

Module 8: Politics

Topic 2 Content: Nomination Process

Introduction



Glover Mint: Hello, America. Candidates for public office are selected through a variety of nominating methods. During this broadcast, Demi will discuss how political parties choose candidates for national, state, and local offices.

Module 8: Politics
Topic 2 Content: Nomination Process

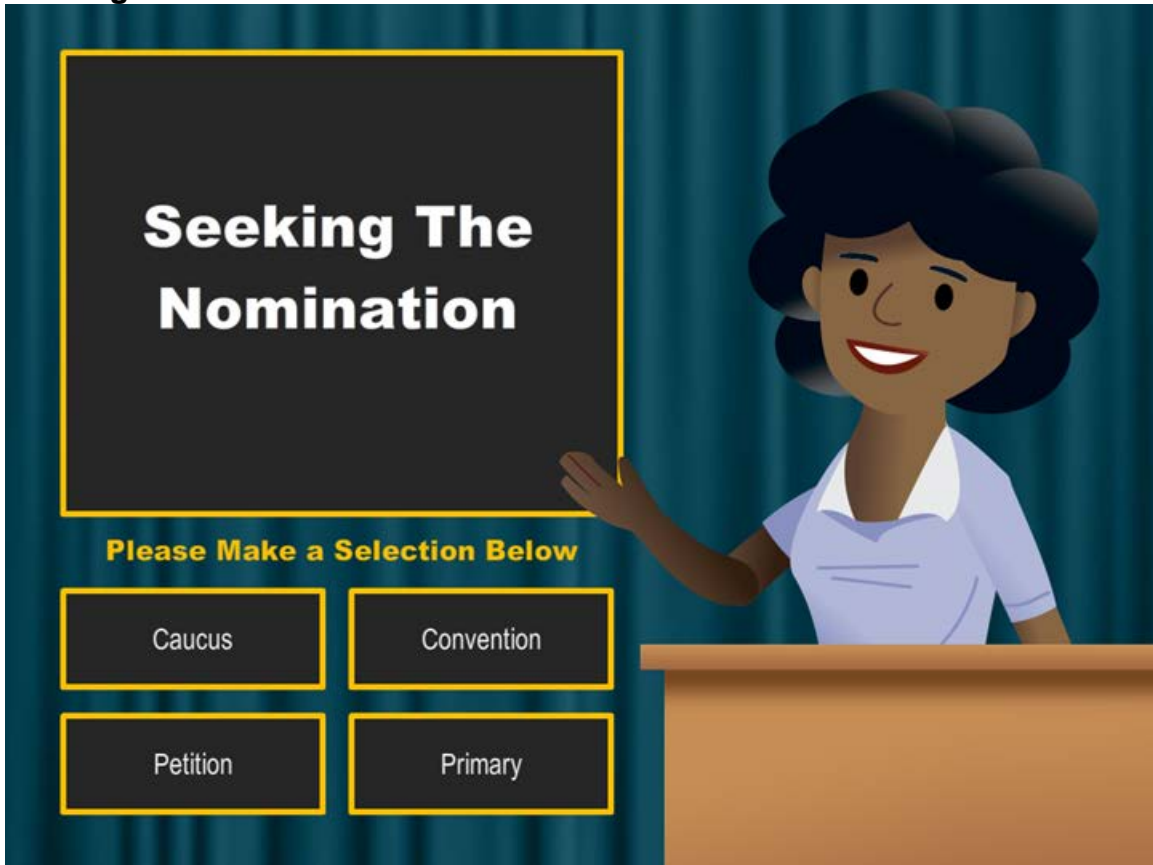
Selecting a Candidate



Demi Tracy: When it is time for a political party to select a candidate, one of the most important things to consider is whether or not the candidate actually has the potential to win the election. The Republican Party and the Democratic Party are both composed of many different factions and interest groups. Both parties work to maintain a commitment to the platform of the party, while also gaining support from the majority of voters. In order to directly influence public policy, Democrats and Republicans must win elections. There are different political strategies used to win elections. Victory may be achieved by appealing to moderate voters. Some candidates win elections by taking a strong conservative or liberal stance and mobilizing their traditional supporters.

