Unit 1: Foundations
What is government?
The institution through which society makes and enforces its public policies (laws and ideas)

List and describe the 4 theories of gov't

- **The Force Theory**
  - one person or a small group claimed control over an area
  - forced all within to submit to their rule

- **The Evolutionary Theory**
  - developed naturally out of the early family,
  - over time family developed into a network or clan
  - clan eventually became a tribe

- **The Divine Right Theory**
  - Divine Right stated that God created the state
  - God had given those of royal birth a "divine right" to rule

- **The Social Contract Theory**
  - people decided to form a government so that they could all be safe
  - all people living in the given area of the state gave up the same amount of freedoms
  - in return received protection
  - the state exists only to serve the people

What does it mean that the gov't needs consent of the governed

- a government's purpose of its political power is to serve the people over the society it governs
- requires the people's consent to govern
- if not, it fails its purpose of serving if it operates against their will

Six purposes of our government
- Form a more perfect union
- Establish justice
- Insure domestic tranquility
- Provide for the common defense
- Promote the general welfare
- Secure the blessings of liberty

Philosophical differences between dictatorship and democracy

- **Dictatorship** – oldest form of government
  - Those who rule are not responsible to the will of the people.
  - Autocracy – 1 person (Hitler)
  - Oligarchy – small group (ancient Sparta)
  - Highest – Autocracy – obey
  - Bottom group - We will obey!

- **Representative Democracy**
  - Those who rule ARE responsible to the will of the people
  - U.S. the people = Representatives/governors/mayors - elected officials (run for election) (equal in power)

Communism vs. fascism

- **Communism**: revolutionary struggle
  - Absence of classes
  - Common ownership
  - Centralized government
  - Control over economy and society
- **Fascism**: totalitarian dictatorship
  - Obedience to leader
  - Stringent socio-economic controls through terror and censorship
  - Belligerent nationalism and racism
Three things we use to classify governments

**Confederacy** – Alliance of independent states, shared defense, currency

**Federal** – powers divided between central, state, and local government which work together. Central government has final say.

**Unitary** – All powers belong in one central place. Other units will exist only if central government want them to.

Direct democracy

Political system where the citizens participate in the personally instead of relying on elected representatives.

Problem with direct democracy

**Direct**: Takes so much time
In a large country, communication/voting could be hard
People only make decisions selfishly, and will not think of the whole

Direct democracy compared to a Representative democracy

**Republic** - citizens elect representatives who make decisions for everyone – allows people to save time by having to be involved in every issue
Works well in a larger geographical area with a large population
Many people don’t care, but representatives will

**Coming of the Constitution**

**Magna Carta** History

written in 1215
King was very oppressive (England) – taxes
King had all the power

Important clauses

Limited power of king- gave some rights to the right people (Barons)

- **Trial by jury**
- **Due process** (rights of the accused)
- **Life, liberty, property cannot be taken** from the people for any reason

Gov't in colonies/British treatment of the colonies

Petition of Right - 1628, a statement of civil liberties sent by the English Parliament to Charles I.
No taxation without representation
King has to give a fair trial
No sheltering of troops without homeowners consent
Challenged the divine right- kings must follow laws too
Innocent until proven guilty

**Albany Plan**

written in 1754
Grand Council – could deal with all problems of the colonies, Ben Franklin, RI, MA, CT
Raise military-defense from other regions (Europe)
Regulate a trade tax between colonies
Figure out how to deal with the Native Americans (fight or hug?)

**Stamp Act**

written is 1765
Passed by British Parliament
Required use of tax stamps of all legal docs in the colonies...colonists did not get a say!
Boycotted it – refused it!
Led to Boston Tea Party
“No taxation without representation”

**First Continental Congress/Second Continental Congress**

written in 1176
Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, John Adams
5 major parts to the Declaration … list of “grievances” ticked
Break-up letter ... things the king did
wrong=tears=revolutionary war
Declaration of Independence

Purpose

explain the Americans’ view of the purpose of government
to announce the colonies separation from England

What it contains

social contract/consent of the governed
limited government - just powers from the consent of the governed (Constitution limits government also)

Revolutionary War (who, what, where, and why)

when: 1775–1783
What: also known as the American War of Independence
Who: between the Kingdom of Great Britain and thirteen British colonies on the North American continent
Where: in all of the 13 colonies
Why: culmination of the political American Revolution, whereby the colonists overthrew British rule.

