

ELECTIONS A TO Z

Election Vocabulary A to Z

A	Absentee Ballot
B	Ballot Box
C	Chad
D	Delegate
E	Executive Branch
F	Federal Republic
G	Gerrymander
H	House of Representatives
I	Initiative
J	Judicial Branch
K	Key Management
L	Legislative Branch
M	Majority Vote
N	Nominee
O	Office-Block Ballot
P	Platform
Q	Quorum
R	Recall election
S	Senators
T	Term
U	Unofficial results, Unicameral Legislature
V	Voter Registration
W	Washington D.C.
X	eXit Polls
Y	Yellow Dog Democrat
Z	Zoning

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Election Vocabulary A to Z

Answer Key

A	Absentee Ballot – A special form voters use to vote in an election if they cannot get to their polling place.
B	Ballot Box – A receptacle for voters’ ballots.
C	Chad - A small piece of waste paper produced by punching a hole in punched card or tape.
D	Delegate - An individual who is elected to represent others.
E	Executive Branch - The branch of the United States government that is responsible for carrying out the laws.
F	Federal Republic - The powers of the national government are restricted and states retain a degree of self-government. Power rests with the voters who chose their governmental representatives.
G	Gerrymander – To divide a state or county into voting districts so that one political party has an unfair advantage.
H	House of Representatives - One of the two Houses of the US Congress
I	Initiative – A procedure in which constituents can introduce a matter to the public for voter approval.
J	Judicial Branch – Branch of Government that is the system of courts that interprets and applies the law in the name of the state.
K	Key Management - The management of “cryptographic keys” assigned to voting machines in efforts to eliminate voter fraud.
L	Legislative Branch – The branch of government having the power to create laws.
M	Majority Vote – Having the most votes or the highest percentage of the votes.
N	Nominee - A person who is proposed or formally entered as a candidate for an office.
O	Office Block Ballot - A ballot on which the candidates are listed alphabetically, with or without their party designations, in columns under the office for which they were nominated.
P	Platform – A public statement of the principles, objectives and policy of a political party.
Q	Quorum - The minimum number of members of a deliberative assembly, such as the legislature, necessary to conduct a vote of that group.
R	Recall election – An election by which voters can remove an elected official from office through a direct vote before the term has ended.
S	Senators – A member of the Senate. Works to create laws.
T	Term - The length of time a person serves in a particular office.
U	Unicameral Legislature – A legislature where there is only one set of representatives. Nebraska and Washington DC are examples of a Unicameral Legislature.
V	Voter Registration – The process of getting citizens signed up to vote in an election.
W	Ward - A district or division of a city or town, for purposes of administration, representation, voting, etc. A ward is further divided into precincts.
X	eXit Polls – A poll taken of voters as they leave the voting location.
Y	Yellow Dog Democrat - A loyal Democrat who votes along party lines without exception.

ELECTIONS A TO Z

Z	Zoning - Divide (a town or stretch of land) into areas subject to particular planning restrictions. Areas include Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Historic, and Agricultural/Rural.
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