Module 8: Politics
Topic 2 Content: Nomination Process

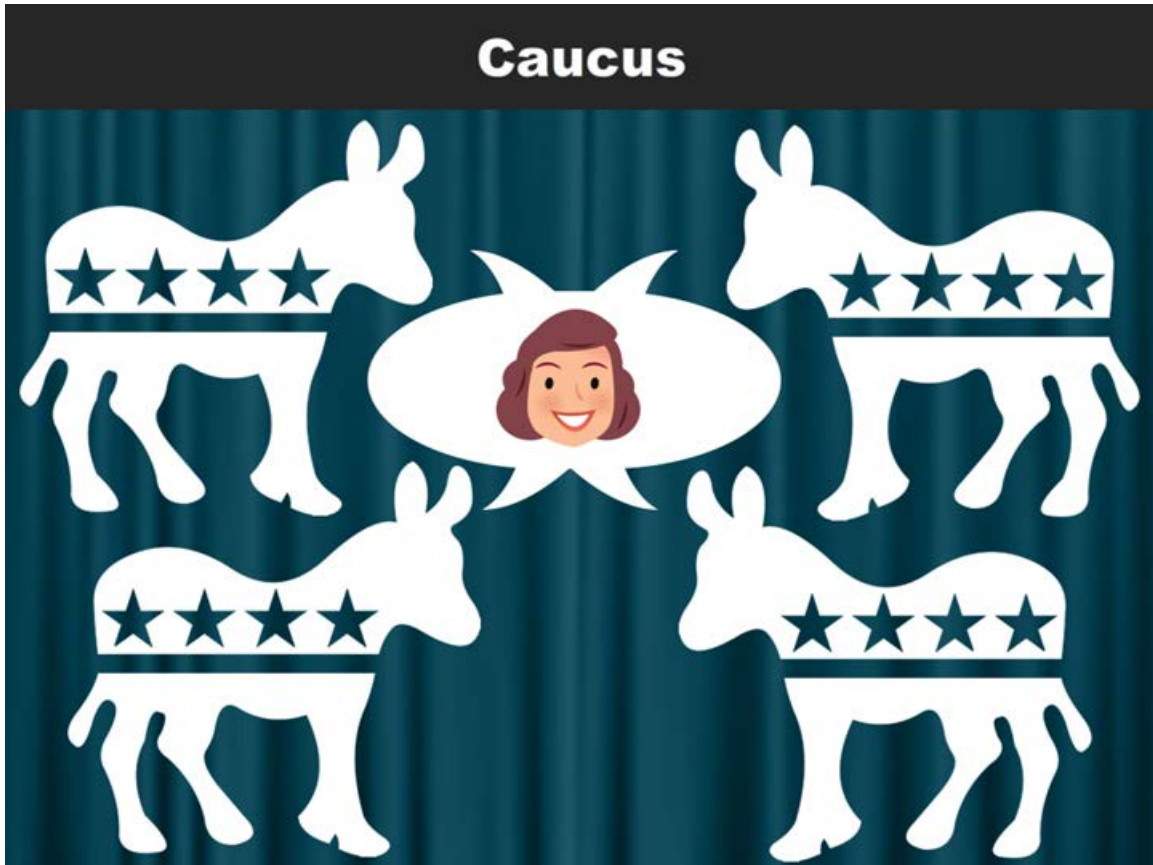
Seeking The Nomination



Demi Tracy: It is important to select a capable candidate who can effectively enact public policy and also win elections. After announcing their candidacies, people seeking the nomination for public office are selected through a caucus, a nominating convention, a petition, or a direct primary.

Module 8: Politics
Topic 2 Content: Nomination Process

Caucus



Demi Tracy: Some states choose candidates by caucus. A caucus is a meeting in which the members of a political party have a discussion and decide who will be the strongest candidate for the upcoming election. That individual is chosen as the party's representative.

