

GLOSSARY AND CREDITS

VOCABULARY

absentee voting	made for those who cannot be present at their polling place because of health or obligation
administration	executive branch of the American government; particularly used in relation to the office-holder
adopt	accepted and agreed upon
Alien and Sedition Acts	passed by the Federalists which gave the President power to deport aliens he deemed dangerous
announcement	individual fills out documentation and pays a filing fee to state that he seeks a political office
Anti-Federalist Party	one of the first two American political parties; it wanted a weak central government
appointee	one who is nominated or designated to a position
appointment	A designation to serve, based upon ability and other qualifications
Australian ballot	secret ballot, originated in Australia
ballot box	container into which votes are put
campaign	unified and organized effort with a goal in mind.
campaign manager	director of a political agenda whose goal is to place a chosen candidate in office
candidate	person who desires a position in a political office
carried	in a national election, a candidate won the vote in a particular state
caucus	a gathering of party leaders to talk over possible candidates

central government	The federal power of the country
challenger	person who does not hold an office but who is trying to unseat an incumbent
closed primary	voter declares his party allegiance and votes for the ballot of his own party
committee	group of leaders who make the major decisions in the political party's election strategy
concede	to yield or surrender, to admit or acknowledge
constituency	people of a certain region who elected a representative, who then is answerable to these people
Constitutional Convention	gathering to creating a Constitution which would lay down the laws for running the U.S.
contested election	if a losing candidate feels that fraud has occurred he may call for a recount of the votes
controversial	an issue that may not be agreed upon by many different sides, and causes many debates
county convention	delegates nominate county officers, elect a chairman, and chose delegates to the state convention
declaration of candidacy	when a person wishes to be a candidate for the party, he or she will make an announcement of intention
dictatorship	country with a one-party leader who is in complete control
direct primary	members vote to choose the candidate who is to represent their party in the general election
economic unrest	uneasiness due to the lack of stability in the financial market

election board	selected by the district election board, a group that sees to the fairness and efficiency of an election
electoral votes	the vote each state is given to cast for a national candidate for President of the United States
Era of Good Feelings	period from 1816-1824 where there was only one political party: the Democrat-Republicans
faction	group that may not be in agreement with the general direction of the larger population
Federalist Party	one of the first two American political parties; it wanted a strong central government
general election	follows the primary election; voters determine which of the nominated candidates shall hold office
incumbent	person who currently holds an office
independents	voter with no party affiliation
inspector	one who is responsible for the proper conduct of the election
landslide defeat	losing by a large margin in an election
local level	on a smaller, non-widespread scale
loose construction	free interpretation of Constitution, allowing federal government powers not specifically denied it
majority	having the larger number in a house of Congress, assuring strong voting power
mass meeting	convention that mobilizes the agenda and announces candidates for the national election
national level	on a country-wide scale
nominate	to formally suggest and recommend a candidate for election

office-bloc arrangement	titles of offices appear across ballot, candidates of both parties for office are placed below the titles
open primary	type of primary where all qualified voters may vote for the candidates of the party they desire
oral voting	older, less private form of voting where the voters would call out the name of the candidate
partisan	type of person who will staunchly campaign or vote for only one political party
party column method	names of parties appear at tops of columns; titles of the various offices are shown at the sides
party-raiding	members of one party move into the primary of the other party to choose candidates
patronage	appointing individuals to political offices
plank	an issue upon which the campaign may build, such as civil rights, taxes, energy, or education
platform	the declared policy of a political group
plurality	the most votes cast, but not necessarily a majority
political parties	group of people organized with a governmental agenda in mind
poll watcher	citizen who is paid by the parties to keep a watchful eye on the voters and the officials
polling official	designated authorities who see to the fairness of the election at each voting precinct
polling place	specific voting area; each voter is assigned a particular place within the district where he lives
precinct	election region or section of a community

primary	early election in which delegates select and nominate candidates for office
program	political plan of action
provincial	pertaining to Canada; regional or territorial
provision	arrangement or groundwork laid to establish a program
public relations	the effort to establish a favorable impression with the populace
referendum	submitting of a proposed public measure for voting by the general public
representative democracies	democracy where the people elect representatives to act as their agents in enforcing laws
scandal	public shame or disgrace brought about by illegal or unethical actions
secret ballot	ballot that is kept private and is distributed only at the polling places by the election officials
short ballot	ticket for voting that shows only the names of the candidates for the highest offices
specific leaders	chairman of the national committee and the presidential candidate
split ticket	voting for the best candidates for each office regardless of party
state convention	state delegates nominate candidates for offices and nominate delegates to the national convention
stock market crash of 1929	saw the market lose so much power that many people lost their fortunes in the matter of days
straight ticket	voting by marking an "X" at the top of the ballot beside the name of the party of his choice
strategy	plan of action

strict construction interpretation of the Constitution that limits the Federal government to powers delegated to it

The Democrat Digest monthly digest of information for Democrats

The Republican monthly digest of information for Republicans

voting booth device used in elections; its privacy curtain or shield ensures the citizen of secrecy while voting

voting machine mechanism used in elections with a system of buttons and levers

war chest money designated for the purpose of conducting a winning campaign

Whig party a party formed mainly to fight the Democratic party and Andrew Jackson