

Name: _____ Date _____ Sec: _____

U.S. Constitution - Elections and Terms in Office

Directions: Use the Interactive Constitution web site, Project Vote Smart and Ben's Guide to U.S. Government web site to answer these questions.

1. Article I sets out how members of the House of Representatives and Senate are elected.

Who elects Members of the House of Representatives? _____

What are the qualifications for a Representative? _____

How long is a House member's term of service? _____

Who elects Members of the Senate? _____

What are the qualifications for a candidate of the Senate? _____

How long is a Senator's term of service? _____

2. Article II of the Constitution outlines how the President and Vice President are chosen. Summarize the original process.

Why was this process changed by the Twelfth Amendment? _____

3. Term limits - George Washington served two terms as President. He then retired. For over a century after that, each President followed his example. They served no more than two terms in office.

Which President broke with that custom? _____

Which amendment limits the number of years a President may serve as Chief Executive? _____

How many years can someone be President of the USA? _____

Do you agree with these limits? Why? _____

4. The most important right citizens have is the right to vote. Each state has the power to decide which citizens in the state can vote. The Constitution guarantees the right to vote to U.S. citizens who:

In the beginning, some states only permitted white male landowners over the age of 21 to vote. Write the numbers of the amendments of the Constitution that impacted the right to vote. For whom did each amendment guarantee enfranchisement?

5. The citizens of the United States of America do not directly elect the President or the Vice President. They are elected by the Electoral College. What is meant by the term Faithless Elector?

"The ballot is stronger than the bullet." Abraham Lincoln

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Food for thought:

What is meant by the election terms battleground or swing state?

Did you know? On July 2, 1776, New Jersey gave "all inhabitants" of adult age with a net worth of 50 pounds the right to vote. Women property holders had the vote until 1807, when the state limited the vote to "free, white males." When did women gain the right to vote in your community?

In some states, convicted felons are prohibited from voting. Can they vote in your state?

Should convicts be denied the right to vote? Why? _____

Essay

In the Presidential election you vote for Candidate A. In your state, Candidate B gets the majority of the votes. Your state's Electoral College members cast their votes for Candidate B. Critics of the Electoral College process argue that then your vote is changed to Candidate B. Some leaders support changing to a popular vote.

Do you support abolishing the Electoral College or keeping it?