Articles of Confederation

Weakenes

One vote for each state, regardless of size
Congress powerless to regulate foreign & interstate trade
Congress to lay and collect taxes or duties
No executive to enforce acts of Congress
No national court system
Amendment only with consent of all states
Strengths
Common defense and liberty
Made compromises and through these the Constitution was written
Firm league of friendship
Congress that could:
Make treaties
Make war and peace
Borrow money
Set up a money system
Raise and army by asking states for troops
Settle disputes between states

Constitutional Convention

Virginia Plan
favored three branches, a bicameral legislature, with representation based on population

New Jersey Plan
retained the unicameral (one house) system the Article had and each state was represented equally

Connecticut Compromise/
Compromise
we will have two house Representatives, depends on Great population – Senate will not be based on population – New Jersey and Virginia plans – legislative branch

What was the conflict of the Great Compromise
representation in Congress

3/5 Compromise
3/5 of “all other persons” besides free persons were counted in a States’ population

Commerce and Slave Trade
Compromise
The South was afraid the North would try to tax their exports and outlaw the slave trade. Remained a point of tension between the North and the South that led to the Civil War
**Anti-federalists vs. Federalists**

**Federalists** – favored ratification of the Constitution
They were in favor of a strong central government

**Anti-federalists** – favored voting against ratification of the Constitution. They were against a central government and did not like that it did not mention God and that it did not let states print money.

**Ratification of the Constitution**

After compromises, Constitution was written
9 of 13 states had to ratify it to make it legal
9 states did vote but they waited for Virginia and New York because without them the agreement wouldn’t matter

**The Constitution and Federalism**

**Preamble:** purpose of government

- form a more perfect union
- establish Justice
- insure domestic tranquility
- provide for the common defense
- promote the general welfare
- and secure the blessings of liberty

**How has it changed over time**

gained more power
Terrorists
Amendments
Elastic clause
Implied Powers

**Examples of federalism**
Gay marriage
Hurricane Katrina
Marijuana use
schools

**What is the Constitution? What six Principles are in it?**

1. **Popular Sovereignty** – the people are sovereign. They are the only source of government power.
2. **Limited Government** – the government power is limited and people have rights that cannot be taken away p civil liberties are not absolute
3. **Separation of Powers** – the legislative/executive/judicial branches are all separate powers, but co-equal
4. **Checks & Balances** – a system of overlapping the powers of all 3 branches to permit each branch to check the actions of the others
5. **Judicial Review** – the power of a court to determine the constitutionality of a governmental action ex
6. **Federalism** – the division of power among a central and several regional governments

**Important Amendments**

13th – no more slavery

**Checks and Balances**

~keep the three branches from being completely independent of each other.
~each of the three branches of government can limit the powers of the others
~No one branch becomes too powerful
~each branch “checks” the power of the other branches to make sure that the power is balanced between them
~each branch has certain powers to check the operations of the other two.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative/Executive/Judicial Branches</th>
<th>Checks and Balances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legislative Branch</strong></td>
<td><strong>Legislative Branch for the Executive Branch</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May reject appointments, treaties</td>
<td>May adjourn Congress in certain situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May withhold funding for presidential initiatives</td>
<td>May veto bills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May impeach president</td>
<td>May declare laws unconstitutional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May override a veto</td>
<td><strong>Executive Branch for the Legislative Branch</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Branch for the Legislative Branch</strong></td>
<td>May prop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Answer</td>
</tr>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the Necessary and Proper Clause/elastic clause?</td>
<td>It gives Congress the power to make all laws that are elastic necessary and proper for carrying out the duties of the legislative branch. It is also known as the &quot;elastic clause&quot; because it stretches the power of Congress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marbury v. Madison</td>
<td>Established the Supreme Courts power of judicial review. It gave its power to determine the constitutionality of a governmental action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCulloch v. Maryland</td>
<td>Using the &quot;Necessary and Proper Clause&quot;, the Supreme Court granted congress implied powers based on its expressed powers directly found in the Constitution. They could now do whatever was necessary and proper to complete its expressed power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibbons v. Ogden</td>
<td>Supreme Court read the Commerce Clause broadly. It strengthened power of the U.S. to regulate any interstate business relationship. It includes the broadcasting industry, oil pipelines &amp; banking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the Bill of Rights? How do they limit the government?</td>
<td>The Bill of Rights are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. They guarantee personal freedom. They guarantee freedom of belief and expression, freedom and security of the person, and of fair and equal treatment before the law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does it mean to say that the Constitution is a living document?</td>
<td>It means “can it adapt as the country changes”?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| How is it interpreted differently by Originalists and Liberalists?     | **Originalists**  
  Follow the Constitution strictly word, as framers intended  
  Don’t read too much (public education)  
  State’s rights  
  Republican  
  **Liberalists**  
  Make changes, if needed, make it more modern  
  Without changes, many groups would be excluded  
  Stronger national government  
  Democrat |
| What are some specific things states can do?                            | States have all powers not granted to the federal governments by the Constitution. (The Tenth Amendment)  
  These powers have taken many different forms. States must take responsibility for areas such as:  
  • ownership of property  
  • education of inhabitants  
  • implementation of welfare and other benefits programs and distribution of aid  
  • protecting people from local threats  
  • maintaining a justice system  
  • setting up local governments such as counties and municipalities  
  • maintaining state highways and setting up the means of administrating local roads  
  • regulation of industry  
  • raising funds to support their activities |
**Legislative Branch**

