

# Glossary

- 501(c)4 group** A social welfare organization that can devote no more than 50 percent of its funds to politics. Sometimes referred to as “dark money” groups because they do not have to disclose their donors.
- 527 organizations** Organizations under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code that raise and spend money to advance political causes.
- Activist approach** The view that judges should discern the general principles underlying laws or the Constitution and apply them to modern circumstances.
- Activists** People who tend to participate in all forms of politics
- Ad hoc structure** Several subordinates, cabinet officers, and committees report directly to the president on different matters.
- Adversarial press** The tendency of the national media to be suspicious of officials and eager to reveal unflattering stories about them.
- Affirmative action** Laws or administrative regulations that require a business firm, government agency, labor union, school, college, or other organization to take positive steps to increase the number of African Americans, other minorities, or women in its membership.
- Agenda-setting (gatekeeping)** The ability of the news media, by printing stories about some topics and not others, to shape the public agenda.
- Amicus curiae** A brief submitted by a “friend of the court.”
- Antifederalists** Those who favor a weaker national government.
- Appropriation** A legislative grant of money to finance a government program or agency.
- Articles of Confederation** A weak constitution that governed America during the Revolutionary War.
- Assistance program** A government program financed by general income taxes that provides benefits to poor citizens without requiring contribution from them.
- Australian ballot** A government-printed ballot of uniform dimensions to be cast in secret that many states adopted around 1890 to reduce voting fraud associated with party-printed ballots cast in public.
- Authority** The right to use power.
- Authorization legislation** Legislative permission to begin or continue a government program or agency.
- Benefit** A satisfaction that people believe they will enjoy if a policy is adopted.
- Bicameral legislature** A lawmaking body made up of two chambers or parts.
- Bill of attainder** A law that declares a person, without a trial, to be guilty of a crime.
- Bill of Rights** First 10 amendments to the Constitution.
- Bipolar world** A political landscape with two superpowers.
- Blog** A series, or log, of discussion items on a page of the World Wide Web.
- Brief** A written statement by an attorney that summarizes a case and the laws and rulings that support it.
- Budget** A document that states tax collections, spending levels, and the allocation of spending among purposes.
- Budget resolution** A congressional decision that states the maximum amount of money the government should spend.
- Bully pulpit** The president's use of his prestige and visibility to guide or enthuse the American public.
- Bureaucracy** A large, complex organization composed of appointed officials.
- Bureaucratic view** View that the government is dominated by appointed officials.
- Cabinet** The heads of the 15 executive branch departments of the federal government.
- Categorical grants** Federal grants for specific purposes, such as building an airport.
- Caucus (party)** A meeting of party followers in which party delegates are selected.
- Caucus (congressional)** An association of congressional members created to advance a political ideology or a regional, ethnic, or economic interest.
- Charitable choice** Name given to four federal laws passed in the late 1990s specifying the conditions under which nonprofit religious organizations could compete to administer certain social service delivery and welfare programs.
- Checks and balances** Authority shared by three branches of government.
- Circular structure** Several of the president's assistants report directly to him.
- Civic competence** A belief that one can affect government policies.
- Civic duty** A belief that one has an obligation to participate in civic and political affairs.
- Civil disobedience** Opposing a law one considers unjust by peacefully disobeying it and accepting the resultant punishment.
- Civil liberties** Rights—chiefly, rights to be free of government interference—accorded to an individual by the Constitution: free speech, free press, and so on.
- Civil rights** The rights of people to be treated without unreasonable or unconstitutional differences.
- Civil society** Voluntary action that makes cooperation easier.
- Class view** View that the government is dominated by capitalists.
- Class-action suit** A case brought by someone to help both him- or herself and all others who are similarly situated.
- Class-consciousness** A belief that one is a member of an economic group whose interests are opposed to people in other such groups.

