

Presidential Elections

Vocabulary

A. = Adjective ADV. = Adverb IDM. = Idiom N. = Noun V. = Verb

to abandon	V. to leave something behind; to give something up
to back	V. to give support to
a ballot	N. the piece of paper you write your vote on
to campaign	V. to advertise oneself (or someone else) as a candidate in an upcoming election; to work towards getting oneself (or someone else) elected
a campaign	N. 1) the process of trying to get oneself (or someone else) elected 2) an attempt or series of attempts to achieve a goal
to cast (a ballot)	V. to put (your ballot) in the ballot box
connections	N. social relationships which allow you certain opportunities; the people you know who can help you (get a job, raise money, gain power, etc.)
to debate	V. to have a structured, formal argument about a controversial topic
a debate	N. a structured, formal argument on a controversial topic
to elect	V. to choose someone to be a leader through a democratic vote
an election	N. the process of choosing a leader through a democratic vote
to run for president	V. to campaign to be president, to try to become president
to vote	V. to formally express one's choice in writing or by raising one's hand; to make one's choice in an election
a vote	N. the act of formally expressing one's choice in writing or by raising one's hand

Fill in all the gaps using the new vocabulary, then click the "Check" button to check your answers.

abandoning	ballot	campaign	cast	connections	debates	elect
to back	to run for President	vote				

Sharine: Tony, I have been hearing so much in the news about different presidential candidates. Can you tell me a little about how Americans _____ their President?

Tony: Well, it's a long process. We start off by deciding who the official candidate for each political party will be. Usually, a person first announces that he or she wants _____. If you want to be your party's official candidate, you need to raise money and gather support from party members. Candidates usually _____ to let people know what they represent. They give speeches, meet with community leaders, and participate in _____. This process lasts for several months, and then the party members _____ to decide who they want _____ in the election.

Sharine: Do you have to be rich to become President?

Tony: You don't really have to be rich to become President, but it helps. Usually rich people have more _____ and can raise money more effectively. Most of our Presidents in the past have been relatively rich men, but not all of them.

Sharine: So, how do you make the final decision?

Tony: After several months of television ads, interviews, speeches, and kissing babies, we have the presidential election. Citizens go to a voting center and _____ their _____ for the candidate of their choice.

Sharine: You sounded a little cynical when you said "kissing babies." What did you mean by that?

Tony: Well, it's quite common for politicians to have themselves photographed kissing babies. It's their way of trying to appear in touch with the average American, but it looks really phony. These days, becoming President is all about acting. The candidates try to appeal to so many different people that they end up _____ their own opinions. Sometimes, it feels like the parties are all the same.

Sharine: How many parties are there?

Tony: We have many political parties in the United States, but most of them are quite small. There are really only two with significant power, the Democrats and the Republicans.

Fill in all the gaps using the new vocabulary, then click the "Check" button to check your answers.

back ballot campaign connections elect had abandoned have run for President to cast to debate to vote
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1. If you want _____ your ballot, the ballot box is over there near the voter information desk.
2. Women _____ in the U.S., but not one has been elected.
3. Next month the presidential candidates are going _____ health care and insurance issues in the United States.
4. That politician is absolutely ridiculous. I can't understand why the party would _____ him. How could they possibly support such an ignorant person?
5. Who are you going _____ for in the next election?
6. The candidate's presidential _____ received a great deal of attention from the media.
7. It helps to have _____ if you want to get a good job. Unfortunately, it's not what you know, it's who you know!
8. When we realized that somebody _____ the little dog and he was not getting enough to eat, we decided to take him in and give him a new home.
9. They carefully check your identification when you vote because they want to make sure you only cast one _____. Otherwise, people might vote two or three times.
10. I hope the people _____ a president with some common sense. We need to choose a president who can govern intelligently. Big words and smiling faces are not enough to keep a country going.