**Senate**

- **Length of term**: 6 years
- **How many are elected**: 2 per state, regardless of population
- **How old must be**: 30 years old
- **Citizen for how long**: 9 years
- **Residence**: of state for which they represent
- **How they originally elected**: by the state legislatures
- **Why the change to direct election**: more responsive to the people they represent
- **How are they chosen**: 1/3 is chosen every 2 years, continuous body
- **Leader is**: Vice President (only votes if there is a tie) and if he/she is not there, is led by the President Pro Tempore
- **Leader of the minority party**: Senate Minority Leader
- **Constitutional powers**
  - Approve declaration of wars
  - Impeach
  - Approve presidential appointments
  - Can put President on Trial
  - Ratify Treaties

**House of Representatives**

- **Length of term**: 2 years
- **How are they chosen**: elected by the people in the district they serve,
- **How Old must be**: 25 years old
- **Citizen for how long**: 7 years
- **Residence**: of state for which they represent
- **House Majority Whip**: exerts pressure
- **Has limits on debate because very large**
- **Constitutional powers**
  - the power to initiate revenue bills
  - impeach officials
  - elect the president in electoral college deadlocks

**Process through which we decide how how many reps each state gets**

- **Reapportionment**: based on population each representative represents decide about 600,000 constituents

**How district lines are drawn and**

- **Distributing the HR seats among the 50 states.**
- **Completed every 10 years based on the information gathered by the US CENSUS.**
- **States could gain or lose seats based on population shifts within the United States.**

**After the reapportionment is complete, the states have to redraw the district lines within their states.**

- **District lines are re-drawn every ten years because the number of individuals a member of the House represents changes, and the population has shifted within the state.**

**How we choose reps for each district**

- **single member districts, at large voting, winner take all**

**Off year elections**

- **in the U.S., an election that occurs in a year other than those years during which a President is elected**

**Majority Leader**

- **is a partisan position in a legislative body. The majority leader is the floor leader of the majority party**

**Speaker**

- **Individual chosen by members of the House of Representatives to preside over its sessions**

**Minority Leader**

- **Floor Leader of the second-largest party in a legislative body**
Party Whips duties are to make sure that members are in the chamber during crucial votes; to forecast how members will vote; to persuade members to support the party leadership

President Pro-Tempore A senior member of the senate that conducts senate business in the absence of the vice president.

Committees
Committee on Rules
Committee on Appropriations
Committee on Ways and Means
Other Standing Committees

Vetoes The power held by chief of executives (e.g. the president, governors) to reject acts of the legislature. A presidential version of this can be overridden by a 2/3s majority vote of both houses of Congress

President of the Senate The Vice President of the United States is designated by the Constitution as the President of the Senate. The Vice President holds a tie breaking vote in the Senate and does not usually preside over the Senate.

Proportional representation representation of parties in an elective body in proportion to the votes they win

Single member districts having only one member (as of a legislature) selected from each electoral district

At-large voting voting system for electing several representatives from a single multimember electoral district

Winner-take all single member district and at large election systems that award seats to the highest vote getters without ensuring fair representation for minor parties

Senate as a “continuous body” 1/3 is chosen every 2 years, continuous body

How a bill becomes Law Before a bill can become a law, both houses of Congress must pass identical versions of the bill.

