

Absentee voting allows voters who cannot come to polling places to cast their ballots. A variety of circumstances, including residency abroad, illness, travel or military service, can prevent voters from coming to the polls on Election Day. Absentee ballots permit registered voters to mail in their votes. The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act,

a federal law, governs absentee voting in presidential elections. Absentee voting rules for all other elections are set by the states, and vary. In Oregon, all elections are conducted by mail, but voters have the option of voting in person at county polling stations.

缺席投票让无法到投票点的人可以执行投票权，其中包括因为旅居海外、生病、在外旅行或于军中服役等无法在选举日到投票点投票的情况。缺席投票让已登记的选民以邮件寄送选票。《海外居民缺席投票法案》属联邦法，主要是针对总统大选的缺席投票。其他选举的缺席投票法交由各州规范且办法各有不同。以俄勒冈州为例，所有的选举都是以邮件方式寄送，但投票人仍可以选择亲自到各县投票点投票。



A base is a group of voters who almost always support a particular party's candidates, regardless of personality or the specific views a candidate may hold. In elections, candidates often have to strike a balance between increasing the enthusiasm of their base and reaching out to undecided and more moderate voters.

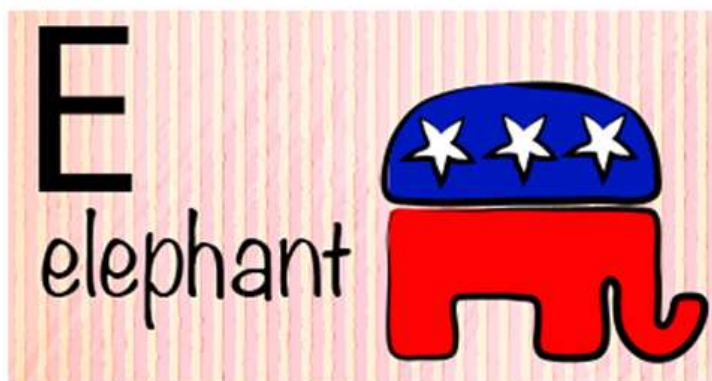
死忠选民是一群不管候选人的人格或政见，始终支持某一特定政党候选人的选民。在选举时，候选人一方面必须巩固死忠选民的支持，提振他们对选举的热情，另一方面又必须开发尚未决定要投谁的中间选民。



The Donkey represents the Democratic Party. Presidential candidate Andrew Jackson was the first Democrat to be associated with the donkey symbol. However, the most lasting impression came from the cartoons of Thomas Nast, which pictured the Democratic Party as a donkey, an animal considered stubborn. The Democratic Party, demonstrating a sense of humor, accepted the

animal as its unofficial symbol, observing that the donkey and the Democratic Party share many fine qualities, such as not giving up easily. They have used various donkey designs on publications over the years.

驴是民主党的象征。民主党总统候选人安德鲁·杰克森是第一个被拿来比作驴子的民主党人，但真正让这个象征流传至今的则是卡通漫画家托马斯·纳斯特，他把民主党画成驴子，一种被认为很顽固的动物。民主党也展现了他们的幽默感，接受了这种调侃，把驴子当成非官方的象征，认为驴子和民主党都有不轻言放弃的特性。多年来民主党也把不同样式的驴子图案应用在出版品上。



The Elephant represents the Republican Party. Political cartoonist Thomas Nast created both images for the publication Harper's Weekly in 1874. One of his cartoons depicted a marauding elephant to represent the "Republican vote." Republicans quickly embraced the symbol as their party's own and use the design widely. Over the years, the donkey and the elephant have become

the accepted symbols of the Democratic and Republican parties.

大象代表共和党。政治漫画家托马斯·纳斯特在 1874 年用一只抢掠的大象代表「共和党票」。共和党人迅速将这一形象作为党的象征。经过多年，驴子与大象分别已经成为两党最广为人知的象征。



Fundraising is an important part of any election process. Between primaries, conventions, and the general election, the United States election season can be very long, and it often takes more resources than an individual candidate may have to pay campaign costs, such as travel, advertising, and administrative support. Some fundraising

comes in the form of large donations from organizations or wealthy individuals, but candidates have increasingly turned to the internet and social media to attract smaller donations from the general American public.

