Votes for Women, inspired by Katja Von Garner.

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvqnjwKW7gA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvqnjwKW7gA)
We will examine:

• Relationship between a state’s political culture & its electoral laws
• Different types of ballots in the states
• How states restrict minor parties’ access to the ballot
• Why voter turnout varies throughout the states
Who are elected at the state level
Initiatives: referendums & recalls
Elections & Balloting
Regulating/Access to Ballots
Voter Turn outs
Direct Democracy
States Rules re Elections Differ

- Some states allow for direct democracy,
- Other states are more restrictive in their electoral rules
- Ultimately, the use of electoral rules and structures shape how states respond to their citizenry, and in turn how citizens respond to the actions of state government
Political culture: Political participation in a state tends to reflect and shape;

- Political attitudes and patterns of political participation
- Election process is determined by the existing dominant political culture
- Political culture determines response of state’s legislature to policy activities.
State’s demographics & political culture

- States with moralistic cultures have more competitive political systems. Higher income & education levels.
- Tend to have higher participation rates than more traditionalistic states.
- (ch. 1)
Elections & Balloting; 
Jurisdiction of the States

• Sets election dates
• Qualifies candidates
• Prints ballots
• Counts ballots
Elections

• Majority vs. Plurality
• State elections’ influence on national elections
• Decline in turnout
• Single-issue voting
• Geographic patterns
Localities manage operations

- Draw precinct boundaries
- Set up and supervise polling places
- Register voters
- Report counts to (usually) secretary of state
Gov. R. Scott refuses to extend early voting

- Subsequent to Hurricane Matthews (Oct. 2016)
- Court ruled in favor extension by one week
Ballot Types

• Office group (Massachusetts) ballot:
  • (i) Lists candidate’s name, affiliated party, office being ought

• Party column (Indiana) ballot:
  • (i) Arranges candidates in columns according to their party affiliation
Ballot Types cont’d

• Straight ticket: Vote for all of one party’s candidates in one computer click
• See Sample Ballots, page 112
History of the Ballot

• Voting was initially done orally
• It was considered “manly” to speak out your vote without fear of reprisal.
• Paper ballots began to be used in the mid-1800s.
• Political machines followed & served to intimidate, buy, or manufacture votes
• Late 1800s, standardized, secret ballot introduced to prevent ballot fraud
Summary
Types of elections

• **Primary:**
  • Selection of each party’s candidate for general election
  • Involves people who are most interested in politics
  • People with strong/extreme views
Regulating ballot access to parties

- Secret (Australian) ballot led states to determine which parties should appear on the ballots
- Gives State huge control over elections
Regulating ballot access to parties

- State requirements for qualification
- Several restrictive state laws were ruled invalid by the Supreme Courts: Ohio (2006), California (2012)
• Third party exclusion
  • **Required new parties to qualify** before elections were called

• **Blanket Primaries**
  
  Voters not required **to belong** to a single party in order to vote for candidates in primaries
  
  Top 2 candidates with the most votes move ahead.
• **Open Primaries**- Some states allow voters to wait until the day of the primary to decide which party they will choose to enroll in to select candidates for the general election

• **Closed Primaries**- In other states only registered members of a political party may vote in a primary election to select party’s candidates
Restricting voters

- Property ownership
- Literacy tests and poll taxes
- Registration requirements
- Voting rights expansion
- Voter ID laws
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Courts struck down NC Voters’ ID Requirements July 2016

• Clear attempts to suppress African American votes
• 1965 Voters Rights Act permitted Fed Gov. to review voter requirements by states
• You would recall that women did not receive right to vote until 1920 (19th. Amendment)
How candidates win may vary

• By winning a plurality of votes
• Majority of votes
• Proportional representation

State legislatures draw electoral boundaries = electoral districts

The ___________________ ballot is also called the Indiana ballot.
*a. party column
• **Majority System**: candidate must capture the majority (50+1)% of all the votes cast in the election

• **Plurality System**: candidate need only capture the most vote cast. Eg. Candidate can win with 30% if no other candidate received more votes

• **Proportional Representation**: a multiple-member district system that permits each party to receive representation in proportion to % of votes cast
Types of elections

- **Primary:**
  - Selection of each party’s candidate for general election
  - Involves people who are most interested in politics
  - People with strong/extreme views
• General
• Run off
Voter Turnout Decline