Once a bill is introduced in either house, it goes through almost the same process. Each bill is first assigned to a committee for review. The bill is tabled, or set aside, if the committee decides the bill is not worthy. The bill is sent to the entire house for debate if the committee decides the bill is worthy of further action.

If the bill passes, it is sent to the other house. A joint committee works out any differences the two houses of Congress have concerning a bill. When both houses agree on a bill, the Speaker of the House and the vice president sign it. The bill must be signed before being sent to the president.
Executive Branch
Requirements to be President

- 35 years old
- Natural born citizen
- Live here for 14 years old

Compensation

- $400,000 a year, to be paid monthly, and in addition an expenses relating to or resulting from the discharge of his official duties – article 1, section 6 and 7

Presidential Powers

- **Judicial**: Reprieve, amnesty, pardon, clemency, commutation
- **Ordinance**: Issue executive orders (like laws)
- **Executive**: enforces, administers and carries out law
- **Legislative**: writes laws, creates an agenda, veto, sign, ignore (no line item!!)
- **Commander in Chief**: power over the military
- **Appointment**: chooses loyal subordinates, appoints with Senate approval
- **Recognition**: Acknowledges other countries
- **Treaties**: formal agreement, need Senate consent
- **Executive Agreement**: Like a treaty, no senate approval
- **Removal**: Remove anyone he appoints except for judges

How do the presidential powers illustrate concept of checks and balances

- That the three branches of government were created and the power is shared between them. At the same time, the powers of one branch can be challenged by another branch. This is what the system of checks and balances is all about. The powers that the Executive Branch illustrates that the President can have effect on the other branches by using checks and balances. It continues to not allow one branch to become more powerful than any of the others.

Has the presidential power changed over time?
Specifically: Lincoln

During the Civil War, Lincoln appropriated powers no previous President had wielded: he used his war powers to proclaim a blockade, suspended the writ of habeas corpus, spent money before Congress appropriated it, and imprisoned between 15,000 and 18,000 suspected Confederate sympathizers without trial.

Wilson

When America was introduced to the War State (World War I) in 1917 under Wilson, it was introduced also to what would later be known as the totalitarian, state." During the war he asserted a new-found "presidential power" to arm the ships on his own motion.

FDR (Supreme Court)

The Supreme Court opposed the proposed New Deal legislation that FDR wanted passed. Roosevelt suggested that the age was a major problem as six of the judges were over 70 and that he was going to ask Congress to pass a bill enabling the president to expand the Supreme Court by adding one new judge, up to a maximum off six, for every current judge over the age of 70. Some of the Supreme Court Justices resigned.

Lyndon Johnson (War Powers Act)

After President Harry Truman bypassed Congress to go to war in Korea, presidents have paid almost no attention to the constitutional requirements (congressional declaration). President Lyndon Johnson went to war in Vietnam without a congressional declaration.
Nixon (Watergate) is a political scandal in the U.S. 1970s. Effects of the scandal led to the resignation of Richard Nixon, President of the U.S. He also accepted very large election donations ($2 million from one person). He eventually resigned from office.

What is foreign policy? A group of policies made up of all the stands and actions that a nation takes in every aspect of its relationship with other countries ... everything a national government says and does in world affairs:

- Usually defined by a President
- Purpose is to protect the security of the United States

What is the President's role in foreign policy? Power has increased over time. Each new war brings foreign new power and responsibility which has caused other nations to look at us for aid, guidance and leadership.

Cold War
World Community to protect the peace strategy of maintaining the military might of the US at so great a level that its very strength will deter (keep away) any attack

Harry Truman
Support free people who are resisting communism

NAFTA
The North American Free Trade Agreement

UN
United Nations – created to bring peace to the world

NATO
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (created to fight communism)

UN and NATO
bring peace
Unity
cooperation

Security v. Sovereignty
freedom vs. security

What is federal Bureaucracy?
Group of people who put into action the president's plans 2.5 million people

9/11 security vs. civil liberties
security vs. freedoms

What does the Federal Reserve Board do?
Regulates the nation's money supply, sets interest rates
Head of Board is Ben Bernanke

**Judicial Branch**

How are SC justices nominated? The President, but he/she must be confirmed by the Senate.

