

# Election time in the US 2024



## FOREWORD

When the American people cast their votes in presidential elections, the whole world is watching – and for a very good reason. The outcome not only has a major impact on the United States, but on the world as well. Every fourth year, for more than 200 years, quite a few people have campaigned for the presidency. So far, 45 have succeeded. Each election has reflected what kind of situation the US has been in at the time – both when it comes to campaign messages and political themes.

Some of the most successful campaigns have managed to inspire voters by coining a message that captured the prevalent mood across the States. Think about how Franklin Roosevelt back in the middle of The Great Depression in 1932 promised people that “happy days are here again” and won, because people trusted him. Ronald Reagan’s 1984 campaign is another example. His message in a campaign video about how it was “morning again in America,” reflected the optimism and hope for the future among the American people to such a degree that Reagan ended up winning 49 out of 50 states.

I have covered more than a few US presidential elections over the years. Each time has been different and each time the outcome has had enormous impact on the political course of events in the US as well as the rest of the world. I hope that this book will not only be useful in terms of understanding the central elements of presidential campaigns, but that it will also be an inspiration to keep paying close attention to future US presidential elections.

**Anders Agner Pedersen**  
*Editor-in-chief, Kongressen.com*



### OM DENNE BOG:

*Election Year* klæder eleverne på til at forstå det amerikanske politiske system og valgmekanismerne og undersøger, hvordan aktuelle emner som the war on woke, SoMe og AI, immigration, abort og økonomi spiller en rolle i midtvejs- og præsidentvalget. Materialet er hovedsageligt korte forklarende teori-afsnit og non-fiction som fx taler, statistikker og kampagnevideoer.

This short, intermediate course will first give you a brush-up on how the American political system works. But that's only a short start!

Our focus will be on these 6 areas of study (all based on the book above); of which you – in 6 groups (figure out yourselves which groups) – will prepare a 15 min. teaching session (NOT A PRESENTATION!). The session will be completely decided and controlled by you; both in terms of contents and form. The only criteria you must meet, however, are:

- Take your point of departure in the concepts and/or figures given to you. See below.
- Involve your fellow students and expose them to as much as possible from the following: text, numbers, audio and video, games, tests, physical movement, role play, interviews etc.), In terms of testing, there will be a limit of max. 2 kahoots in all. YOU will have to figure out how to make sure this limit is upheld!

1. Chapter 2: **DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE**
2. Chapter 3: **SoMe, MEDIA AND AI – WHO CONTROLS THE PUBLIC DEBATE?**
3. Chapter 4: **A COUNTRY DIVIDED**
4. Chapter 5: **ABORTION PUSHING VOTES?**
5. Chapter 7: **IMMIGRATION**
6. Chapter 8: **IT'S THE ECONOMY, STUPID**

## CHAPTER 1: HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

The first three words of the American Constitution are “**We the People**” and in those words lies both the notion of a “united” America and the idea that America should be governed *by* the people and *for* the people. The early settlers from Europe left countries governed by nobility and royalty to build a nation based on the will of the people.

The Constitution and the Declaration of Independence became the foundation of American politics, and the documents form a common framework for American culture and identity. The Declaration of Independence (1776) declared America an independent country, free of the British Crown. The Constitution (1789) laid down the rules for political institutions, the distribution of power, and elections.

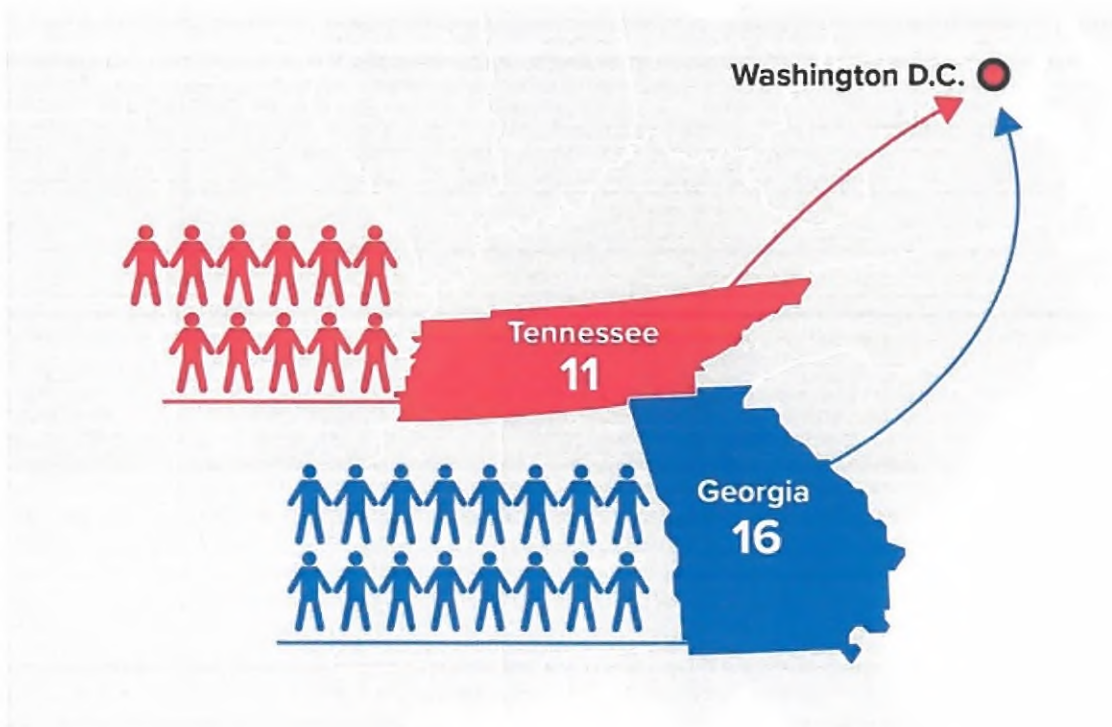
### 1.1. Political Institutions

There are three political institutions in the US: the President, the Supreme Court, and Congress, and the latter consists of two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. These three political institutions represent the separation of power. The President has the executive power, Congress has the legislative power, and the Supreme Court has the ultimate judicial power.

