restrictions on convicted felons?
- Ease absentee voting restrictions?
- Belief that vote “just doesn’t matter because nothing ever changes”

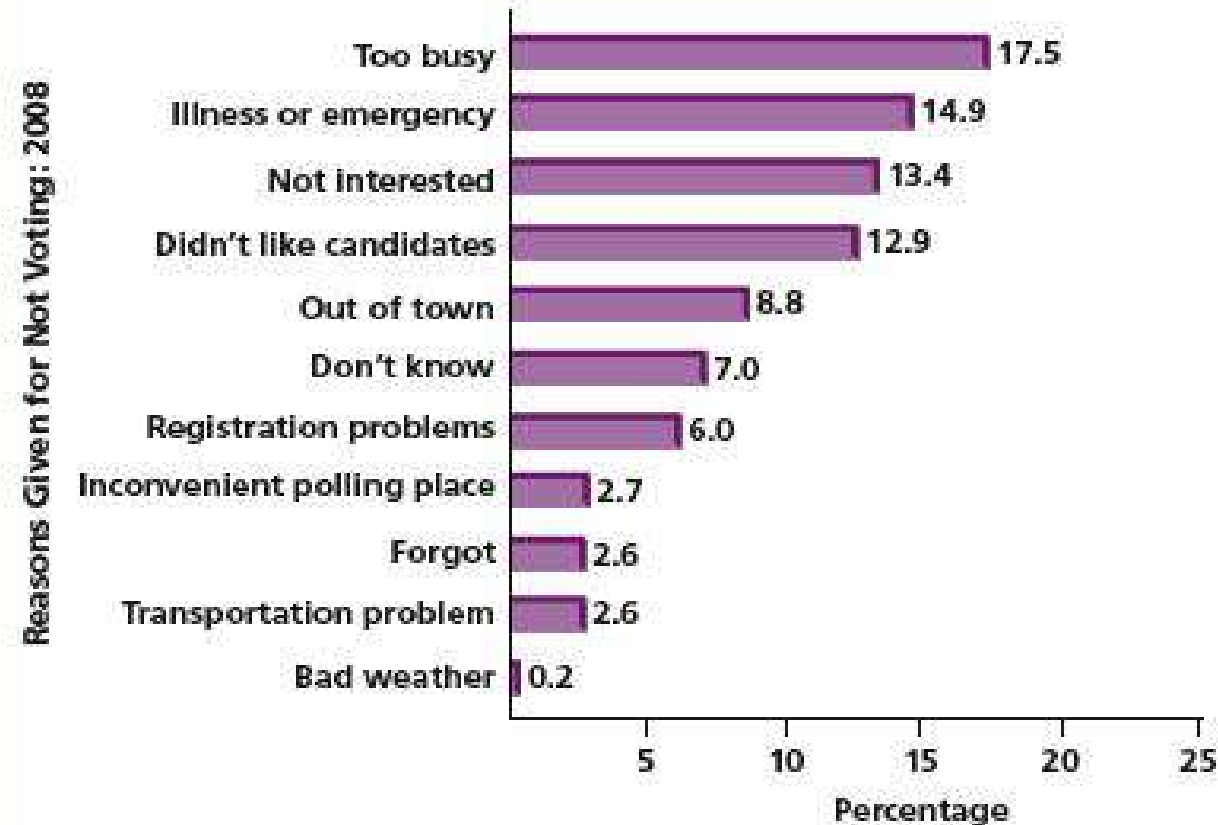
What is the number one reason people in the United States don't vote?

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- B. They are satisfied with their lives.
- C. They encounter bad weather while trying to vote.
- D. They forget.
- E. They don't have transportation to the polling station.

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Analyzing Visuals: Why people Don't Vote



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, November 2008.