How many justices are on the court? 9

How does the Supreme Court divide its time?
- Interprets the Constitution
- Reads petitions
- Hears oral arguments
- Discusses cases
- Writes opinions
- Hears cases from appellate jurisdiction

Exclusive vs. Concurrent jurisdiction
Exclusive Jurisdiction – Can only be heard in federal courts (involving an official of a foreign government)

Concurrent Jurisdiction (shared)
can be tried in federal or state court (disputes involving citizens of different states: MI vs. OH)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of courts</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Original Jurisdiction</strong></td>
<td>A court in which a case is 1st heard -&gt; before appealed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appellate Jurisdiction (Appeal Court)</strong></td>
<td>A court that hears a case from lower court - the higher appellate court may overrule or change decision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction</strong></td>
<td>all controversies involving two or more states All cases brought against ambassadors or other public ministers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal or State Issue</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal Issue</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A citizen of one state suing a citizen of another state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A state suing a resident of another state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A state suing another state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Something about the constitution or the government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal – someone breaks the law, is accused, must prove beyond reasonable doubt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil - Addresses harms against people and economic ($) award might help remedy the problem. Examples: divorce, property.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Plessy v. Ferguson | Supreme Court decision in 1896 – separate but equal accommodations for blacks and whites(schools) – overturned in 1954 by Brown vs. Board of Education |
| Roe v. Wade (amendment) | established a zone of personal autonomy concerning a woman’s reproductive rights |
| Brown v. Board of Education | overturned the idea of “separate but equal”, integrating schools |
| Civil Rights Laws (years and what they did) |  |
| **Civil Rights Act of 1963** | helped African Americans and women gain rights  |
| **Civil Rights Act of 1964** | Title VII prohibits employment discrimination based on race, sex, national origin, or religion.  |
| **1990 Americans with Disabilities Act** | Title I prohibits disability discrimination by employers  |
| **Civil Rights Act of 1991** | adds provisions to Title VII protections, including right to jury trial.  |
| Dred Scott v. Sanford | said African Americans were not citizens and had no rights in federal courts |
| Civil liberties – who is guaranteed rights | African Americans Women Minors Elderly |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Amendement rights and controversies</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Free Exercises Clause</strong></td>
<td>Are free to exercise their own beliefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Why isn’t is covered</strong></td>
<td>the Supreme Court refuses to involve themselves with religious matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Establishment Clause</strong></td>
<td>The gov’t cannot establish a national church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assembly</strong></td>
<td>prohibits government from abridging &quot;the right of the people peaceably to assemble.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Petition</strong></td>
<td>petitioning embraces a range of expressive activities designed to influence public officials through legal, nonviolent means.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Press</strong></td>
<td>Open-minded society, Ideas exchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Types of speech not protected</strong></td>
<td><strong>Slander:</strong> verbal lies is very difficult to prove … has to be done on purpose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Due Process amendments
4 – search and seizure
5 – self incrimination
6 – right to a speedy trial
7 – right to a trial jury in a civil case
8 – no cruel and inhumane punishment
Habeas Corpus - prisoner be brought before the court to determine whether the government has the right to continue detaining them.

Exclusionary Rule
evidence collected in violation of the defendants constitutional rights is inadmissible in court

13th Amendment
abolishing slavery

14th amendment
All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.

Equal process clause
No State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Incorporation doctrine
gradually incorporated the provisions of the Bill of Rights into the 14th Amendment’s "due process" clause by declaring that each of the rights was "fundamental" to the conception of due process of law.

Electoral Process

What is a political party
A group who seeks political office.
They want to win elections to serve their ideas (ideologies).

What do political parties do?
Inform the public about political issues
Mobilize voters (get them to the polls)
Organize the diverse interests of society into public policies
Create the “rules” for elections
Act as watchdog-make sure both parties are acting ethically

Why do we have a two party system?
People can choose between ideas
Two parties have managed to make themselves dominant, and children often adopt the party of their parents (which is usually Democratic or Republican)

Tradition, first we had the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists – eventually they became the Democrats and the Republicans on a national level

Types of Third parties
Ideological parties
Single-Issue parties
Economic protest parties
Splinter parties

Why we have third parties

Spoiler role a minor party many times can pull votes away from a major party (For example: Ross Perot and Ralph Nader). Unlike major parties, minor parties are ready to take a clean-cut stance on a controversial issue. Voters like this.