- Voter turn out declined by 25% since the 60’s
- 2008 presidential election saw 131 million voters casted their votes
- Dropped by 5 million voters in 2012
- Reasons: Increased Pol Illiteracy, Low Civics Education, Social Media
- Some of the decline is attributed to individual pol cultures in different states
Elections & voter turnout

- Political culture:
  - Elazar’s Classifications: - Moralistic, Traditionalistic, Individualistic
  - Hispanic voters - “sleeping giants”, traditionally only 6% turn out
  - Age demographics
  - States’ history
Statewide elections

• Gubernatorial elections
• Plural executive systems
  • States where the governor’s powers are shared with other elected officials; Texas
• State senators
• State representatives, assemblymen, or delegates
• Lieutenant governor
• Attorney general
• Secretary of state
Direct democracy:

- Variation across states
- Popular initiative
- Popular referendum
- Table 5-2
## TABLE 5-2

### Avenues for Direct Democracy

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<th>State</th>
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| Total number of states with | 25 | 24 | 18 | 18 |

Citizens as lawmakers

• 24 states citizens can petition to place a piece of legislation/constitutional amendments on the ballot
• Citizens can petition to review laws the legislature/governor
• Legislative referendum
• Recall elections
• Highly professionalized
• Controlled by wealthy interests
Referendum & Recall

Referendum (24 states) direct citizens’ vote.

- Referring a proposed or passed legislation to vote of the electorate for approval/rejection

Recall

- Procedures for voters to remove state officials from office before term expires
Pros of direct democracy

- Citizen access
- Citizen voice
- Policy responsiveness
Cons of direct democracy

• Unwieldy public opinion
• Lack of policy context
• Inefficient laws and contradictory legislation
Campaigns are directed by the candidates & their advisors

• Secure endorsements
• Build an organization
• Secure funds
• Presidential candidates must campaign in a series of statewide primaries & caucuses that lead up to the national party conventions which formally choose the Democratic & Republican nominees
Public opinion and elections

• Public opinion and news media
• Public opinion and interest groups
• Public opinion and policy responsiveness
What is Public Opinion

• Public opinion: Values, Beliefs, Attitudes, Opinions
• Public opinion = reflect values & citizens’ attitudes about political issues, leaders, events
• Public opinion has become the ultimate standard against which the conduct of contemporary governments is measured
• We are sharply divided on a range of issues;

• race
• gender
• sexuality
• same sex marriage
Yet we share common values around certain areas

- Liberty
- Equality of Opportunity
  - All people should have the freedom to experience their fullest potential
  - Yet not everyone supports affirmative action
Role of Education

• How many of you have parents with college education?
• How has it shaped their/ your views on politics, etc.
Role of Media

• Media has great influence over our opinions
• Bias & special interests in how media interprets & reports anti terrorists efforts were praised, but after
• Eg. After 911 Bush’s 2003 media’s criticism of his Iraq war
Other factors which influence election results include:

- Partisan loyalty
- Voter response to issues
- Candidates personalities & Qualifications
• Some states like Florida—winner–take-all
• Others operate on a proportional (pr formula
• Eg. Republican leadership race 2012
• Newt Gingrich won all of SC
• Mitt Romney won all of Florida
• Mass = assigns votes based on proportional basis
Electoral Districts

- Boundaries are redrawn every 10 years to reflect population changes in the country
- *Gerrymandering tactics*: redrawing electoral boundaries in favor of certain ethnic, racial or political party groups
- Controversial & often challenged in the courts
Factors associated with party identification

- **Race & Ethnicity**
  - African Americans are considered a monolithic block which supports Democrats
  - Latinos & Asians are not so monolithic

- **Gender**
  - Women are more likely to support Democrats. Men support Republicans

- **Religion**
  - Jews support Democrats
  - Catholics traditionally Democratic, have been shifting to Republicans based on moral issues such as abortion
  - Protestants traditionally support Republicans based on shared conservative values
• **Class**
  • Higher income tend to support Republicans
  • Democrats gain support of lower income Americans

• **Ideology**
  • Conservatives identify with Republicans. Liberals identify with Democrats

• **Region**
  • South, South west more likely Republicans
  • Northeast and West likely to support Democrats

• **Age**
  • 29 & younger tend to vote Democrats; those between 30 -49 years tend support Republicans
Key Terms

- Plurality
- Plural Executive System
- Recall, Redistricting
- Poll Tax – invalidated in 1964
- **Voting Rights Act** of 1965 made it illegal to interfere with anyone’s rights to vote
Key Terms

- Gerrymandering
- Open Primaries
- Closed Primaries
- Blanket Primaries