

Standard 12.3.1 & 12.6.4

12.3.1 Explain how civil society provides opportunities for individuals to associate for social, cultural, religious, economic and political purposes.

12.6.4 Describe the means that citizens use to participate in the political process (e.g., voting, campaigning, lobbying, filing a legal challenge, demonstrating, petitioning, picketing, running for political office).

Standard 12.3.1

- Political Participation
 - Reading newspapers
 - Watching campaigns
 - Donating money to candidates
- Political Influence
 - Participate in an interest group
 - Donate money to a campaign
 - Most done by small contributions by individuals
 - Call or write your legislator

- What are the general eligibility requirements for voters today?
 - 18 years old
 - Citizen of the United States
 - Resident of the state (typically a year in the state, 60 or 90 days in the county, and 30 days in the local precinct)
- How do those differ from the early years of our nation?
 - 21 years age
 - White
 - Male
 - Property owners

Standard 12.6.4

- Constitution eliminates certain specific voting restrictions, such as race, but voting requirements are determined by the States.
- Other Qualifications
 - Registration (29 days before the next election in CA)
 - Citizen of USA, Resident of CA, 18 years of age or older as of the day of the next election, NOT be in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony.
 - Motor Voter Law
 - Allows all eligible citizens to register to vote when they apply for or renew a driver's license
 - Provide for voter registration by mail
 - Make registration forms available at the local offices of State employment, welfare, and other social service agencies.

- **Why do some Americans choose not to vote?**
 - **“Cannot-Voters”**- (resident aliens, ill or physically/mentally disabled, traveling, jailed or imprisoned, religious objectors, election laws, “informal” local pressures.)
 - **Political Efficacy**- People that think that their vote makes no difference
 - **Complacency**- People who think that no matter who wins things will stay the same.
 - **Apathy**-people who don’t care, have a lack of interest, uninformed about the candidates and issues.
 - **Other Factors**
 - Inconvenient registration requirements, long ballots, long lines at polling places, even bad weather.

Characteristics of voters v. non voters

- Who votes?
 - Higher levels of income
 - Higher levels of education
 - Occupational status
 - Long time residents of an area (non migrant peoples)
 - Strong sense of party identification
 - Believe that voting is an important act
 - Today women are more likely to vote than men
- Who doesn't vote?
 - Younger than 35
 - Unmarried
 - Unskilled workers
 - Living in rural communities
 - More non voters live in the South

Two party competition

- The greater the competition between candidates, the more likely people will go to the polls, regardless of other factors.

Republican	Democrats
• Higher Income	• Lower Income
• Professionals/business people	• Manual labor workers
• College graduates	• Lower educated
• Men	• Women
• Older Voters	• Younger Voters
• Protestants	• Catholics and Jews
• Whites	• Minorities (African Americans/Latinos)
• Suburbs and smaller cities and rural communities	• Urban

2 Party System

- **Party identification-** Loyalty of people to a particular party.
- **Straight-ticket voting-** The practice of voting for candidates of only one party in an election.
- **Split-ticket voting-** The practice of voting for the candidates of more than one party in an election.
- **Independents-** identify those people who have no party affiliation.

Australian Ballot

- It is printed at public expense
- It lists the names of all candidates in an election
- It is given out only at the polls, one to each qualified voter.
- It is marked in **secret**.
- *Why is a secret ballot important?*

Campaigning

- 2004 presidential election total campaign spending came to 2 billion dollars.
 - Money was spent on
 - Staff salaries
 - Travel
 - Advertising (TV, print, pamphlets)
- What is the purpose of campaigning?
- Should the amount a candidate spends be restricted?