Why is money necessary for campaigns

You have to spend enormous money just to win the nomination to win the primary. Those running have to raise and spend huge amounts of money so the more you have the more you can spend. You then have to spend more money to run the main election.

What are the four FEC Requirements

DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS
LIMITS ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
LIMITS ON CAMPAIGN SPENDING (EXPENDITURES)
PROVIDE PUBLIC FUNDING (TAX DOLLARS) FOR PARTS OF THE ELECTION PROCESS

What did the Reform Act of 2002 do?

Bans soft money contribution

The law also limits issue advertising within 60 days of a general election or 30 days within a primary election.

Who can make campaign contributions?

Individuals can’t give more than $100 in cash for a presidential election or over $2000 to a primary. No one can give more than $5000 to a PAC. Individuals can’t give more than $25,000 to party committee.

Businesses or labor unions (NEA) can’t give money to a candidate running for federal office. They can give to PACs though (NEAPAC), who then give it to candidates. PACS can’t give more than $5000 to any one candidate. PACS can give $15,000 a year to a party.

Who is a private donor? Public donor?

Private donors
Small contributors
Wealthy individuals (fat cats)
PACs
Fund raisers
Temporary Fundraisers

Public donors
Government gives money

What are the pros and cons of interest groups

con – do not necessarily reflect society’s principles (can be extreme)
Pro – stimulate interest in politics

How are interest groups related to PACs and Lobbyists?

- An Interest group can give money to a PAC
- A person acting on their own or with corporate backing to achieve the goals of an interest group or PAC is called a lobbyist
- Lobbyists talk to politicians about their goals
- They give money to the candidate that support their issues but sometimes money is filtered in from other sources and is unaccounted for

What are examples of soft money?

funds given to party organizations for such party building activities as candidate recruitment voter registration drives, etc

ILLEGAL TO USE - because it is not recorded
Why do we have polls?

Opinion polls are usually designed to represent the complex collection of the opinions of different people to represent to views of a certain population (attitudes held by a significant number of people on matters of government and politics).

What are the dangers in reading poll data?

Margins of error
Hard to measure the validity of opinions

How are people socialized politically?

TV, newspaper, radio, magazines, internet

What role does media play in government?

Public Agenda
Focus public’s attention on specific issues by emphasizing some things and ignoring others

How do different media sources portray the same

TV – prime time focused on entertainment
Radio and TV – skims the news 60-90 second time slots
TV sound bites 30-40 seconds long
Newspapers and magazines – mostly non-political

How do we use presidential debates?

It is the conclusion for the result of who’s nominated for President.
It unifies the political party (bringing the party together) behind the official nominee.
The presidential candidate officially announces his/her candidacy.
The party’s electors are selected (Electoral College).
Candidates are giving a speech and discussing their platform

Basic arguments for gun control

guns kill people/right to protect oneself

Affirmative action

equality for races/not fair because those not as qualified get the jobs

Healthcare

too expensive/need for reform

What voters are impacted by debates the most?

undecided voters

Why do we have the electoral college?

The Electoral College process is part of the original design of the U.S. Constitution. It would be necessary to pass a Constitutional amendment to change this system.

How does the electoral college work?

A body of electors is chosen to elect the President and Vice President. It makes recounts easier, less incentive for election fraud.

How many votes are in the electoral college?

538

How are they calculated?

100 senators + 435 Representatives + 3 votes for DC

How many votes for MI

17 (15 Representatives, 2 Senators)
### Pros and Cons for electoral College

**Pros**
- Easier recount, less incentive for fraud,
- Possibility that the winner of the popular vote will not win the presidency
- Electors are not required to vote in accordance with the popular vote
- The election could potentially be decided in the House of Representatives

**Cons**
- Possibility that the winner of the popular vote will not win the presidency

### Campaign strategies to win electoral votes

Campaigning is needed in densely populated areas or the candidate could lose the electoral vote, so one strategy is to make sure to campaign in the smaller towns and non-urban areas.

