

AFFIDAVIT OF REGISTRATION – Sworn, written evidence of voter eligibility

ANNEX – To bring property into city boundaries

APATHY – Lack of interest or concern

APPORTION – To divide seats in a legislative body among different geographic districts

BALLOT – Printed form or other item used in voting

BALLOT BOX – Container for cast votes

BOND – A written promise to pay someone a particular amount of money plus interest after a certain amount of time

BOND ELECTION – An election asking voters to give the government the right to borrow money by selling bonds

CAMPAIGN – Course of action designed to influence voters in an election

CANDIDATE – Person who seeks or is put forward by others for a political office

CAUCUS – Closed meeting of party members to determine nominations

CENSUS – Official count of the people of the United States required by the Congress every 10 years

CHARTER – The city's constitution wherein the form of government is contained

CITIZEN – Person who was born in or chooses to live in and become a member of a country

CITY COUNCIL – A city's governing body

CITY MANAGER – A person hired by the city council to administer the city's affairs

COMMISSIONER – A head of a department who shares with other commissioners power to make laws (ordinances)

CONGRESS – Legislative group consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT – A political subdivision for the purpose of electing U.S. representatives

CONSENSUS – A general agreement

CONSTITUENCY – All the voters of a particular district

CONVENTION – A formal meeting of members of a party to nominate candidates to run for president or other political offices

COUNTY – A major unit of local government

CROSSOVER VOTE – A vote by a member of one party for a candidate of another party

DELEGATE – A person given power or authority to vote for others; a representative

DEMOCRACY – Government that is run by the people who live under it

DEMOCRAT – A member of the Democratic party, one of the two major political parties

DICTATOR – Person who has complete authority

DICTATORSHIP – Form of government headed by a dictator

ECONOMY – The way a country produces, divides up and uses its money and goods

ELECT – To choose by voting

ELECTION CAMPAIGN – Series of operations designed to win votes for a certain candidate, party or proposal

ELECTORAL COLLEGE – A group of representatives chosen by voters to elect the president and the vice president of the United States

ELECTORATE – Those eligible to vote

ELECTORS – The individuals chosen by the voters to elect the president and vice president of the United States (each state's electors number the same as its senators and representatives)

FEDERAL – Of or describing a union of states having a central government

FELON – A person guilty of a crime more serious than a misdemeanor

FRANCHISE – The constitutional right to vote

GENERAL ELECTION – Statewide elections held so that registered voters can decide the state and national officials who will head the government

GERRYMANDERING – The drawing up of voting districts in unusual shapes in order to benefit a certain group

GOVERNMENT – The group of people in charge of ruling or managing a country, state, city or other place

GOVERNOR – The person elected to be head of the government of a state of the United States

GRANT-IN-AID – Federal money given to states or cities to pay for programs

GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION – The selection of a governor by a state’s voters

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES – The lower house of the Congress consisting of 435 members who each serve two-year terms (and can be re-elected)

INCUMBENT – A person currently holding office

INDEPENDENT VOTER – A voter who does not belong to a political party

INITIATIVE – A method of enacting laws or ordinances that begins with petitions by citizens

ISSUES – Problems and ideas to be talked about, questioned, decided upon and voted on

JUDICIAL ELECTION – An election for judges

MAJOR PARTY – The Democratic or Republican Party (see Third Party)

MAYOR – Elected official in a city who has executive power

MUNICIPALITY – A city, town or district

NEUTRAL POLLING – Method of polling through which neutral questions are asked rather than questions expressing and/or advocating a particular viewpoint

NOMINATE – To propose or offer the name of someone for political office

NOMINEE – The person that a political party names, or nominates, to represent it in a general election

NONPARTISAN – Not associated with a particular political party

NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS – Elections usually held at the state or local level: the candidate’s party membership is not given on the ballot

OFFICE – A political position

ORDINANCES – The laws of a city

PARTISAN – Associated with a particular political party

PARTY – An organization working to gain political power or control

PARTY BOSS – A leader with great power within a political party; a party leader capable of affecting voting and elections

PARTY PLATFORM – Statement of the principles or beliefs of a political group

PLANK – A stand on an issue by a political party; planks comprise a party platform

POLITICAL AFFILIATION – The party in which a voter is registered

POLITICAL CARTOON – A cartoon developed to represent a particular view through humor

POLITICAL PARTY – A group of people who join together because they share many ideas about what government should do

POLLSTER – Person or company that researches public opinion

POLL – To collect opinions about important issues or happenings

POLL TAX – Tax levied on potential voters wanting to vote

POLLING PLACE – Place where votes are cast

POLLS – A place where votes are cast

PRECINCT – Divisions within a city, town or county for voting purposes

PRECINCT CLERK – Precinct election board worker responsible for recording those who have voted in a booklet called a poll list and performing other duties as assigned by the precinct inspector

PRECINCT INSPECTOR – Precinct election board worker responsible for the complete operation of each polling place

PRECINCT JUDGE – Precinct election board worker responsible for the set up of voting devices, demonstrating the voting devices, issuing ballots and aiding disabled voters

PRECINCT WORKER – A person who works at a polling place

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION – An election to choose a president and vice president

PRIMARY ELECTION – Preliminary elections in which voters choose party candidates to run for office on their party ticket in general elections

PROPAGANDA – Ideas or information that a group of people deliberately spread to try to influence the thinking of other people

PUBLIC WORKS – Anything constructed by the government with public funds for the use or pleasure of the general public such as libraries, roads, public housing

PUBLIC UTILITY – A public or privately-owned organization that provides essential products or services such as light, water, and gas

RANDOM SAMPLE – A sample of research subjects which provides every person the same chance of being selected, such as selecting every fourth person from the telephone book

RATIFY – To formally approve the vote

RECALL – Petition process by which voters can remove an elected official from office in midterm

REDISTRICTING – The redrawing of boundaries of political districts often based on shifts in population

REGISTER – The process by which a persons' name is added to the list of eligible voters

REPUBLICAN – Member of the Republican political party, one of the two major political parties

RESIDENT – A person who lives in a specific jurisdiction

RESOLUTION – A statement or opinion by city government, such as declaring a public policy or recognizing an achievement

RETURNS – The results of a vote

SENATE – The upper house of the Congress, with two members from each state (100 members total) who each serve six-year terms

STATE ELECTION BOARD – Body charged with organizing and conducting state elections

SUFFRAGE – The right to vote

TALLY – To count votes

THIRD PARTY – A party organized as an alternative to the two major parties; also called a minor party (see Major Party)

VOTE – A method by which people choose their leaders and decide public issues

VOTING BOOTH – An enclosure designed to ensure privacy for voting

VOTING MACHINE – Mechanical device for recording and counting votes at an election

VOTING ROSTER – An alphabetical list of people eligible to vote

ZONING – A form of planning where government or councils decide the use of buildings or the activities than can occur in each area of the city