- Clear-and-present-danger test** Law should not punish speech unless there was a clear and present danger of producing harmful actions.
- Client politics** A policy in which one small group benefits and almost everybody pays.
- Closed primary** A primary election where only registered party members may vote for the party's nominee.
- Closed rule** An order from the House Rules Committee that sets a time limit on debate; forbids a bill from being amended on the floor.
- Cloture rule** A rule used by the Senate to end or limit debate.
- Coalition** An alliance of groups.
- Coattails** The alleged tendency of candidates to win more votes in an election because of the presence at the top of the ticket of a better-known candidate, such as the president.
- Committee clearance** The ability of a congressional committee to review and approve certain agency decisions in advance and without passing a law.
- Competitive service** The government offices to which people are appointed on the basis of merit, as ascertained by a written exam or by applying certain selection criteria.
- Concurrent powers** Powers shared by the national and state governments.
- Concurrent resolution** An expression of opinion without the force of law that requires the approval of both the House and the Senate, but not the president.
- Concurring opinion** A signed opinion in which one or more members agree with the majority view but for different reasons.
- Conditions of aid** Terms set by the national government that states must meet if they are to receive certain federal funds.
- Conference committee** Joint committees appointed to resolve differences in the Senate and House versions of the same bill.
- Congressional campaign committee** A party committee in Congress that provides funds to members and would-be members.
- Conservative coalition** An alliance between Republican and conservative Democrats.
- Constitutional Convention** A meeting in Philadelphia in 1787 that produced a new constitution.
- Constitutional court** A federal court authorized by Article III of the Constitution that keeps judges in office during good behavior and prevents their salaries from being reduced. They are the Supreme Court (created by the Constitution) and appellate and district courts created by Congress.
- Containment** The belief that the United States should resist the expansion of aggressive nations, especially the former Soviet Union.
- Cooperative federalism** Idea that the federal and state governments share power in many policy areas.
- Cost** A burden that people believe they must bear if a policy is adopted.
- Cost overruns** When the money actually paid to military suppliers exceeds the estimated costs.
- Courts of appeals** Federal courts that hear appeals from district courts; no trials.
- Credal passion view** View that morally impassioned elites drive important political changes.
- Critical or realignment periods** A period when a major, lasting shift occurs in the popular coalition supporting one or both parties.
- De facto segregation** Racial segregation that occurs in schools, not as a result of the law, but as a result of patterns of residential settlement.
- De jure segregation** Racial segregation that is required by law.
- Deficit** The result of when the government in one year spends more money than it takes in from taxes.
- Democracy** The rule of the many.
- Devolution** The transfer of power from the national government to state and local governments.
- Direct or participatory democracy** A government in which all or most citizens participate directly.
- Discharge petition** A device by which any member of the House, after a committee has had the bill for 30 days, may petition to have it brought to the floor.
- Discretionary authority** The extent to which appointed bureaucrats can choose courses of action and make policies not spelled out in advance by laws.
- Discretionary spending** Spending that is not required to pay for contracts, interest on the national debt, or entitlement programs such as Social Security.
- Disengagement** The belief that the United States was harmed by its war in Vietnam and so should avoid supposedly similar events.
- Dissenting opinion** A signed opinion in which one or more justices disagree with the majority view.
- District courts** The lowest federal courts; federal trials can be held only here.
- Diversity cases** Cases involving citizens of different states who can bring suit in federal courts.
- Divided government** One party controls the White House and another party controls one or both houses of Congress.
- Division vote** A congressional voting procedure in which members stand and are counted.
- Double tracking** A procedure to keep the Senate going during a filibuster in which the disputed bill is shelved temporarily so that the Senate can get on with other business.
- Dual federalism** Doctrine holding that the national government is supreme in its sphere, the states are supreme in theirs, and the two spheres should be kept separate.
- Due process of law** Denies the government the right, without due process, to deprive people of life, liberty, and property.
- Earmarks** "Hidden" congressional provisions that direct the federal government to fund specific projects or that exempt specific persons or groups from paying specific federal taxes or fees.
- Economic planning** The belief that government plans, such as wage and price controls or the direction of investment, can improve the economy.

