

ELECTIONS AND VOTING IN AMERICA

When are federal elections held?

Congress has established that congressional elections will be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years. (Presidential elections are held every four years.)

The electoral system is based on fixed terms, meaning that the length of a term in office is set, not indefinite.

- U.S. House of Representatives serve two years (can be elected as many times as they want)
- U.S. Senator serve six years (can be elected as many times as they want)
- President serves four years (can only serve two full terms – 22nd amendment)

Our electoral system has staggered terms for some offices = not all offices are up for election at the same time.

- House Reps = _____ are up for election _____
- Senate = _____ are up for election _____
- President = Elected every four years

Before the American Revolution, only white males who owned property and paid taxes could vote. Many believed that voting was best left to wealthy, educated, white, property-owning males. By the mid-1800s all white adult males could vote.

<i>LAW</i>	<i>EXPANSION OF VOTING</i>
	Ratified in 1870; Voting could not be denied because a person was of a certain race, color, or had once been a slave.
	Ratified in 1920; Women gained the right to vote.
	Ratified in 1964; Outlawed poll taxes (a poll tax was an amount of money that a citizen had to pay before he or she could vote).
	Passed in 1965; Outlawed the practice of requiring otherwise qualified voters to pass literacy tests in order to register to vote.
	Ratified in 1971; Citizens between the ages of 18-20 gained the right to vote.

You are qualified to vote if you are: A) a citizen of the United States, B) at least 18 years old, and C) not a convicted felon or legally insane. Most states also require that you be a resident of the state for a certain length of time and that you register with the local government.

WHO VOTES?	<p>1) _____ - High levels of educational achievement are more likely to vote than those with low levels</p> <p>2) _____ - Whites vote at a higher rate than Blacks; Blacks vote at a higher rate than Hispanics</p> <p>3) _____ - Women voters exceed that of men</p> <p>4) _____ - Higher family incomes are more likely to vote than those with lower incomes; Higher-status careers are more likely to vote than those with lower-status jobs</p> <p>5) _____ - Older people are more likely to vote than younger people; People 18 to 24 years of age have a poor voting record and so do people over 70</p>
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