### 1.2. The President

The President of America has the executive power and is responsible for carrying out the laws passed in Congress.

To be elected President is an extensive process. The party chooses the candidates they think have the most voter potential, and they run against each other in the primary elections to become their party’s presidential candidate. The primaries and caucuses take place in the spring and summer before the presidential election. Ultimately, the presidential candidate is declared when one of the candidates has won sufficient primaries.



**Figure 1.1. Presidential Electors**

Note: The figure shows the number of electors from respectively Tennessee and Georgia. The number of electors is based on the size of the population in the state.

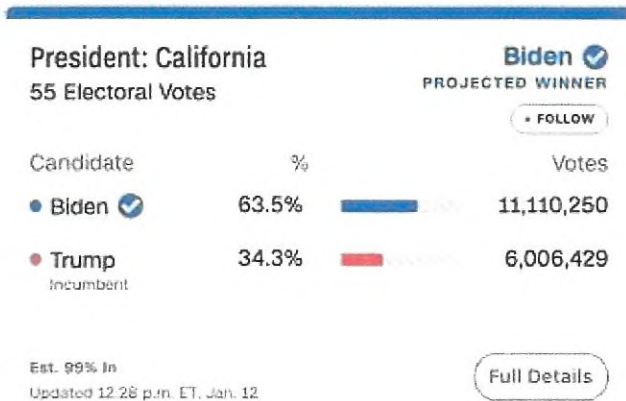


Figure 1.2. (Source: edition.cnn.com)

Note: In the 2020 election Biden got 63,5 % of the votes in California. Therefore he won all the 55 electoral votes from the state.

The two parties' candidates run against each other in the presidential election every fourth year on the first Tuesday in November. This is when the population votes for the candidate they want as the next President. On the ballot, voters mark the candidate of their choice, but in reality, they vote for a member of the Electoral College, who will give their mandate to the presidential candidate who won the popular vote of the state. A candidate wins all the electors from a given state if he/she receives the majority of the votes in the state, a principle called **"the winner takes it all"**. Electors or the Electoral College are objective officials whose job is to deliver the votes cast in a given state. It keeps the numbers simpler once the popular votes are cast. When one of the candidates has 270 electors, the new president has been found.

There are a total of 538 electors which the 50 states and Washington D.C. share in a way that reflects how big the states are populationwise: A state has the same number of electors as members in its congressional delegation – one for each member in the House of Representatives plus two senators.



Figure 1.3.

(Source: edition.cnn.com)

Note: In the presidential election 2020 Joe Biden won 306 electoral votes and Donald Trump won 232. In order to win the election the candidate must get 270 electoral votes.

### 1.3. Congress

Congress is comprised of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, and together they create and pass laws, which means they hold the legislative power.

**The House of Representatives** has 435 members, who are elected in their home states. A state's number of representatives is allotted based on the size of the population of the state. This means that Florida has 30 representatives and Alaska only 1. All members of the House of Representatives are up for election every two years.



Figure 1.4. (Source: edition.cnn.com)

Note: Cornyn, red, is Republican, and Hegar, blue, is Democrat.

The states are made up of districts, and a candidate for the House of Representatives runs in such a district. Whoever gets the majority of votes in a district wins a seat in the House. Members of the House from a given state can be from both parties. For example, the representatives from Ohio are 5 Democrats and 10 Republicans.

In **the Senate** there are 100 senators, 2 from each state, and they have their seat for 6 years. The system is organized so that  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the senators are up for election every 2 years – either at a midterm or a presidential election. Only one of the two senators from each state is up for election every 6 years. The senator up for election is the one who has been in the Senate for one full term, which means that some years there are no senators up for election.

The two senators from each state can either represent the same party or two different parties. When they are up for election, they always run against someone from the other party, and they must win more than 50 % of the popular vote to be declared the winner.

#### 1.4. The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court holds the judicial power. When a law is passed in Congress, it must follow the intent of the Constitution. This is ultimately decided by the Supreme Court. Most laws are passed and function without being presented to the Supreme Court. However, some laws are considered controversial for various reasons, and then the Supreme Court will evaluate the law.