- Electoral college** The people chosen to cast each state's votes in a presidential election. Each state can cast one electoral vote for each senator and representative it has. The District of Columbia has three electoral votes, even though it cannot elect a representative or senator.
- Elite** Persons who possess a disproportionate share of some valued resource, such as money, prestige, or expertise.
- Entitlements** A claim for government funds that cannot be changed without violating the rights of the claimant.
- Entrepreneurial politics** A policy in which almost everybody benefits and a small group pays.
- Enumerated powers** Powers given to the national government alone.
- Environmental impact statement** A report required by federal law that assesses the possible effect of a project on the environment if the project is subsidized in whole or part by federal funds.
- Equal protection of the laws** A standard of equal treatment that must be observed by the government.
- Equal time rule** An FCC rule that if a broadcaster sells time to one candidate, it must sell equal time to other candidates.
- Equality of opportunity** Giving people an equal chance to succeed.
- Equality of results** Making certain that people achieve the same result.
- Establishment clause** First Amendment ban on laws "respecting an establishment of religion."
- Ex post facto law** A law that makes an act criminal even though the act was legal when it was committed.
- Exclusionary rule** Improperly gathered evidence may not be introduced in a criminal trial.
- Exit polls** Polls based on interviews conducted on election day with randomly selected voters.
- Faction** A group with a distinct political interest.
- Federalism** Government authority shared by national and local governments.
- Federalists** Those who favor a stronger national government.
- Federal-question cases** Cases concerning the Constitution, federal laws, or treaties.
- Fee shifting** A rule that allows a plaintiff to recover costs from the defendant if the plaintiff wins.
- Filibuster** An attempt to defeat a bill in the Senate by talking indefinitely, thus preventing the Senate from taking action on the bill.
- Fiscal policy** Managing the economy by the use of tax and spending laws.
- Fiscal year** For the federal government, October 1 through the following September 30.
- Framing** The way in which the news media, by focusing on some aspects of an issue, shapes how people view that issue.
- Franking privilege** The ability of members to mail letters to their constituents free of charge by substituting their facsimile signature for postage.
- Free rider problem** the tendency of individuals to avoid contributing to public goods.
- Freedom of expression** Right of people to speak, publish, and assemble.
- Freedom of religion** People shall be free to exercise their religion, and government may not establish a religion.
- Free-exercise clause** First Amendment requirement that law cannot prevent free exercise of religion.
- Game frame** The tendency of media to focus on political polls and strategy rather than on the issues.
- Gender gap** Difference in political views between men and women.
- Gerrymandering** Drawing the boundaries of legislative districts in bizarre or unusual shapes to favor one party.
- Globalization** The growing integration of the economies and societies of the world.
- Gold plating** The tendency of Pentagon officials to ask weapons contractors to meet excessively high requirements.
- Good faith exception** An error in gathering evidence sufficiently minor that it may be used in a trial.
- Government by proxy** Washington pays state and local governments and private groups to staff and administer federal programs.
- Grandfather clause** A clause in registration laws allowing people who do not meet registration requirements to vote if they or their ancestors had voted before 1867.
- Grants-in-aid** Money given by the national government to the states.
- Grassroots lobbying** using the general public (rather than lobbyists) to contact government officials about a public policy.
- Great Compromise** Plan to have a popularly elected House based on state population and a state-selected Senate, with two members for each state.
- Gridlock** The inability of the government to act because rival parties control different parts of the government.
- Gross domestic product** The total of all goods and services produced in the economy during a given year.
- Habeas corpus** An order to produce an arrested person before a judge.
- Heuristics** An informational shortcut used by voters to make a decision.
- Horse-race (scorekeeper) journalism** News coverage that focuses on who is ahead rather than on the issues.
- Human rights** The view that we should try to improve the lives of people in other countries.
- Ideological interest groups** Political organizations that attract members by appealing to their political convictions or principles.
- Impeachment** Charges against a president approved by a majority of the House of Representatives.
- Impressionable years hypothesis** Argument that political experiences during the late teens and early 20s powerfully shape attitudes for the rest of the life cycle.
- In forma pauperis** A method whereby a poor person can have his or her case heard in federal court without charge.
- Incentive** Something of value one cannot get without joining an organization.

