The Constitution and Voting

Presidential Elections and The Right to Vote

Credit: NPS
The Constitution

Requirement for Becoming President

“No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President, neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.”

Article 1, Section 1 of the United States Constitution
How We Elect a President

Primary Elections

✧ In Primary Elections and caucuses candidates raise money and campaign for your vote.
✧ The voters select delegates to represent them at the national conventions.
✧ Candidates must receive a certain number of delegates to be considered the nominee for the party.
✧ The delegates at the convention vote for who is going to represent the party during the General Election.
✧ The nominee then selects the Vice Presidential Candidate.
How We Vote for a President

The General Elections

- The candidate who receives the nomination and the Vice President candidate then campaign until November.
- Votes are counted as the popular vote and the electoral college votes. The popular vote does not decide who is President.
- The candidate must receive a certain number of electoral votes to win the General Election.
Independent Candidates

- Independent Candidates for President do not need to be nominated by a political party.
- Independent Candidates must collect signatures to receive a nomination and submit a petition.
- Independent Candidates must then campaign until Election Day.
How we Elect a President

The Electoral College or Indirect Popular Election

- During the General Election voters select electors who will vote for a candidate.
- The Electors meet the first Monday after the General Election and cast ballots officially selecting the next President.
- The votes are sent to the President of the Senate who certifies and counts the votes.
- The Candidate must receive one half the total of the majority of votes plus one.
- If the majority is not received the House of Representatives then selects the next President and the Senate selects the Vice President.
- January 20th is Inauguration Day.

Article 11, Section 1, The United States Constitution
The Constitution

The Oath of Affirmation

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

Article 11, Section 1 of the United States Constitution

Credit: NPS
**The Fifteenth Amendment**

Section 1.
“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude—”

Section 2
“The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation;”

Passed February 26, 1869, Ratified February 3, 1870
American Indians and the Right to Vote

- Granted U.S. Citizenship by the Snyder Act of 1924.
- U.S. Citizens’ right to vote is protected by the Fifteenth Amendment.
- American Indians were often not allowed to vote by the States due to State Constitutions. The last State to allow American Indians to vote was New Mexico in 1962.
- American Indians were subject to illegal tactics used to keep them from voting.
The Nineteenth Amendment

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

“Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

Passed June 4, 1919, ratified August 18, 1920
Section 1
“The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct.
“A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.”

Section 2
“The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

Passed June 16, 1960, Ratified March 29, 1961
The Twenty-Fourth Amendment

Section 1
“The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.”

Section 2
“The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

Passed August 27, 1962, Ratified January 23, 1964
Section 1
“The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.”

Section 2
“The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

Passed March 23, 1971, Ratified July 1, 1971
Information for this presentation came from.....


Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Online Catalog. No vote, D.C. ballot boxes draped in black, Washington, D.C., Nov.8.Election day was just another day for voteless District of Columbia. To impress upon Washingtonians what they are missing ballot boxes draped in black were places on the busiest corners of downtown. Members of the District League of Women’s Voters attended the boxes but instead of receiving votes they handed out information on what it means to the citizens of Washington not to be able to vote. Left to right we see—Mrs.—Karl Bradford, Mrs. R. Shull, and Mrs. Henry Chalmers, 11/8/38. Retrieved from http://ww.loc.gov/pictures/item/hec2009012031/.
Information for this presentation came from.....