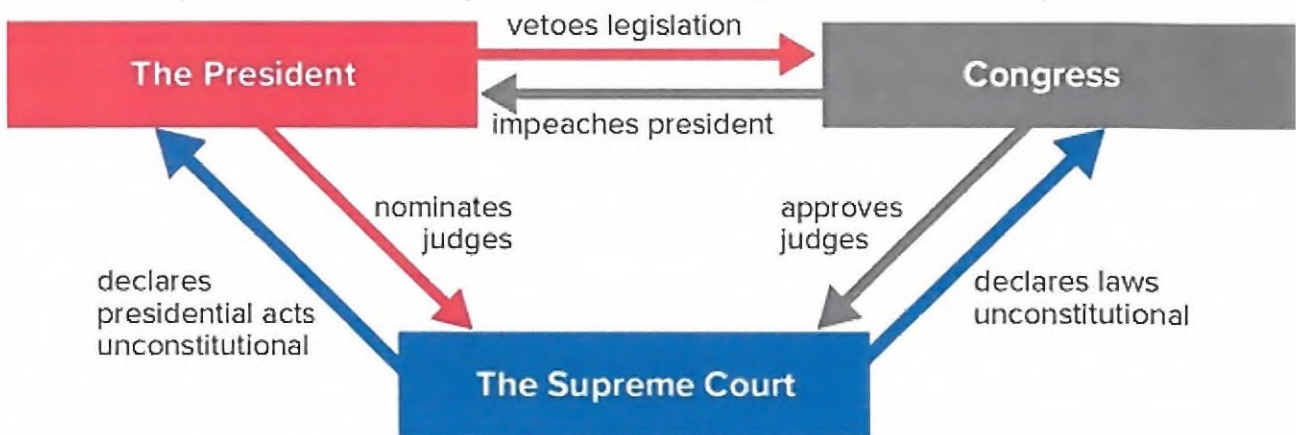
There are nine Supreme Court Judges. The President appoints judges for the Supreme Court when a seat is available either when a judge steps down or passes away. When the President has nominated a judge, there is a senate hearing where the nominee will have to answer questions and make his/her opinions on various issues known. After this, the judge will be approved if he/she can gain support from a majority in the Senate.

The nomination hearings in the Senate can be very controversial. As an example, in 2018 Trump nominated Brett Kavanaugh for Supreme Court Judge, and during the hearings, accusations of sexual assaults committed by Kavanaugh when he was young were brought forth. It caused a great stir and debate, but he was still approved by a narrow majority.

#### 1.5. Checks and Balances

The term **checks and balances** is an expression of how Congress, the President, and the Supreme Court respectively have the opportunity to limit each other's power. They can all keep each other in check so none of the institutions have too much power. Americans are skeptical towards too powerful a state as they believe that the individual is strong, rational, and capable of taking the best care of his or her own life. This means that the role of the state should be limited.

In Congress bills are passed by a simple majority in both chambers (the Senate and the House of Representatives). The President then either approves and signs the bill into law or **veto**s the bill. If the President vetoes a bill, it is sent back to Congress which must then approve the bill by a majority of 2/3 in both chambers if it is to be passed. Congress can thereby overrule the veto of the President with a so-called **super-majority**. As an example of this, Trump vetoed the emergency financing to fight Covid in 2020 as he did not approve of the bill. Congress, however, overruled his veto and the bill was passed. When a law is passed in Congress and approved by the President, it is still up to the Supreme Court to finally guarantee that it is not unconstitutional. All three political institutions therefore play a role in the passing of a bill, and they balance each other so one single institution does not gain too much power. The institutions also keep each other in check with regard to good behavior. Congress can file an impeachment case against the President, and the Supreme Court can declare the acts of the President “unpresidential” if he or she acts against the Constitution. Congress also controls the budget, and the President cannot spend any money without approval from Congress.



**Figure 1.5. Checks and Balances**

However, the three institutions of power are also tied together to a degree which often makes it difficult to do politics in America. Apart from the so-called checks and balances, it is also often the case that Democrats and Republicans hold the majority in Congress and the House of Representatives respectively. This means it can be difficult to pass laws since laws have to be passed in both chambers. It is called **gridlock** when the political majorities in the two chambers complicate the decision-making, or when the President represents another party than the one which holds the majority in Congress.

### 1.6. Elections in America

In the United States there is an election every 2 years – either a **midterm election** or a **presidential election**. The word “midterm” indicates that it is an election held when the President is midway through her or his term. At midterm elections, 1/3 of the **senators** and all members of the House of Representatives are up for election.

The politicians in the House of Representatives are therefore almost constantly running an election campaign. Hence, they pay close attention to what is going on in their local district where they hope to be re-elected. Contrary to the House, the Senate runs at a steadier pace, as the senators are there for a period of 6 years. These politicians tend to focus more on long term challenges and solutions for the entire country.

The vote for the Presidency is every 4 years. A president can only be re-elected once, thus serving as president for a maximum of 8 years.