- Income inequality** the extent to which income is unevenly distributed throughout society
- Incumbency advantage** The tendency of incumbents to do better than otherwise similar challengers, especially in congressional elections.
- Incumbent** The person already holding an elective office.
- Independent expenditures** Spending by political action committees, corporations, or labor unions to help a party or candidate but done independently of them.
- Inevitable discovery** The police can use evidence if it would inevitably have been discovered.
- Initiative** Process that permits voters to put legislative measures directly on the ballot.
- Insurance program** A self-financing government program based on contributions that provide benefits to unemployed or retired persons.
- Interest group** An organization of people sharing a common interest or goal that seeks to influence public policy.
- Interest group politics** A policy in which one small group benefits and another small group pays.
- Invisible primary** process by which candidates try to attract the support of key party leaders before the election begins.
- Iron triangle** A close relationship between an agency, a congressional committee, and an interest group.
- Isolationism** The opinion that the United States should withdraw from world affairs.
- Issue** A conflict, real or apparent, between the interests, ideas, or beliefs of different citizens.
- Issue network** A network of people in Washington, D.C.-based interest groups, on congressional staffs, in universities and think tanks, and in the mass media, who regularly discuss and advocate public policies.
- Joint committees** Committees on which both senators and representatives serve.
- Joint resolution** A formal expression of congressional opinion that must be approved by both houses of Congress and by the president; constitutional amendments need not be signed by the president.
- Judicial restraint approach** The view that judges should decide cases strictly on the basis of the language of the laws and the Constitution.
- Judicial review** The power of courts to declare laws unconstitutional.
- Keynesianism** The belief the government must manage the economy by spending more money when in a recession and cutting spending when there is inflation.
- Laboratories of democracy** Idea that different states can implement different policies, and the successful ones will spread.
- Laissez-faire** An economic theory that government should not regulate or interfere with commerce.
- Legislative courts** Courts created by Congress for specialized purposes whose judges do not enjoy the protections of Article III of the Constitution.
- Legislative veto** The authority of Congress to block a presidential action after it has taken place. The Supreme Court has held that Congress does not have this power.
- Legitimacy** Political authority conferred by law or by a state or national constitution.
- Libel** Writing that falsely injures another person.
- Line-item veto** An executive's ability to block a particular provision in a bill passed by the legislature.
- Literacy test** A requirement that citizens show that they can read before registering to vote.
- Litmus test** An examination of the political ideology of a nominated judge.
- Loaded language** Words that imply a value judgment, used to persuade a reader without having made a serious argument.
- Lobbyist** A person who tries to influence legislation on behalf of an interest group.
- Log-rolling** A legislator supports a proposal favored by another in return for support of his or hers.
- Majoritarian politics** A policy in which almost everybody benefits and almost everybody pays.
- Majority leader** The legislative leader elected by party members holding the majority of seats in the House or the Senate.
- Mandates** Terms set by the national government that states must meet whether or not they accept federal grants.
- Mandatory** Spending that the government is required to spend
- Marginal districts** Political districts in which candidates elected to the House of Representatives win in close elections, typically by less than 55 percent of the vote.
- Material incentives** Money or things valued in monetary terms.
- Means test** An income qualification program that determines whether one is eligible for benefits under government programs reserved for lower-income groups.
- Military-industrial complex** An alleged alliance between military leaders and corporate leaders.
- Minority leader** The legislative leader elected by party members holding a minority of seats in the House or the Senate.
- Momentum** When a candidate wins (especially an upset win), s/he tends to do better than expected in future contests. Sometimes also called the bandwagon effect.
- Monetarist** The belief that inflation occurs when too much money is chasing too few goods.
- Monetary policy** Managing the economy by altering the supply of money and interest rates.
- Mugwumps** or **progressives** Republican Party faction of the 1890s to the 1910s, composed of reformers who opposed patronage.
- Name-request job** A job filled by a person whom an agency has already identified.
- National chair** Day-to-day party manager elected by the national committee.
- National committee** Delegates who run party affairs between national conventions.
- National convention** A meeting of party delegates held every four years.
- National debt** The total deficit from the first presidency down to the present.

