

Political Attitudes & Participation: Campaigns & Elections

State & Local Government POS 2112

Ch 5

Votes for Women, inspired by Katja Von Garner.

- <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

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- 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 & shape;

- Political attitudes & 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 sought
- 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.

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- Political machines followed & served to intimidate, buy, or manufacture votes
 - Late 1800s, standardized, secret ballot introduced to prevent ballot fraud
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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.

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- **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

Percentage of the Voting-Age Population Casting Ballots in the 2012 Presidential Election

Rank	State	Percentage of Total Voting-Age Population	Elazar Classification	Rank	State	Percentage of Total Voting-Age Population	Elazar Classification
1	Minnesota	71.3	Moralistic	27	District of Columbia	56.8	
2	Wisconsin	69.4	Moralistic	28	Connecticut	55.6	Individualistic
3	New Hampshire	67.8	Moralistic	29	Idaho	55.5	Moralistic
4	Iowa	67.1	Moralistic	30	Florida	55.2	Traditionalistic
5	Maine	66.9	Moralistic	31	Alaska	55.1	Individualistic
6	Colorado	68.1	Moralistic	32	South Carolina	53.8	Traditionalistic
7	Ohio	65.2	Individualistic	33	Kansas	53.5	Moralistic
8	Michigan	62.0	Moralistic	34	Rhode Island	53.4	Individualistic
9	Montana	61.6	Moralistic	35	Illinois	53.3	Individualistic
10	Virginia	60.8	Traditionalistic	36	New Jersey	53.3	Individualistic
11	Massachusetts	60.4	Individualistic	37	Kentucky	53.2	Traditionalistic
12	North Carolina	60.2	Traditionalistic	38	Indiana	56.0	Individualistic
13	Maryland	59.6	Individualistic	39	Georgia	52.2	Traditionalistic
14	Missouri	59.5	Individualistic	40	Utah	51.4	Moralistic
15	North Dakota	59.4	Moralistic	41	New Mexico	49.5	Traditionalistic
16	Vermont	59.3	Moralistic	42	Tennessee	49.4	Traditionalistic
17	Oregon	58.6	Moralistic	43	Nevada	48.7	Individualistic
18	Washington	58.3	Moralistic	44	Arkansas	47.5	Traditionalistic
19	Delaware	58.0	Individualistic	45	Arizona	46.5	Traditionalistic
20	South Dakota	57.7	Moralistic	46	New York	46.2	Individualistic
21	Mississippi	57.3	Traditionalistic	47	Oklahoma	46.2	Traditionalistic
22	Louisiana	57.1	Traditionalistic	48	West Virginia	45.5	Traditionalistic
23	Pennsylvania	57.1	Individualistic	49	California	45.1	Moralistic
24	Nebraska	56.8	Individualistic	50	Texas	41.7	Traditionalistic
25	Wyoming	56.8	Individualistic	51	Hawaii	40.0	Individualistic
26	Alabama	56.0	Traditionalistic				

Source: United States Election Project, "2012 General Election Turnout Rates," http://elections.gmu.edu/Turnout_2012G.html.

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

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- **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

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- **General**
 - **Run off**

Voter Turnout Decline

- Voter turn out declined by 25% since the 60's
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- 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 od 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 60% 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

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- 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

State	Popular Referendum	Ballot Initiative	Constitutional Amendment by Initiative	Recall of State Officials
Alabama	No	No	No	No
Alaska	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
California	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Connecticut	No	No	No	No
Delaware	No	No	No	No
Florida	No	Yes	Yes	No
Georgia	No	No	No	Yes
Hawaii	No	No	No	No
Idaho	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Illinois	Yes	Yes	No	No
Indiana	No	No	No	No
Iowa	No	No	No	No
Kansas	No	No	No	Yes
Kentucky	Yes	No	No	No
Louisiana	No	No	No	Yes

State	Popular Referendum	Ballot Initiative	Constitutional Amendment by Initiative	Recall of State Officials
Maine	Yes	Yes	No	No
Maryland	Yes	No	No	No
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Michigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minnesota	No	No	No	Yes
Mississippi	No	Yes	Yes	No
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Montana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nebraska	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
New Hampshire	No	No	No	No
New Jersey	No	No	No	Yes
New Mexico	Yes	No	No	No
New York	No	No	No	No
North Carolina	No	No	No	No
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ohio	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania	No	No	No	No
Rhode Island	No	No	No	Yes
South Carolina	No	No	No	No
South Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Tennessee	No	No	No	No
Texas	No	No	No	No
Utah	Yes	Yes	No	No
Vermont	No	No	No	No
Virginia	No	No	No	No
Washington	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
West Virginia	No	No	No	No
Wisconsin	No	No	No	Yes
Wyoming	Yes	Yes	No	No
Total number of states with	25	24	18	18

Sources: Data compiled from the Initiative and Referendum Institute at the University of Southern California, www.iandrinstitute.org/statewide_i&r.htm; and the National Conference of State Legislatures, www.ncsl.org/LegislaturesElections/ElectionsCampaigns/RecallofStateOfficials/tabid/16581/Default.aspx.

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

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- 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 a 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;
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- 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

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- 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