

Election Vocabulary Definitions

Popular Vote:

The total number of votes cast by regular people in an election.

Electoral College:

A group of people chosen from each state who officially select the president based on the popular vote in each state.

Swing State:

A state where both major political parties have similar levels of support, making it hard to predict which party will win.

Incumbent:

The current holder of a political office, like the president who is running for re-election.

Polling:

Asking people who they plan to vote for to predict the outcome of an election.

Ballot:

The paper or electronic form that people use to mark their vote.

Voter Turnout:

The percentage of eligible voters who actually vote in an election.

Campaign:

The events and activities candidates do to convince people to vote for them.

Debate:

A public discussion between candidates where they talk about important issues and answer questions.

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Concession:

When a candidate admits they lost an election and congratulates the winner.

Running Mate:

A candidate's partner in an election, usually for the vice president position.

Primary:

An early election to choose a political party's main candidate for the general election.

Party:

A group of people with similar ideas about government and politics.

Platform:

The main ideas and policies that a political party or candidate supports.

Nominee:

The person chosen by a political party to run in the election.

Polls:

Places where people go to vote in an election.

Candidate:

A person who is running for an elected position, like president.

Policy:

A plan or course of action taken by a government.

Issues:

Important topics or problems that people talk about during an election, like healthcare or education.