- “Necessary and proper” clause** Section of the Constitution allowing Congress to pass all laws “necessary and proper” to its duties, and that has permitted Congress to exercise powers not specifically given to it (enumerated) by the Constitution.
- New Jersey Plan** Proposal to create a weak national government.
- Nullification** The doctrine that a state can declare null and void a federal law that, in the state’s opinion, violates the Constitution.
- Open primary** a primary election where all voters (regardless of party membership) may vote for the party’s nominee.
- Open rule** An order from the House Rules Committee that permits a bill to be amended on the floor.
- Opinion of the Court** A signed opinion of a majority of the Supreme Court.
- Orthodox** A belief that morality and religion ought to be of decisive importance.
- Partisan identification** a voter’s long-term, stable attachment to one of the political parties.
- Partisan polarization** A vote in which a majority of Democratic legislators oppose a majority of Republican legislators.
- Partisanship** An individual’s identification with a party; whether they consider themselves a Democrat, Republican, or Independent; another name for partisan identity.
- Party sorting** The alignment of partisanship and issue positions so that Democrats tend to take more liberal positions and Republicans tend to take more conservative ones.
- Party vote** There are two measures of such voting. By the stricter measure, a party vote occurs when 90 percent or more of the Democrats in either house of Congress vote together against 90 percent or more of the Republicans. A looser measure counts as a party vote any case where at least 50 percent of the Democrats vote together against at least 50 percent of the Republicans.
- Per curiam opinion** A brief, unsigned court opinion.
- Plaintiff** The party that initiates a lawsuit.
- Pluralist view** View that competition among all affected interests shapes public policy.
- Plurality system** An electoral system in which the winner is the person who gets the most votes, even if he or she does not receive a majority; used in almost all American elections.
- Pocket veto** A bill fails to become law because the president did not sign it within 10 days before Congress adjourns.
- Polarization** A deep and wide conflict over some government policy.
- Police powers** State power to effect laws promoting health, safety, and morals.
- Policy entrepreneurs** Activists in or out of government who pull together a political majority on behalf of unorganized interests.
- Political action committee (PAC)** A committee set up by a corporation, labor union, or interest group that raises and spends campaign money from voluntary donations.
- Political agenda** Issues that people believe require governmental action.
- Political cue** A signal telling a legislator what values are at stake in a vote, and how that issue fits into his or her own political views on party agenda.
- Political culture** A patterned and sustained way of thinking about how political and economic life ought to be carried out.
- Political elites** Persons with a disproportionate share of political power.
- Political ideology** A more or less consistent set of beliefs about what policies government ought to pursue.
- Political machines** A party organization that recruits members by dispensing patronage.
- Political participation** The many different ways that people take part in politics and government.
- Political party** A group that seeks to elect candidates to public office.
- Political question** An issue the Supreme Court will allow the executive and legislative branches to decide.
- Political socialization** Process by which background traits influence one’s political views.
- Politics** The activity by which an issue is agitated or settled.
- Poll** A survey of public opinion.
- Poll tax** A requirement that citizens pay a tax in order to register to vote.
- Pork-barrel legislation** Legislation that gives tangible benefits to constituents in several districts or states in the hope of winning their votes in return.
- Positional issues** An issue in which rival candidates have opposing views but that also divides the voters.
- Power elite view** View that the government is dominated by a few top leaders, most of whom are outside of government.
- Power** The ability of one person to get another person to act in accordance with the first person’s intentions.
- Primary elections** An election held to determine the nominee from a particular party.
- Priming** The ability of the news media to influence the factors individuals use to evaluate political elites.
- Prior restraint** Censorship of a publication.
- Probable cause** Reasonable cause for issuing a search warrant or making an arrest; more than mere suspicion.
- Progressive** A belief that personal freedom and solving social problems are more important than religion.
- Prospective voting** Voting for a candidate because you favor his or her ideas for handling issues.
- Public good** something of value that all individuals share, whether or not they contribute to it (such as clean air or water).
- Public opinion** How people think or feel about particular things.
- Public safety exception** The police can question an un-Mirandized suspect if there is an urgent concern for public safety.
- Public-interest lobby** A political organization whose goals will principally benefit nonmembers.
- Purposive incentive** A benefit that comes from serving a cause or principle.

