

## APGoPo Unit 3

# RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAGE 1: THE NOMINATION PHASE (CANDIDATE MUST BEGIN CAMPAIGN WELL BEFORE PRIMARIES)</b></p>	<p>Primary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used by more than three-fourths of the states</li> <li>• More power to the people because of increased use of primaries (more direct form of democracy) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Political parties have less control over nominations</li> <li>○ More money is spent on elections to win peoples' votes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The main feature of a presidential primary is that the voters of a particular state are deciding which "delegates" they will send to the national party convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Delegates may be selected on a proportional basis or</li> <li>○ Delegates maybe selected on a "winner-takes-all" basis</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Importance of the New Hampshire Primary: 1<sup>st</sup> state to hold primary each election year.</li> <li>• "Super Tuesday" – Date in which many southern states held their primaries early in the election season</li> <li>• "Front Loading" trend – primaries are held earlier and earlier in the year (California moved primary to March 2000 – since moved back) for states to be more relevant</li> </ul> <p>Caucus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some states use caucus (also called convention or conference) method of sending delegates to National Convention</li> <li>• A caucus is a meeting of party members and supporters of various candidates; it centers on the party organization</li> <li>• The process starts at local meetings open to all party members, who take positions on candidates and issues and elect delegates to represent their views at the next level; this process repeats until national nominating convention delegates are chosen</li> <li>• Local Caucuses &gt;&gt; District Convention &gt;&gt; State Convention &gt;&gt; National Convention. Each level selects delegates to attend higher level.</li> <li>• Importance of Iowa Caucuses – first in nation (even before New Hampshire primary)</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAGE 2: THE NATIONAL CONVENTION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of presidential nominee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Candidate that wins the majority of the overall delegate vote is the party's nominee</li> <li>○ A mere formality since the winner is known well ahead of time</li> <li>○ Emphasis on "image" instead of "scrimmage" - "ratification rather than nomination"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Selection of Vice-President Nominee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chosen by the Presidential nominee and rubber stamped by the convention</li> <li>○ "Balancing the Ticket"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Development of Party Platform</li> <li>• Reconciliation and unification of party by the end of the convention ("healing the wounds")</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STAGE 3: THE GENERAL ELECTION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall Campaign – mainly in large, competitive "swing" states</li> <li>• Election Day – First Tuesday after the first Monday in November in years divisible by four</li> <li>• Electors Election – Monday after the second Wednesday in December</li> <li>• Inauguration Day – January 20 (as established by the 20<sup>th</sup> Amendment)</li> </ul>

### ANALYSIS OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING SYSTEM

- Pro:
  - Highly participatory: caucuses, primaries, conventions
  - Highly representative
  - Weeds out weaker candidates
- Con:
  - Low rates of turnout
  - Too lengthy
  - Does not test candidates for qualities they need as President. Too much emphasis on media game – horse race.
  - Delegates at caucuses and conventions tend to be unrepresentative: more ideological, more activist, more educated, less moderate, much more wealthy. "Selectorate" replaces the "electorate."
  - Voters in primaries tend to be better educated and more affluent than those in general elections -> more ideological