### Possible reforms

- **District:** Electors would be chosen in the same way as members of Congress.
- **District plan:** Would do away with the "winner take all" problem, because electors would vote like their district.
- **It would make the electoral vote a more accurate reflection of the popular returns**
- **Proportional Plan**
  - Each presidential candidate would receive the same share of a State's electoral vote as he or she received in the State's popular vote.
  - If won 40% in state with 20 electoral votes, would get 8 electoral votes.
  - Would align more with popular vote.
- **Direct Popular Election**
  - The most popular reform is to do away with the electoral college system and allow direct popular election.
  - Each vote would count equally.
  - Winner would always be the majority.

### What are the requirements to vote

- 18 years old at the time of the election.
- Live in state where you want to vote.
- Register 25 days before the election.
- Citizen of the United States.

### Differences between a natural born and naturalized citizen

- Naturalized citizen has to take a test and be sworn in before a judge to become a citizen, a natural born citizen is born in the United States.

### How had voting been limited in the past

- Poll tax
- Literacy test

### Why do some Americans not vote?

- Apathy
- Don't know the issues or candidates

### State and Local Government

**How does Michigan receive most of its revenue?**

- Taxes

**How would a state use Referendum**

- Citizens can place issues on the ballot.

**Recall**

- Procedure that allows citizens to remove and replace a public official before the end of a term of office.

**Initiative**

- Originating of a law or constitutional amendment by popular petition.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affirmative Action</td>
<td>policies that take race, ethnicity, or sex into consideration in an attempt to promote equal opportunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Liberties</td>
<td>the rights you have that the government can not take away – they are not absolute (ex. you break the law)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confederacy</td>
<td>An alliance of independent states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shared defense, currency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unitary</td>
<td>all powers belong in one central place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Create other units but only exist if central government wants them to exist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerrymandering</td>
<td>the illegal practice of manipulating legislative districts to benefit a political party, influence the outcome of elections for one of the political parties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legitimacy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party whip</td>
<td>exerts pressure on party members to vote with the party and is responsible for getting party's program enacted into law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enumerated powers</td>
<td>Powers of the Federal Gov't</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserved powers</td>
<td>Powers of the State Government -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial review</td>
<td>power to decide the constitutionality of an act of government whether executive, legislative, or judicial - the supreme court has final say on the meaning of the constitution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appellate jurisdiction</td>
<td>Appeal Court - A court that hears a case from lower court - the higher appellate court may overrule or change decision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concurrent jurisdiction</td>
<td>(shared) – can be tried in federal or state court (disputes involving citizens of different states: MI vs. OH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil cases</td>
<td>Addresses harms against people and economic ($) award might help remedy the problem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libel</td>
<td>a written lie that is not protected by the first amendment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majority opinion</td>
<td>the court has made a decision it announces the decision and gives the reasoning behind the decision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissenting opinion</td>
<td>may be written by those justices who do not agree with the decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority opinion</td>
<td>those who do not agree with the Court's majority opinion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial review</td>
<td>The Supreme Court gets the final say on whether on act of Congress is constitutional or not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concurrent opinions</td>
<td>may be written to add further points to the majority opinion that wasn't written</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Precedents  
examples to be followed in similar cases as they arise in the lower courts or reach the Supreme Courts

Slander  
A spoken lie that is not directly protected by the first amendment

Writ of certiorari  
The Supreme Court issues this to call up a case from a lower court

Commutation  
the power to reduce (commute) the length of a sentence or fine for a crime

Matching funds

Reprieve  
an official postponement of the execution of a sentence

Pardon  
legal forgiveness

Clemency  
Mercy or leniency granted to an offender by a chief executive

Bureaucracy  
a group of people that puts a plans into actions ex. 25 million people put the president’s plans into action

Convention  
It is the conclusion for the result of who’s nominated for President. It unifies the political party (bringing the party together) behind the official nominee. The presidential candidate officially announces his/her candidacy. The party’s electors are selected (Electoral College). Candidates are giving a speech and discussing their platform.