- Pyramid structure** A president's subordinates report to him through a clear chain of command headed by a chief of staff.
- Question wording** The way in which survey questions are phrased, which influences how respondents answer them.
- Quorum** The minimum number of members who must be present for business to be conducted in Congress.
- Random sample** Method of selecting from a population in which each person has an equal probability of being selected.
- Ratings** Assessments of a representative's voting record on issues important to an interest group.
- Recall** Procedure whereby voters can remove an elected official from office.
- Red tape** Complex bureaucratic rules and procedures that must be followed to get something done.
- Referendum** Procedure enabling voters to reject a measure passed by the legislature.
- Remedy** A judicial order enforcing a right or redressing a wrong.
- Representative democracy** A government in which leaders make decisions by winning a competitive struggle for the popular vote.
- Republic** A government in which elected representatives make the decisions.
- Reserved powers** Powers given to the state government alone.
- Restrictive** An order from the House Rules Committee that permits certain kinds of amendments but not others to be made into a bill on the floor.
- Retrospective voting** Voting for a candidate because you like his or her past actions in office.
- Reverse discrimination** Using race or sex to give preferential treatment to some people.
- Riders** Amendments on matters unrelated to a bill that are added to an important bill so that they will "ride" to passage through the Congress. When a bill has many riders, it is called a Christmas-tree bill.
- Roll-call vote** A congressional voting procedure that consists of members answering "yea" or "nay" to their names.
- Safe districts** Districts in which incumbents win by margins of 55 percent or more.
- Sampling error** The difference between the results of random samples taken at the same time.
- Search warrant** A judge's order authorizing a search.
- Select committees** Congressional committees appointed for a limited time and purpose.
- Selective exposure** Consuming only those news stories with which one already agrees.
- Selective incorporation process** The process whereby the Court has applied most, but not all, parts of the Bill of Rights to the states.
- Separate-but-equal doctrine** The doctrine established in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) that African Americans could constitutionally be kept in separate but equal facilities.
- Separation of powers** Constitutional authority is shared by three different branches of government.
- Sequester** Automatic spending cuts.
- Shays's Rebellion** A 1787 rebellion in which ex-Revolutionary War soldiers attempted to prevent foreclosures of farms as a result of high interest rates and taxes.
- Signing statement** A presidential document that reveals what the president thinks of a new law and how it ought to be enforced.
- Simple resolution** An expression of opinion either in the House or Senate to settle procedural matters in either body.
- Social movement** A widely shared demand for change in some aspect of the social or political order.
- Soft money** Funds obtained by political parties that are spent on party activities, such as get-out-the-vote drives, but not on behalf of a specific candidate.
- Solidary incentives** The social rewards (sense of pleasure, status, or companionship) that lead people to join political organizations.
- Sound bite** A radio or video clip of someone speaking.
- Sovereign immunity** The rule that a citizen cannot sue the government without the government's consent.
- Speaker** The presiding officer of the House of Representatives and the leader of his or her party in the House.
- Standing** A legal rule stating who is authorized to start a lawsuit.
- Standing committees** Permanently established legislative committees that consider and are responsible for legislation within a certain subject area.
- Stare decisis** "Let the decision stand," or allowing prior rulings to control the current case.
- Strict scrutiny** The standard by which "suspect classifications" are judged. To be upheld, such a classification must be related to a "compelling government interest," be "narrowly tailored" to achieve that interest, and use the "least restrictive means" available.
- Super PAC** A group that raises and spends unlimited amounts of money from corporations, unions, and individuals but cannot coordinate its activities with campaigns in any way.
- Super-delegates** Party leaders and elected officials who become delegates to the national convention without having to run in primaries or caucuses.
- Supply-side theory** The belief that lower taxes and fewer regulations will stimulate the economy.
- Surge and decline** Tendency for the president's party to do better in presidential years when he is at the top of the ticket (the surge), but to do worse when he is not because many voters are less enthusiastic and stay home (the decline).
- Suspect classification** Classifications of people based on their race or ethnicity; laws so classifying people are subject to "strict scrutiny."
- Symbolic speech** An act that conveys a political message.
- Teller vote** A congressional voting procedure in which members pass between two tellers, the "yeas" first and the "nays" second.
- Trial balloon** Information leaked to the media to test public reaction to a possible policy.

**Trust funds** Funds for government programs collected and spent outside the regular government budget.

**Two-party system** An electoral system with two dominant parties that compete in national elections.

**Unalienable** A human right based on nature or God.

**Unified government** The same party controls the White House and both houses of Congress.

**Unipolar world** A political landscape with one superpower.

**Valence issue** An issue on which everyone agrees, but the question is whether or not the candidate embraces that view.

**Veto** Literally, “I forbid”: it refers to the power of a president to disapprove a bill; it may be overridden by a two-thirds vote of each house of Congress.

**Veto message** A message from the president to Congress stating that he will not sign a bill it has passed. Must be produced within 10 days of the bill’s passage.

**Virginia Plan** Proposal to create a strong national government.

**Voice vote** A congressional voting procedure in which members shout “yea” in approval or “nay” in disapproval, permitting members to vote quickly or anonymously on bills.

**Voter identification law** Laws requiring citizens to show a government-issued photo ID in order to vote.

**Voting-age population (VAP)** Citizens who are eligible to vote after reaching the minimum age requirement.

**Voting-eligible population (VEP)** Citizens who have reached the minimum age to be eligible to vote, excluding those who are not legally permitted to cast a ballot.

**Waiver** A decision by an administrative agency granting some other part permission to violate a law or rule that would otherwise apply to it.

**Wall of separation** Court ruling that government cannot be involved with religion.

**Watchdog** The press’s role as an overseer of government officials to ensure they act in the public interest.

**Whip** A senator or representative who helps the party leader stay informed about what party members are thinking.

**White primary** The practice of keeping blacks from voting in the southern states’ primaries through arbitrary use of registration requirements and intimidation.

**Worldviews** A comprehensive opinion of how the United States should respond to world problems.

**Writ of certiorari** An order by a higher court directing a lower court to send up a case for review.





# Notes

## Chapter 1

### The Study of American Government

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5. *Ibid.*
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11. Joseph A. Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*, 3rd ed. (New York: Harper Torchbooks, 1950), 269. First published in 1942.
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