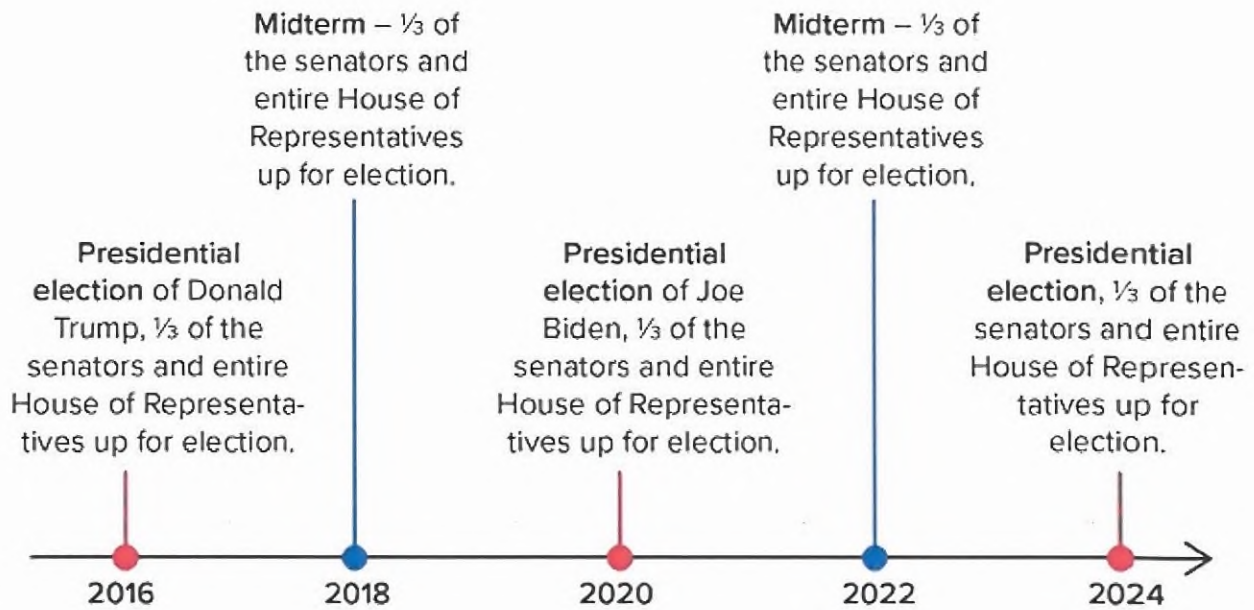


Figure 1.6. Election in the US

### 1.7. The Two-party System and Swing States

In American politics there are really only two parties – the Republican and the Democratic Party. Other parties sometimes try to run, but because of the **winner takes it all** principle it is virtually impossible for other parties to win an election. This means that the two major parties have a broad political span, and they both have politicians who place themselves at different ends of the political spectrum within their party. Thus, the Republican Party has both a very right-wing, conservative group called the Freedom Caucus as well as a more moderate group. The same goes for the Democratic Party that holds both very left-wing politicians like Bernie Sanders and more moderate Democrats like Barack Obama and Texan Beto O'Rourke.

