

**Chapter 18 Terms/Concepts**Elections**American Government & Citizenship****Terms:** Political efficacy

Caucus

Primary

Swing voters

**Valence issue** Position issue

Wedge issue

Hard money

Electoral mandate

**Concepts: Section 1**

- Reason why the founders created the electoral college
- How U.S. Senators were originally selected
- 6 Functions of elections
- Reasons why elections may not give us the best leaders
- Difference between a *referendum* and *initiative* at the state level

**Concepts: Section 2**

- Date of federal *general elections*
- Party Caucuses
- Primaries:
  - Open
  - Closed
  - Difference in how Democrats & Republicans distribute representatives for candidates
- State that has the 1<sup>st</sup> Primary? Caucus?
- Importance of *momentum* for a candidate in the primaries
- Besides officially selecting a nominee, 2 other actions that occur at the party conventions

**Concepts: Section 3**

- % of electorate that are swing voters
- Electoral college (EC)
  - How # for each state is determined
  - Total # of votes in electoral college and how many needed to win an election
  - Winner-take-all system and 2 states that don't follow it
  - Effect of EC on campaign strategy
- How much do debates matter?
- Campaigns & Money
  - Govt. matching funds (who can get it?)
  - Hard money
  - Soft money
  - 527 Groups