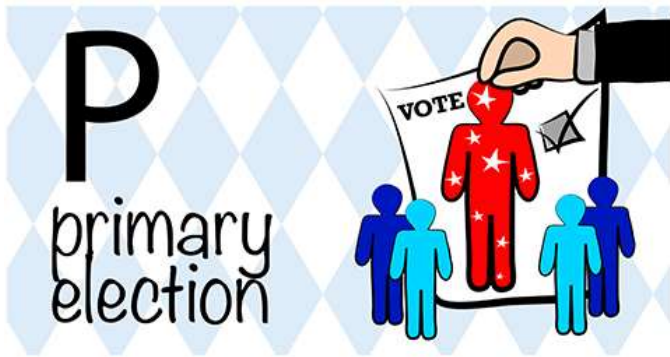
筹款对于选举来说是不可或缺的一环。从初选、全国代表大会、到普选，美国的选举季非常漫长，单靠候选人个人的资源难以支付如广告、竞选团队的出行、和行政支援等开销。候选人可以向企业组织或财力雄厚的个人筹募大额捐款，不过候选人越来越倾向在网路和社交媒体上向广大的美国民众征求小额捐款。



An election for seats in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives that occurs during a presidential term of office — that is, two years into the four-year presidential term. The results are sometimes interpreted as a popular referendum on that president's performance for the first two years of his term. Midterm elections determine some members of the U.S. Senate and

all members of the House of Representatives, as well as many state and local officials.

美国在总统任期过半时（也就是四年任期过两年后），会举行参议员和众议员的选举，被称为期中选举。选举结果常被视为对总统前两年表现的公投。美国人会在期中选举选出部分参议员席次、全部的众议员席次，以及州和地方政府官员。



A state-level election in which voters choose a candidate affiliated with a political party to run against a candidate who is affiliated with another political party in a later, general election. A primary may be either “open” — allowing any registered voter in a state to vote for a candidate to represent a political party, or “closed” — allowing only registered

voters who belong to a particular political party to vote for a candidate from that party.

初选是州级选举。选民在初选中选出隶属于某一政党、将在之后所举行的大选中与另一政党的候选人展开竞争的候选人。初选可以是「开放式」，即允许州里所有登记选民参加投票决定政党候选人；初选也可以是「非开放式」，只允许属于某一政党的注册党员投票选举该党的候选人。



Each federal elected office has different requirements, laid out in Articles I and II of the U.S. Constitution. A candidate for president, for example, must be a natural-born citizen of the United States, at least 35 years old, and a resident of the United States for at least 14 years. A vice president must meet the same qualifications. Under the Twelfth Amendment

to the U.S. Constitution, the vice president cannot be from the same state as the president. Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives must be at least 25 years old, have been U.S. citizens for seven years and be legal residents of the state they seek to represent in Congress. U.S. Senate candidates must be at

least 30, have been a U.S. citizen for nine years, and be legal residents of the state they wish to represent. Those seeking state or local office must meet requirements established by those jurisdictions.

联邦政府中由选举产生的每一项公职都有不同的要求，这在美国宪法第一条和第二条中有明文规定。例如，总统候选人必须是美国出生的公民、年满 35 岁、在美国居住至少 14 年；副总统必须具备同样的资格。根据美国宪法第 12 条修正案，副总统不能与总统来自同一个州。

美国众议员候选人必须年满 25 岁，取得美国公民资格已满 7 年，并且是他们希望在国会代表的州的合法居民。美国参议员候选人必须年满 30 岁，取得美国公民资格已满 9 年，并且是他们希望在国会代表的州的合法居民。想要担任州或地方政府公职的人必须符合各州或地方所制定的资格。



In order to be eligible to vote, United States voters must first register in their counties and states of residence. The U.S. government has passed laws to make registration easier, in order to allow as many citizens as possible the opportunity to vote, and many non-government organizations conduct “get out the vote” programs to encourage more people to register.

为了有投票资格，美国的选民首先必须在其居住地注册。美国政府已立法简化选举注册手续，尽可能让更多公民有机会投票，还有许多非政府组织以动员投票的活动鼓励更多人去注册。



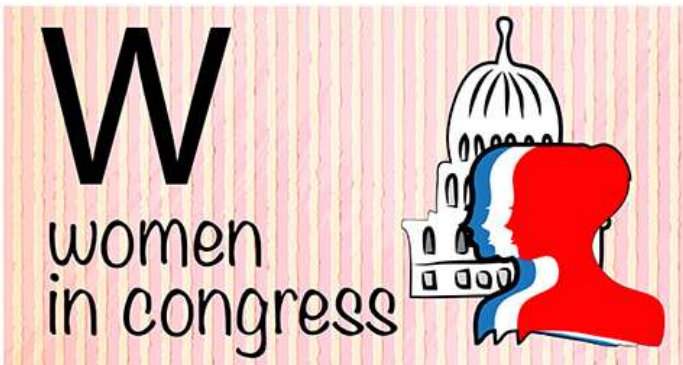
Republicans and Democrats have dominated electoral politics since the 1860s. This unrivaled record of the same two parties continuously monopolizing a nation's electoral politics reflects structural aspects of the American political system as well as special features of the parties.

自 1860 年代以来，共和党和民主党一直主导着美国选举政治。美国这种始终由同样的两大政党垄断国家选举的历史一方面反映了美国政治体制的结构，也反映出美国政党的特色。



There are specific requirements to vote in the United States' general elections: each voter must be a United States Citizen and must be at least 18 years old by election day, must be a legal resident of the state he wishes to vote in, and must not have been disqualified from voting by a court order or felony conviction.