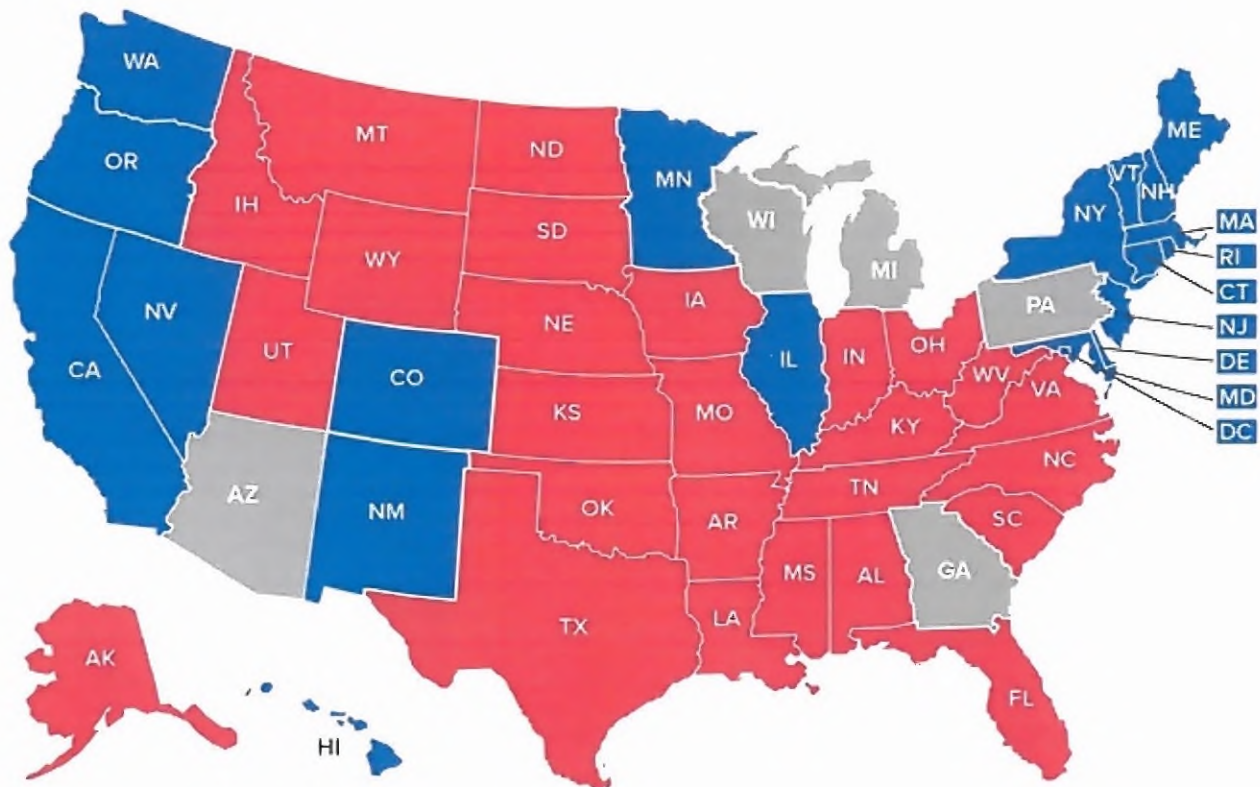


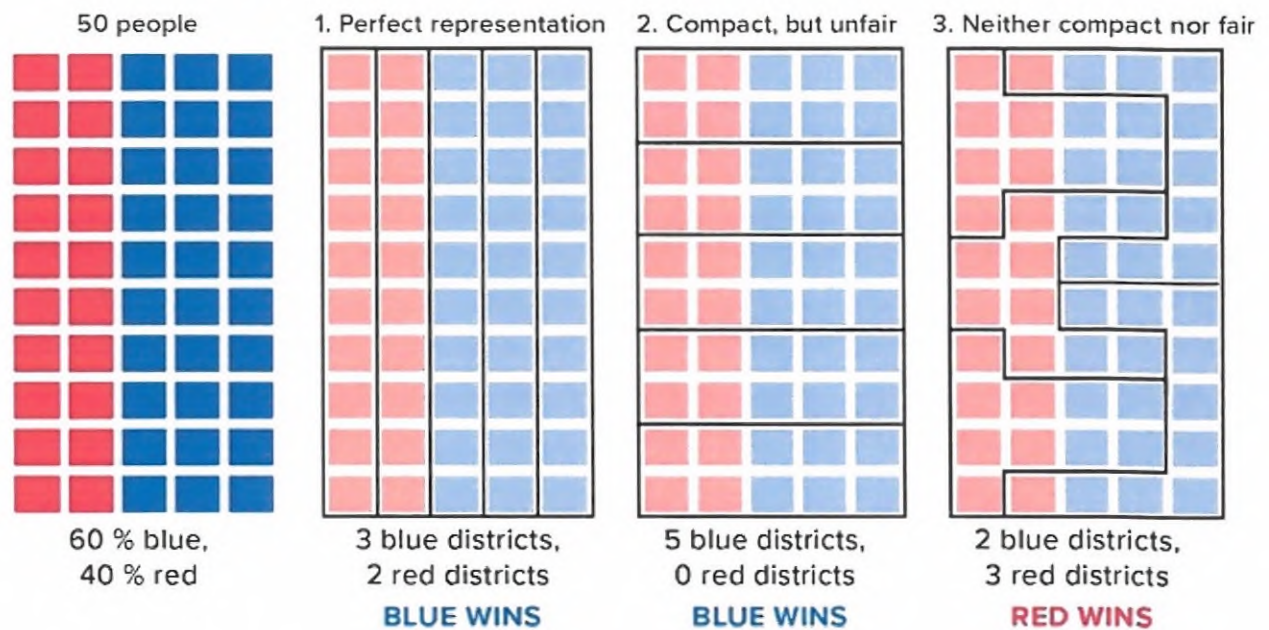
Figure 1.7. Red States, Blue States and Swing States in the Presidential Election 2020

Apart from maintaining a two-party system, “the winner takes it all” mechanism also influences the way campaigns are run in America. Some voters are steadfast red (Republican) or blue (Democratic), which means that a state may be considered **secured** before the election. It is less important to campaign hard in the secure states. Voters in other states are not as fixed in their political standpoint. In consecutive elections, these states change from red to blue and back again, and so they are often called **battle grounds** or **swing states**. These states are especially relevant when it comes to campaigning. Presidential candidates are known to visit swing states such as New Hampshire more often, and the population in these states is subjected to an unbelievable amount of TV commercials with political messages. Political issues and voters in swing states therefore tend to get more attention than those in the secured states.

### 1.8. Gerrymandering

On the face of it, election for Congress appears to be a just and very democratic system. Every state is divided into electoral districts which hold a number of voters. These districts can vary demographically: Some electoral districts are dominated by Afro-Americans, for example, while some are primarily white districts. In some states the electoral districts are managed by objective state officials, but in other states party officials decide how to form the districts.

**Note: Three different ways to divide 50 people into five districts.**



**Figure 1.8. Gerrymandering**

Source: Washington Post by Christopher Ingraham, March 2015.

Historically, this has enabled both parties to create electoral districts in their own favor. For example, if a state has a large Afro-American population, who traditionally have voted Democratic since the 1930s, these could be gathered in only one district, meaning they would vote for only one seat in the House. Meanwhile, six minor districts with a small white majority, who traditionally vote Republican, would gain one seat each. This is called gerrymandering and means that some states would send more Republican representatives than Democratic representatives to the House even though there were more Democratic voters than Republican within the state.

Today, it seems that gerrymandering is carried out by both parties in roughly equal measure. However, in cases brought to the Supreme Court Alabama and South Carolina have been found guilty of violating the Voting Rights Act. 25 % of the population in Alabama are Afro-American, but the state had a map of districts drawn up which resulted in only one so-called **majority Black seat** with 55 % of the population in

that district being Afro-Americans. The other six districts were drawn up to secure a white majority of voters.

### 1.9. Parties and Voters

There are two major parties in American politics: The Republican Party, also known as the Grand Old Party (GOP), and the Democratic Party, who are also known as liberals or progressives. The voter base and political line of the parties have changed over time, and historically different issues have set the tone for the parties.

Today the Republican Party is the most right-wing and conservative party, as opposed to the Democratic Party which is left-wing and liberal in the American sense. In America the word “liberal” is used to describe Democrats who believe in public welfare, an equal tax system, government involvement in civil rights, and equal opportunities. The Republicans, on the other hand, are more conservative, meaning that they want limited state interference and low taxes.

However, both parties strongly believe in liberal ideology in the sense that the freedom of the individual is central. Social or social democratic parties have never gained any ground in American politics.

Republican and Democratic politics differ greatly when it comes to politics based on core values. Republican politics is largely based on conservative Christian values, and Republicans value tradition and family highly. These conservative values are evident in the Republicans’ skeptical views on abortion and homosexuality.

Democrats also value the rights of the individual highly but they view the state more positively and believe the state should secure better rights when it comes to education and welfare for all. Therefore, Democrats are generally not as skeptical towards tax increases and higher taxation of the wealthiest people. Democrats also aim to secure gender equality and equal treatment of ethnic minorities, and they believe that more should be done to avoid structural inequalities. On the question of abortion, Democrats value women’s right to autonomy over their own body and thus legal right to abortion.

### 1.10. Voters of Each Party

Today there is widespread distrust in the political system and its politicians. The population has little faith in political institutions and parties as the solution to the country’s problems. Also, voters increasingly tend to view political issues and how to handle them differently. The polarization between Americans is evident when characterizing a typical Republican as well as a typical Democrat.

