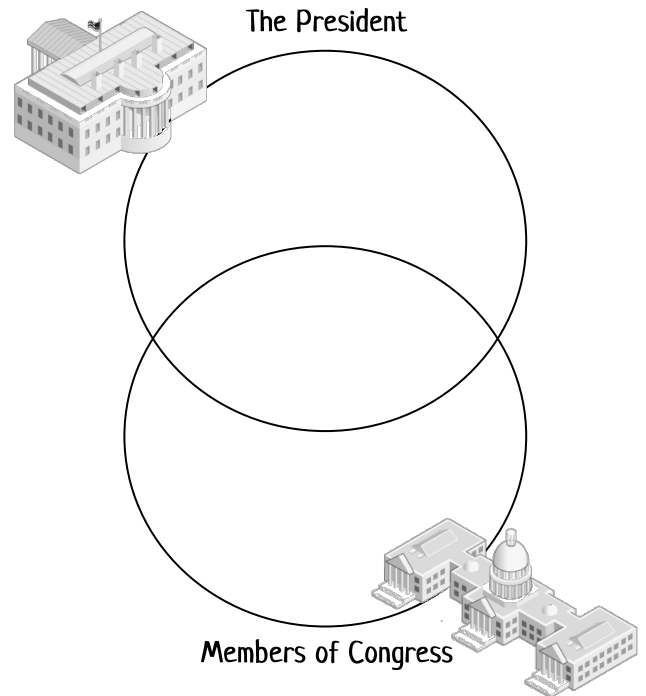


The Electoral Process

Name: _____

A. What's different when there are elections for U.S. Congress? Candidates for the Senate and House of Representatives have a smaller audience for the campaigns, since they are elected by districts within a specific state. Congress also goes back to work earlier than the President. How do the processes compare? Using this information and what you learned in the lesson, complete the Venn diagram with the letters from the list.

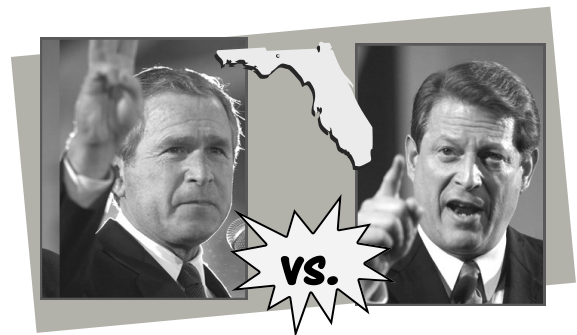
- A. Candidates declare that they want to run for office
- B. Political parties select their nominee for the national election in primaries and caucuses
- C. Candidates run campaigns to inform the public about their agendas and positions on the issues
- D. The winner is directly elected through popular vote.
- E. Officially selected through the Electoral College



B. Recount! Occasionally, election results end up very close and a candidate may call for a recount of all the votes to make sure the winner actually is the winner. This happened in 2000 when Al Gore and George W. Bush ran for the presidency. The election came down to one state — Florida — where the votes were too close to call.

Bush was declared the winner in Florida, but there were lots of problems with the ballots. Gore pushed the courts to allow a recount in Florida. Bush tried to prevent it. The Florida Supreme Court ruled there should be a recount in the districts where the ballots were in question. Bush appealed that ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Which controversial 5 - 4 decision did the U.S. Supreme Court make?



- ☐ **Decision A:** Get those ballots out and count again! Bush ends up behind in the recount of ballots. Gore wins!
- ☐ **Decision B:** No recounts! The Florida Supreme Court can't order a recount in some districts of the state but not others. There isn't enough time anyway! Bush wins!
- ☐ **Decision C:** Recount ALL the votes in Florida, not just in the messed up districts, fast! Bush takes more of a lead in the recount and Gore concedes (gives up). Bush wins!

The Electoral Process

Name: _____

C. In the Funny Pages The battle over the results of the 2000 Presidential election between Al Gore (D) and George W. Bush (R) lasted well over a month after Election Day. The confusion over the ballots, recounts, and election rules gave cartoonists a lot of material! Look closely at the cartoon below and answer the questions that follow.



(Remember, the donkey is the symbol for the Democratic Party and the elephant represents the Republican Party.)

1. What is the Democratic message?
(Look at the sign and t-shirt.)

2. What is the Republican message?
(Look at the sign and t-shirt.)



Cartoon by Steve Sack, The Minneapolis Star-Tribune

3. What is the purpose of this cartoon?

4. What makes you think that's the purpose?

- ☐ Support the Republican Party's call to end the recount.
- ☐ Support the Democratic Party's call for a recount.
- ☐ Point out that there is a problem with how both parties are dealing with the election.

5. Political cartoons often have captions at the bottom that title, summarize, or explain the cartoon. Create *two* different captions for this cartoon, using what you know about the 2000 election.

Caption 1

Caption 2

The Electoral Process

Name: _____

D. Vocabulary. Match the definitions to the words they describe.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| ___1. When a candidate states that he or she is planning to run for office | A) delegate |
| ___2. Party meetings where candidates are selected and the platform is created | B) nominee |
| ___3. Someone who represents the party views of a state at a national convention | C) campaign |
| ___4. The person who is chosen to run as a party's candidate in the national election | D) declare |
| ___5. Given by the people selected to run for President and Vice President at the end of a national convention | E) convention |
| ___6. A collection of all the efforts a candidate makes to win an election | F) acceptance speech |

E. Something's Missing! Fill in the paragraph with the correct terms in the word box.

Electoral College popular vote absolute majority electors



Every four years on Election Day, the American public elects the president of the United States. The first set of election results tallies the _____, a count of every vote cast. These results determine whom each state's _____ will support when they meet and participate in the _____. In order to win, a candidate must have 270 out of a total of 538 electoral votes. This number is half of 538 (269) plus one, which is considered a(n) _____.

F. Oops! A candidate made a to-do list for his run for the presidency, but he dropped it and everything got mixed up. Help him out by numbering the items so the list can be put in the right order.