要能够在美国普选中投票，必须要符合某些特定的条件。首先必须是年满 18 岁的美国公民，在其投票州是合法的居民，以及没有被剥夺投票权。



Jeannette Rankin, a Republican of Montana, took her seat in the U.S. House of Representatives on April 2, 1916, as the first woman elected to Congress — even before the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920 gave all American women the right to vote in elections.

Rankin maintained that women's talents and expertise were needed to build better societies.

“Men and women are like right and left hands; it doesn't make sense not to use both,” she said.

In 1932, Hattie Caraway, initially appointed to fill her late husband's seat, became the first woman elected to the Senate in her own right, representing Arkansas. Nicknamed “silent Hattie” for the rarity of her public speeches, Caraway took her responsibilities seriously and built a reputation for integrity.

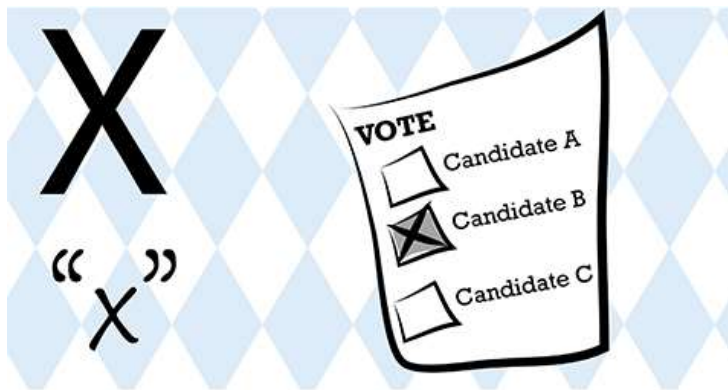
Margaret Chase Smith represented Maine first in the U.S. House of Representatives and then in the U.S. Senate — the first woman to serve in both chambers of Congress. In 1964, Republican Smith became the

first woman considered for the presidential nomination at a national convention; she lost to Barry Goldwater.

蒙大拿州共和党籍的珍妮特·兰金女士于 1916 年 4 月 2 日就任国会议员，她是第一位民选的女性国会议员，甚至比 1920 年通过的赋予所有美国女性投票权的第 19 条宪法修正案更早。兰金主张，为建立一个更完善的社会，女性所拥有的才能与专业是不可或缺的。她说：「男性和女性就如同左手与右手，不双手并用是说不通的。」

原先因丈夫过世而递补参议员席次的哈蒂·卡拉韦，在 1932 年正式当选参议员，成为第一位民选的女性参议员，代表的州为堪萨斯州。因为她很少公开演说，所以她有一个绰号叫「沉“沉默的哈蒂”。卡拉韦非常认真看待自己的工作，并建立起清廉的声誉。

代表缅因州的玛格丽特·蔡斯·史密斯是第一位同时担任过参众议员的女性，她首先进入众议院服务，后来又当选为参议员。在 1964 年的共和党党代表大会，史密斯成为第一位被考虑提名为总统候选人的女性，不过她后来败给了巴瑞·戈德华特。



A wide variety of voting devices is available in the United States, and the landscape of voting technologies is continuously changing. Today, there are very few places where voting takes place with handheld paper ballots marked with an "X" next to a candidate's name, as was done in the past, but many computerized systems still depend on paper ballots on which circles are

filled in or lines connected. These ballots are then scanned mechanically to have the votes recorded; the equipment is known as an optical scan system.

在美国有很多种投票工具，而且投票的科技也持续在进化。现今只有极少数的投票点仍像过去一样采取纸张选票、并在中意的候选人名字旁画 X。虽然很多地方已经有电脑化系统，但仍需依赖纸张选票来做圈选或连结，之后再机器扫描选票，以统计选票数目，这种设备叫做光学扫描系统。



John Zogby, founder of the "Zogby Poll" and the Zogby companies, is an internationally respected American pollster, opinion leader and best-selling author. His polling incorporates both phone-based polling and interactive, internet-based polling. John Zogby's Poll called the 1996 presidential election with pinpoint accuracy. And he did it again in the following two elections. His presidential polling remains among the most accurate through five elections. He has served as an on-air election analyst for NBC News, BBC, CBC, ABC (Australia), and has been featured by the Foreign Press Center in Washington every election night since 1998.

约翰·佐格比成立了国际性的佐格比民调公司，他是著名的美国民调专家、意见领袖、和畅销作家。他的调查方式包含了电话民调及网络互动式民调。佐格比正确预测了 1996 年的总统大选，而且他也成功预测了接下来的两次大选。佐格比民调在五次大选中都是最准确的预测之一。佐格比本人也是美国全国广播公司、英国广播公司、加拿大广播公司、和澳洲广播公司的大选分析师；自 1998 年起，每逢大选之夜他都会受邀到华府的外国记者中心。