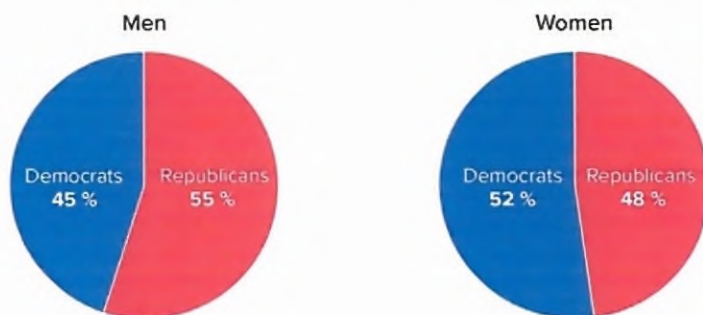


Figure 1.9. Gender and Choice of Party. 2022

Source: Pew Research Center.

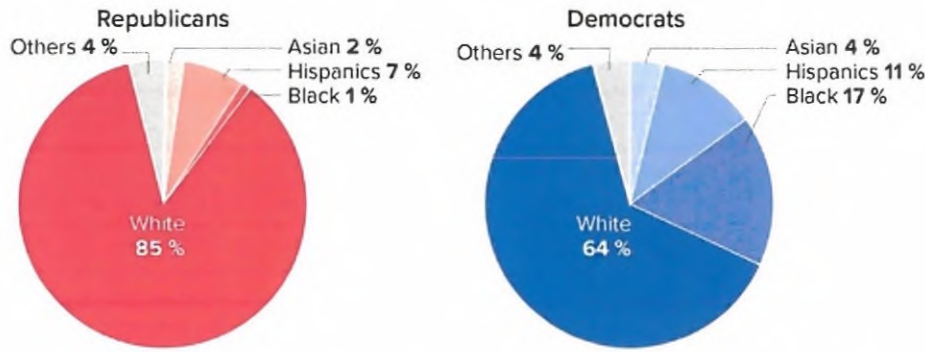


Figure 1.10. Race and Choice of Party. 2022 (Source: Pew Research Center.)

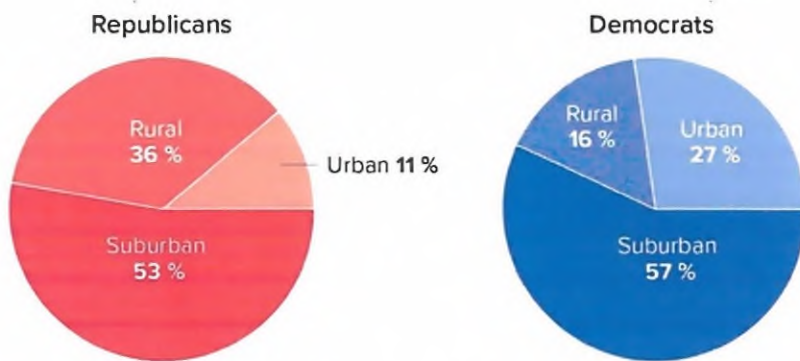


Figure 1.11. Where You Live and Choice of Party. 2022 (Source: Pew Research Center.)

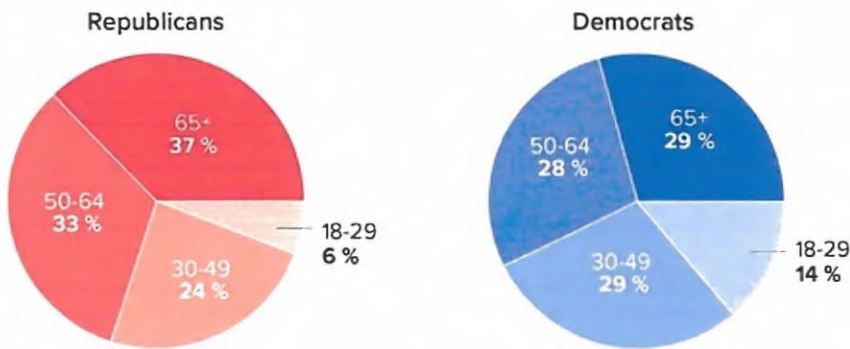


Figure 1.12. Age and Choice of Party. 2022 (Source: Pew Research Center.)

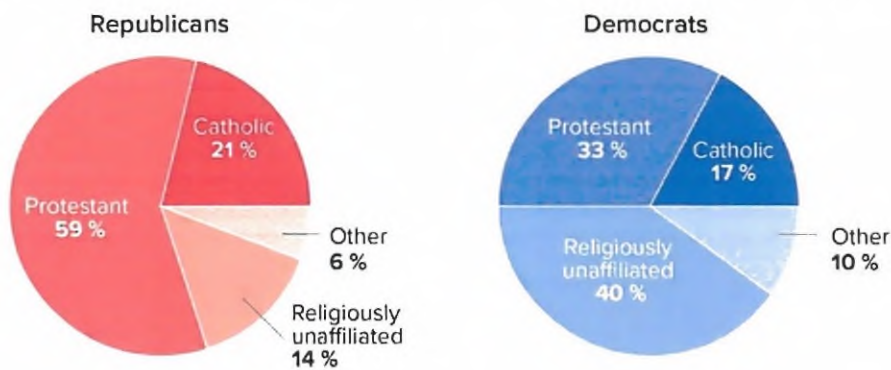


Figure 1.13. Religion and Choice of Party. 2022 (Source: Pew Research Center.)