Primary  
practice election

Single member district  
electoral district from which one person is chosen by the voters for each elected office

At large voting  
election of an officeholder by the voters

Proportional representation

“winner take all”  
single member district and at large election systems that award seats to the highest vote getters without ensuring fair representation for minor parties

Liberal  
wants more government
Involvement in the economy (higher taxes, more social programs)

Conservative  
wants less government
Involvement in the economy (less taxes, less social programs)

Federalism  
divided power between national, state and local governments

Direct democracy  
citizens can make direct decisions without going through elected officials

PAC  
PAC can spend $ ... PAC-political action committee. Financial arms of interest groups
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sovereignty</td>
<td>complete control over a territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicameral</td>
<td>having two houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straight ticket voting</td>
<td>voting for candidates of the same party for multiple positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incumbent</td>
<td>a politician that is currently in office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electorate</td>
<td>the total body of qualified voters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power</td>
<td>limited power – can be seen in the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bias</td>
<td>An unfair act or policy stemming from prejudice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legitimacy</td>
<td>what's widely accepted as the rule of law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited government</td>
<td>created so the power of the government never gets too strong. An example of limited government is checks and balances or separation of powers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filibuster</td>
<td>efforts to hold the Senate floor in order to prevent action on a bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic</td>
<td>a representative government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft money</td>
<td>Soft money is illegal. It is unrecorded so it is harmful because it corrupts the system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard money</td>
<td>money that is hard to raise. It is recorded by the FEC (Federal Election Commission), there are limits to what can be donated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCain-Feingold bill</td>
<td>bans soft money contributions Limits issue advertising within 60 days of a general election or 30 days within a primary election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bipartisan</td>
<td>supported by members of both parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEC</td>
<td>A group of people that oversee all campaign spending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest group</td>
<td>private organization that tries to persuade people to respond to the shared attitudes of its members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffrage</td>
<td>Allows you to vote (19th amendment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wars that were not really wars (not formally Declared war by congress)</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Korean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Persian Gulf War (1991)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Writing Portion

1. A short answer concerning the Electoral College:
   **Timeline:**
   - State Primaries are held
     Choose party nominees (Jan – Aug of election year)
   - Party Conventions are held
     To officially pick candidates and to unify the party (Aug – Sept of election year)
   - General Election Campaigning: (Aug – the November election)
     Candidates raise money, tell the public about their platforms, debate, create & follow polls, and campaign on TV
     The citizenry (everyone else) join parties, join interest groups and create PAC’s, support candidates by making
     posters, etc., participate in polls, make commercials for candidates, and watch debates
   - Campaign Finance – what did the group spend money on or who did they get to spend the money on them?
   - Debates – between candidates, questions from
   - Polling and Media – polls, questions, debate techniques
   - The Election: (1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November, thanks Constitution) register to vote, and VOTE
   - Electoral College – then casts its votes for President in December

2. Essay concerning powers of the three branches
   Legislative/Executive/Judicial Branches
   **Checks and Balances**
   How their powers interact

   **Legislative Branch for the Executive Branch**
   - May reject appointments, treaties
   - May withhold funding for presidential initiatives
   - May impeach president
   - May override a veto

   **Executive Branch for the Legislative Branch**
   - May adjourn Congress in certain situations
   - May veto bills

   **Legislative Branch for the Judicial Branch**
   - May propose constitutional amendments to overrule judicial decisions
   - May impeach Supreme Court justices
   - May reject appointments to the Supreme Court

   **Judicial Court for the Legislative Branch**
   - May declare laws unconstitutional

   **Judicial Branch for the Executive Branch**
   - May declare executive actions unconstitutional

   **Executive for the Judicial Branch**
   - Appoints judges

   What Legislative powers are:
   - Primary duty of Congress is to write, debate, and pass bills,
   - The Constitution grants Congress "all legislative powers" in the national government.
   - Congressional powers include:
     - Coining money.
     - Maintaining a military.
     - Declaring war on other countries.
     - Regulating interstate and foreign commerce.
     - Federal taxing and spending policies

   What Judicial powers are:
   - Reviewing laws
   - Judicial Review (implied)
   - Interpreting the Constitution
   - Deciding cases involving states' rights.

   Executive powers:
   - Judicial: Reprieve, amnesty, pardon, clemency, commutation
   - Ordinance: Issue executive orders (like laws)
   - Executive: enforces, administers and carries out law
   - Legislative: writes laws, creates an agenda, veto, sign, ignore (no line item!!)
   - Commander in Chief: power over the military
   - Appointment: chooses loyal subordinates, appoints with Senate approval
   - Recognition: Acknowledges other countries
   - Treaties: formal agreement, need Senate consent
   - Executive Agreement: Like a treaty, no senate approval
   - Removal: Remove anyone he appoints except for judges