

Study Guide Chapter 11

Questions:

- What is suffrage and how did it expand over the course of U.S. history? Make sure to know the important groups affected and the approximate time in which it took place, particularly amendments or laws associated with these expansions. (Big answer! You need to cover it all.) (pg 487-489)

Combination of social change – the expansion of education for both

Universal suffrage for white men was not fully achieved until the 1840's in the wake of Jacksonian democracy because (before the 1840's) people did not want lower classes of people to be voting since they had different political views from the upper class.

Suffrage for women came directly out of the anti-slavery movement. The resistance to women's suffrage was gradually overcome by a sexes, the entry of women into the workforce outside the home – and political need. Western territories were the first to grant women the right to vote. Adoption of the 19th amendment (1920) gave women the right to vote.

Suffrage to African Americans was guaranteed by the 15th amendment but was not formally adhered to until the 1960s. (Voting Rights Act of 1965)

Suffrage to young Americans came through the passage of the 26th amendment (1971) which granted citizens 18 years or older the right to vote. This amendment was spawned through controversy surrounding the draft of the Vietnam War in which youths 18-20 years old were drafted into the army but not granted the right to vote

- Who votes and why? (pg 491)

Generally, studies have shown that age and education have the strongest influence on voting (older, rich, and more educated individuals are more likely to vote). Internal efficacy – understanding of politics and engagement in it – as well as external efficacy – a person's belief in their ability to influence governmental decisions – both lead to greater voter turnout.

- What factors (both individual and institutional) are likely to increase turnout? Decrease turnout? (pg 491-492)

AGE and EDUCATION have the strongest effect on voter turnout

The more onerous the registration requirement, the higher the cost of voting and the fewer voting participants engage in their right. Two-party competition tends to lessen voting rates as well as voter ID laws. Social circumstances such as social incentives ("I voted!" sticker). Often people vote because they've been asked.

A decline in mobilization has decreased voter turnout overall. mobilization was the actual use of people going up to other people to tell them to vote.

- How do voters decide how they are going to vote? (pg 495-497)

A voter has to choose standards for “better” and “relevant” when discerning which candidate to vote for. Voters may treat an election as a vote on the incumbent’s or majority party’s performance in office. One simple rule is to vote for incumbents who have performed well. A candidate’s personal experience in a certain area helps voters decide how to vote as well as the positions they take on issues, their overall ideological stances, or their party affiliations. Voters can take cues from opinion leaders who show their support for a certain candidate through public profession or financial donations. Voters also make predictions about personal characteristics such as competence, experience, honesty, knowledge, and leadership skills. Most likely going to vote according to political affiliation which is usually adopted from their parents.

- What is the Motor Voter Law? Why is it important? (pg 494)

The Motor Voter Law, enacted in 1993, requires – by law – states to allow citizens to register to vote when applying for or renewing their driver’s licenses, to register by mail, or receive mail registration forms and assistance in filling them out at state welfare offices. It also forbids states to purge voters from the rolls for failing to vote. The purpose of the bill is to increase turnout by making registration easy – decreases voter transaction costs.

- What is performance voting?

Basing votes for a candidate or a party on how successfully the candidate or party performed while in office

- What is issue voting?

Voting for candidates based on their positions on specific issues, as opposed to their party or personal characteristics

- What is party identification and why is it important? (pg 498)

Party identification is a candidate’s alignment with the ideals, core values, and label of a political party. Party identification has proven to be a strong predictor of the vote in any election in which candidates run under party labels. - an individual’s instrumental attachment to one of the political parties; the most accurate predictor of voting behavior

- What are the basic components of a campaign? (pg 500)

The basic necessities of any campaign are a candidate, a message, and a way to inform voters about both. The message is chosen opportunistically. Presidents sometimes take issues that are prominent at the time and highlight them as a theme in their campaign.

Focus groups are formed during elections in which surveys are given to those taking part. These are used by presidents to test general themes as well as advertise them. Each campaign emphasizes selected facts and cues with a goal of a plurality vote.

Circumstances are highly variable.

- When might a potential candidate decide NOT to run for office? (pg 501-502)

The smaller the chance of winning, the less likely the talented and ambitious are to run.

- What is negative campaigning?

This is when candidates use pointed personal criticism of the other candidate. It is a normal and sometimes even ugly component of the electoral process and an effective one. People may hate it, but it indeed works because people remember it. SUPER POWERFUL AND FAST. In contrast, positive campaigning needs to be run over and over again in order to make it stick. NOT AS EFFECTIVE AND TAKES LONGER. But with negative, changes in polls can be seen within a few days. They are distinguished between being fair and unfair. The negative ads exploit voters' uncertainty inherent in the delegation of authority to powerful agents. They show voters and people about the candidates but at the same time make them less enthusiastic about voting for them. These ads are rarely subtle because they show that their targets are ignorant.

- What is campaign finance reform? What were the major laws and court cases surrounding this? (We will not cover this in class so read carefully and post questions on the board if you have them.) (pg 509) add the BCRA

Campaign finance reform are measures taken to limit the amount of private donations made to candidates in exchange for service to those donating individuals alone, and not the constituents who the candidate serves. Congress created the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA) and amended in 1974 provide for partial public funding for presidential campaigns and required full public reporting of and strict limits on all contributions and expenditures in federal elections. It also established a Federal Election Commission to enforce the law and to collect and publish detailed information on campaign contributions and expenditures. FECA was amended a second time in 1979 to allow unrestricted contributions and spending for state and local party-building and get-out-the-vote activities. A court decision in 1996 gave party organizations the right to unfettered independent spending as well.

Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act was passed in 2002, which prohibits parties from raising or spending soft party money for federal candidates

Buckley v. Valeo (1976) upheld the reporting requirements and contribution limits (to prevent "corruption or the appearance of corruption") but rejected spending limits.

* can anyone explain what campaign finance reform/FICA is in layman's terms (aka, simple english)? i don't understand it :(

Limiting the amount of money a single person can donate to a candidate running for a campaign as to limit the candidate to return the favor to the donor alone, and not to the entire people group the candidate represents, when they are in office.

- What is soft money?

Money used by political parties for voter registration, public education, and voter mobilization. Up until 2002, when Congress passed legislation outlawing soft money, the government had imposed no limits on contributions or expenditures for such purposes. it was the favorite target of campaign finance reformers.

- What do candidates spend money on? (pg 515-516)