A clear pattern emerges from the figures above. Republican voters tend to live in the countryside. They are typically white males who are older and more religious than the Democratic voters. Typical Democratic voters, on the other hand, tend to live in the big cities. A lot of these voters are fairly young, not very religious, and they are colored and/or women.

### **1.11. Trust in Government**

Only 20 % of the population in America trusts that the government is doing its utmost for the nation. This trust has been dwindling since the 1960s when 80 % of the population had faith in the government. So the explanation for the low level of trust cannot only be found in the history and ideology of the nation.

According to the Pew Research Center, Americans today find the following to be true:

- both Republican and Democratic politicians are more eager to fight each other than to solve the nation's problems
- the cost of running as a candidate is so high that no ordinary people can do it
- that lobbyists and other special interest groups have too much power in American politics.

People point out that polarization, greed, and dishonest politicians are problematic for political life in general, and many voters do not feel represented by the candidates they can vote for. Both Democratic and Republican voters agree that these are central problems. That citizens believe that greed among politicians is a problem may be put down to the fact that extreme amounts of money are needed to get elected in American politics.

In order to be elected to Congress or the White House it is absolutely necessary to get enormous financial support from the wealthiest people in America. This financial support for the candidates is arranged through what is called **Super Pacs**. A Super Pac (Political Action Committee) is a committee through which wealthy businessmen and others can donate money to a candidate anonymously. There is no transparency or political control over who donates to whom.

Because it is so expensive to run a political campaign in America, the population has little to no faith in the honesty of the politicians. The basic idea is that when the candidate receives money in the form of donations, they owe the donor something, and this will influence their political decisions. This is yet another explanation for the distrust in the political system in the US.

### **1.12. Does the System Work?**

A lot points to the fact that the American system is challenged these days. Trust in the political system, its institutions, and politicians is at a historic low. The population is divided in their political views, and they find it increasingly difficult to agree on anything other than the fact that political collaborations are not working. Due to the division within American society and the electoral system losing its democratic validity Americans are beginning to lose faith in their system.

## Chapter 2: **DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

American democracy is under immense pressure these days, and some people even talk about their fear of a civil war in the US. The Americans have always prided themselves on their right to democracy, and many believe this to be the very foundation of American identity. American democracy has, however, also always been under development and, over time, various groups within American society have had to fight hard to obtain democratic rights.

The North and the South fought a bloody civil war from 1861 to 1865 which was primarily about slavery. The Civil War led to the freedom of Black enslaved Americans, and slavery was abolished with the 13th amendment to the Constitution in 1865. From the middle of the 19th century, the women's suffrage movement fought for American women's right to vote, and in 1920, the 19th amendment to the Constitution secured women the right to vote. In the 1950s-60s, Black Americans in the Civil Rights Movement fought for equal rights for all, regardless of race. The result was the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, which outlawed discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, or national origin. In 1965, the Voting Rights Act was passed to ensure that no one, regardless of race, was denied their right to vote. The fight for formal, equal, and democratic rights for all Americans has therefore been an ongoing struggle.

America has been and is in a continuous process of attaining the best possible form of democracy for all. Today, the country faces numerous new challenges which put democracy under pressure.

### **KEYWORDS:**

**The Attack on Congress and American Democracy**

**The Public's Reaction to the 2020 Election and Attack on Congress**

**Voter Registration and Integrity Laws**

**The Impact of Trump Rhetorics**

If relevant: **President Trump's Speech at the January 6th Ellipse Rally and / or Remarks by President Biden on Standing up for Democracy**

## Chapter 3: SoMe, MEDIA AND AI – WHO CONTROLS THE PUBLIC DEBATE?

### INTRODUCTION:

The election of Donald Trump as President in 2016 brought with it an unparalleled focus on the use of social media in American politics. Trump's victory may partly be attributed to the use of collecting data from users of social media, which made it possible for him and his campaign to target commercials and posts on social media such as Twitter (now X), YouTube, and last, but not least, Facebook. After the attack on Congress, Trump was excluded from Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Trump was deplatformed from Twitter because the corporation Meta was afraid that Trump would use the platform to incite violence. Subsequently, Trump created his own media called Truth Social where he can reach his supporters and get his messages out to the public.

Targeted use of social media has become the norm for all political parties and candidates. Today, no politician can win an election without a SoMe strategy. We have yet to see and understand the full extent of the influence that social media has on American politics and its democracy, and it is a sphere that is developing at the speed of light. The ability to control the course of the news and attract attention on SoMe is decisive if you want to win elections in American politics today.

All politicians are active on social media but, according to the Pew Research Center, out of all the presidential candidates, Trump was mentioned most on Twitter in 2020 and 2021, way ahead of President Joe Biden.

Another study from Pew shows that "Trump" was the word Democratic politicians used most in 2020 when posting online: The name occurred more than 33,000 times. Contrary to this, the word "Biden" was not in the top 10 list of words used most often by Republican politicians in 2020. This shows how skilled Trump and his campaign staff are at creating activity and reactions – in other words, attention – on social media.

The Democratic strategy has been to use influencers on YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok in their campaigns. They all focus on left-wing topics such as pro-choice, immigration, and climate and encourage people to vote.

### KEYWORDS:

**The Impact of Algorithms on Political Public Opinion**

**Polarization and Trust**

**AI and Deep Fakes**

**Traditional News Media**

**Memes**

**The Taylor Swift Effect**

**The Power of TV Ads**

## Chapter 4: A COUNTRY DIVIDED

### INTRODUCTION:

America is built on the belief that hard work and personal responsibility lead to a better future for yourself and your country, and that by doing your utmost you will always have the opportunity to create a good life for you and your family. However, the dream of a better future is under massive pressure these days.