Module 8: Politics
Topic 2 Content: Nomination Process

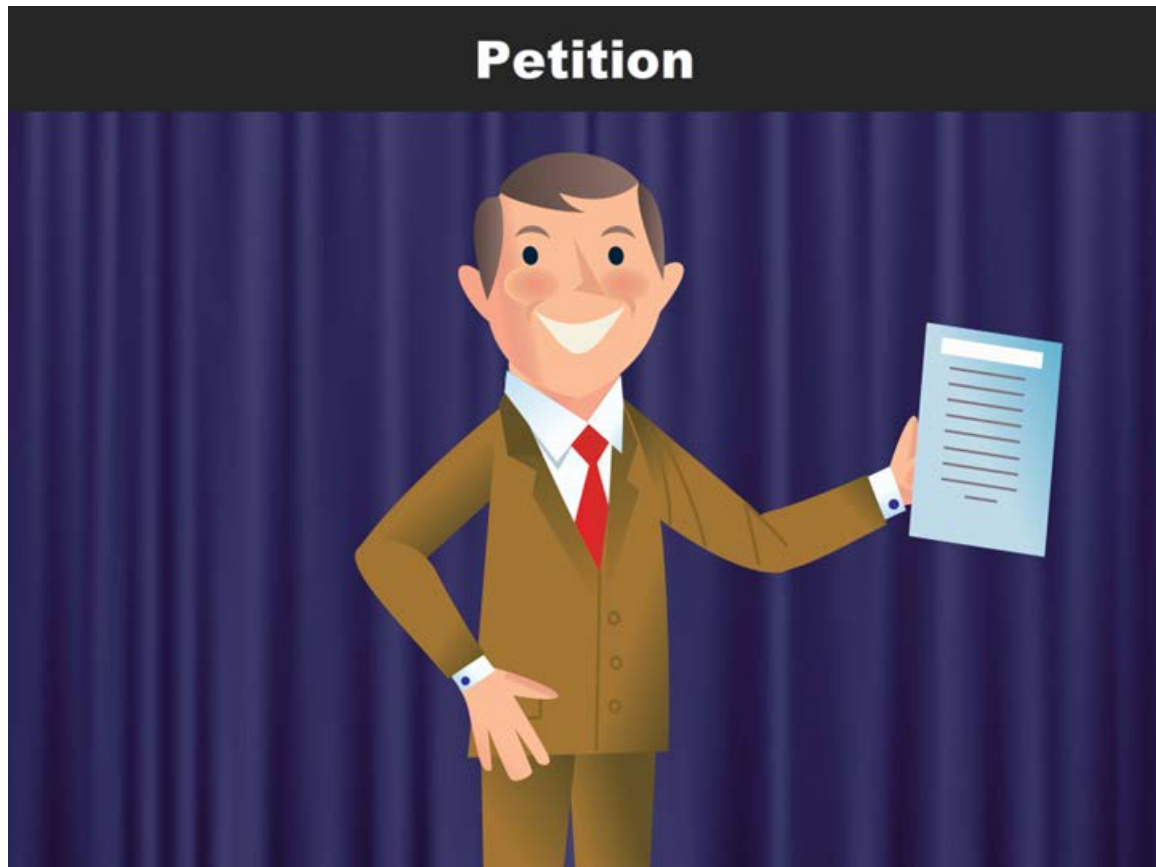
Convention



Demi Tracy: Conventions are basically pep rallies for the political party. Similar to a caucus, only members of the political party take part in voting at a convention, but unlike a caucus, a convention is open to the public. The Republicans and the Democrats use a national nominating convention where delegates select presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