### KEYWORDS:

**A Belief in Future Prospects**

**Blue-collar Workers Losing their Jobs**

**Where Poverty Has Hit Hard**

**Cultural Divides**

If relevant:

**Remarks by President Biden at United Auto Workers Picket Line**

**Rich Men North of Richmond by Oliver Anthony**

## Chapter 5: **ABORTION PUSHING VOTES?**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The abortion issue has always divided American voters and political parties, and it is currently high on the political agenda. Supporters of the right to abortion are called pro-choice. They argue that women should have the right to choose whether they will go through with a pregnancy and have the right to decide over their own lives. Opponents of abortion are called pro-life and their argument against free abortion is that they support the right to life no matter which stage of life. Republicans, of whom many are conservative and religious, are often pro-life and opponents of abortion, while Democrats are to a much higher degree pro-choice and supporters of women's right to abortion.

### **KEYWORDS:**

**The Abortion Issue in Elections**

**Abortion and the 2022 Midterm Election**

If relevant:

**Nikki Haley's Policy Speech on Abortion Rights**

**Remarks by President Biden on Protecting Access to Reproductive Health Care Services**

**Congresswoman Elise Stefanik's Speech on Leading for Life in America**

**Valedictorian Paxton Smith Abortion Rights Speech**

**Remarks by Vice President Harris to Kick Off Nationwide "Fight for Reproductive Freedoms" rally**

## Chapter 7: IMMIGRATION

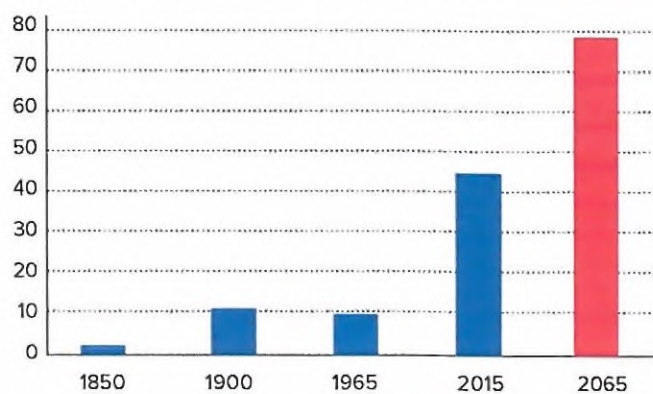
### INTRODUCTION:

Throughout history, America has taken in millions of immigrants, and it would be fair to say that immigration is a vital part of America's DNA. Historically, America's immigrants have come from all over the world. People have migrated to America in the hope of better opportunities after having been pushed out of their home countries because of persecution, oppression, or poverty. To many, America has been a beacon of hope regarding values like liberty, equality, and the opportunity to pursue happiness through hard work. Thus, the American Dream has been a pull-factor for many immigrants.

This is the reason why many today refer to America as a melting-pot where different cultures melt together to form a new culture consisting of both old and new "ingredients". However, to many people, the idea of a melting-pot is a myth, and in large parts of America, the population is divided by their original cultural heritage. Therefore, it makes more sense to talk about a salad bowl where people live within the same framework (consisting of the American Constitution and the Declaration of Independence) but in different ways, each cultivating their own culture and norms. That is why people also talk about hyphenated Americans, e.g. Afro-Americans, Mexican-Americans, Asian-Americans, etc. It is therefore in no way a new phenomenon that America consists of many different cultures and ethnicities. Today more than 40 million people living in the US were born outside the country, which equates to around 14 % of the entire population.

Figure 7.1. US Foreign-born Population from 1850 to 2015 Measured in Millions and Future Predictions for Numbers up to 2065. Source: Data collected by Pew Research Center.

Immigration has been more or less welcomed in different periods of American history but there has always been a tendency to not consider the latest arrivals as true Americans. Despite the fact that America is made up of immigrants from around the world, there is widespread skepticism towards further immigration. Most Americans want stricter control at the border between Texas and Mexico where many people cross the border illegally.



When it comes to the reception of and the views on immigrants, it is important to distinguish between legal and unauthorized immigrants. Legal immigration is when foreign citizens are allowed to settle in America by getting a so-called Green Card. Unlike legal immigrants, unauthorized immigrants cross the American border without a visa and/or stay in the country for longer than their visas allow them to. Today, unauthorized immigrants are primarily from South and Central America and the massive pressure on the southern border is expected to continue.

Immigration policies can bring victory or cost defeat in American politics. The topic has always been a subject for debate, and at the moment it is on the political agenda because of the massive strain on the southern borders to Mexico. According to the US Border Patrol, the number of unauthorized migrants who crossed the border between Mexico and the US in 2023 reached 2.5 million people. The largest concentrations of unauthorized immigrants are seen in states like Florida, Texas, California, and New York where many immigrants come to the big cities to look for work.

### KEYWORDS:

American Views on Immigration

The Wall

Children in Cages

If relevant: **Remarks by President Biden on Border Security and Enforcement + Former President Donald Trump's speech on how to secure the American borders**

**Chapter 8: IT'S THE ECONOMY, STUPID**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The title of this chapter refers to a slogan used by the Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton in 1992 when the economy was one of the main topics in the election campaign against George H.W. Bush. However, the title of this chapter also refers to the fact that the economy always plays an important role in the American election campaign, and so you would be stupid to ignore it.

**KEYWORDS:**

**How the American People View the Economy**

**Inequality in the US**

**Minimum Wage**

**Taxes**

**Bidenomics**

**Food Insecurity**

**Budgets**

If relevant: **"Inequality for All" (documentary)**