Module 8: Politics
Topic 2 Content: Nomination Process

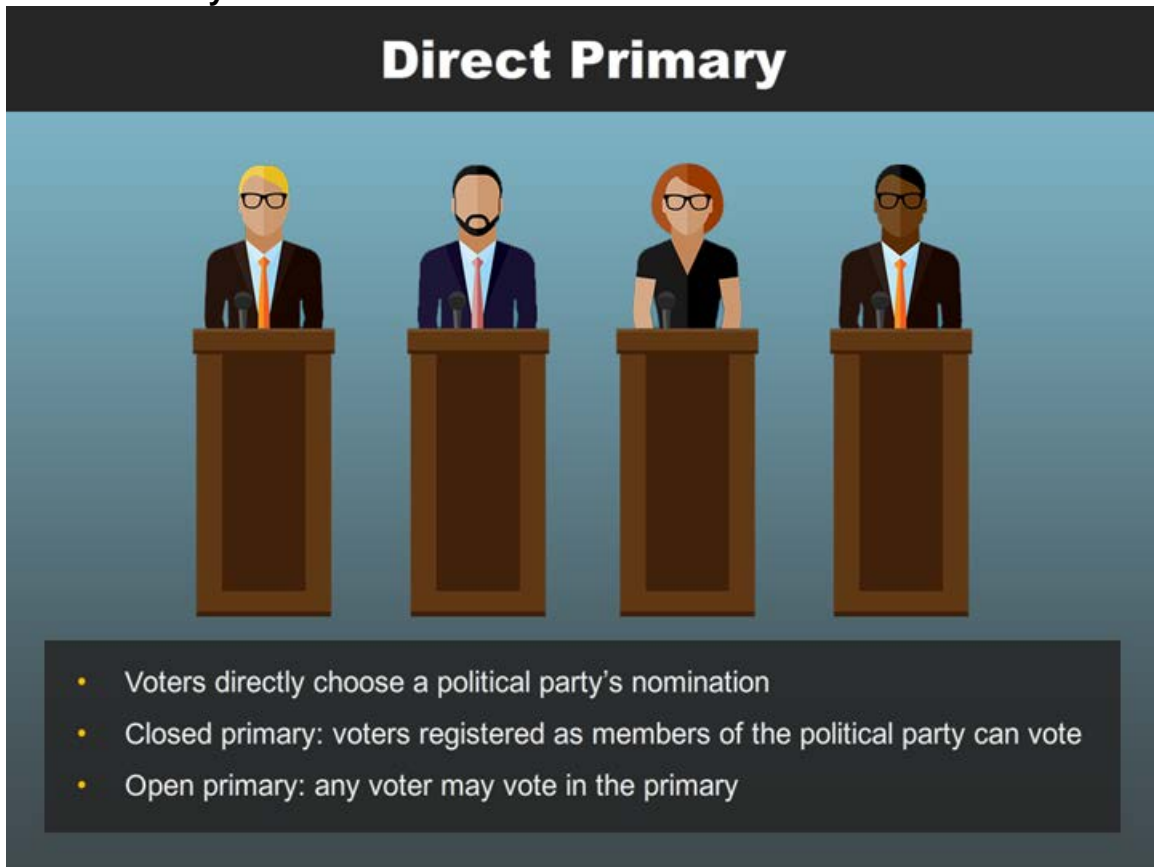
Petition



Demi Tracy: When a person announces his or her candidacy, it is usually with the intention of receiving the nomination from one of the major political parties. In order for an independent candidate to be placed on the ballot, a registration process must be completed. This typically involves paying a filing fee or getting a petition signed by a certain number of voters. Nomination by petition usually occurs in local elections.

Module 8: Politics
Topic 2 Content: Nomination Process

Direct Primary

A graphic titled "Direct Primary" showing four diverse individuals (two men and two women) standing at podiums with microphones. Below them is a list of bullet points explaining the process.

Direct Primary

- Voters directly choose a political party's nomination
- Closed primary: voters registered as members of the political party can vote
- Open primary: any voter may vote in the primary

Demi Tracy: Unless a popular incumbent is running for reelection, there will most likely be multiple members of a political party seeking the same office. When a political party's nomination is chosen directly by the voters, it is known as a direct primary. A primary may be open or closed. A closed primary means that only voters registered as members of the political party can vote in the primary. An open primary means that any voter may vote in the primary; however, if a person votes in the Republican primary, that voter will not be able to vote in the Democratic primary, and vice versa.

Module 8: Politics
Topic 2 Content: Nomination Process

Ending of Episode



Glover Mint: The procedure for selecting candidates at the national level is fairly standard. In Virginia, state and local party organizations decide which nomination process will be used to select candidates for public office. Seventeen-year-olds can register and vote in special elections or participate in the nominating process in Virginia, as long as their eighteenth birthday is on or before the general election. Thanks for watching!