**Civics and Economics: Unit 3 Politics and Elections**

**Vocabulary to Know:**

* absentee ballot
* ballot
* Bipartisan
* Caucus
* closed primary
* Democrats
* direct primary
* electorate
* exit poll
* interest groups
* lobbyist
* majority
* multi-party system
* nonpartisan
* one-party system
* open primary
* plank
* platform
* plurality
* political action committee (PAC)
* political machine
* political party
* precinct
* propaganda
* public opinion
* referendum
* Republicans
* returns
* third party
* two-party system

**Civics Today: Chapters 9, 10, and 11**

**Primary Sources: Washington’s Farewell Address,**

1. **Describe America’s two party system, and be sure to identify the current parties and their beliefs. (Could include: history of the two party system, emergence of the current parties)**
2. **Explain how (laws and) elections are influenced by each of the following: political parties, interest groups, lobbyists, the media, and public opinion.**
3. **Evaluate the expansion of voting rights in America, using the Constitution, applicable laws, and the qualifications and procedures to voting. Be sure to include ways that voting right can be restricted in America.**
4. **Explain the process of being elected to public office in America.**
5. **How are the American people empowered to pass their own laws through elections, bypassing the traditional Constitutional method of using the three branches of government??**
6. **Compare America’s political party system to systems found in other democracies around the world, explaining the advantages and disadvantages of American democracy to other systems**

**NC Essential Standards:**

CE.C&G.2.8 Analyze America’s two-party system in terms of the political and economic views that led to its emergence and the role that political parties play in American politics (e.g., Democrat, Republican, promotion of civic responsibility, Federalists, Anti-Federalists, Influence of third parties, precincts, “the political spectrum”, straight ticket, canvass, planks, platforms, etc.

CE.C&G.5.1 Analyze the election process at the national, state and local levels in terms of the checks and balances provided by qualifications and procedures for voting (e.g., civic participation, public hearings, forums, at large voting, petition, local initiatives, local referendums, voting amendments, types of elections, etc.

**By the end of this unit, Students will Know:**

* The history, development and characteristics of the two-party system. (2.8)
* The dominant political parties and platforms in the United States and their distinguishing characteristics, as well as how these parties and platform may have changed over time. (2.8)
* How the dominant political parties in the United States attempt to balance the competing interests of their members. (2.8)
* Advantages and disadvantages of a two-party system. (2.8)
* How political parties allow citizens to participate in government. (2.8)
* The definition and importance of civic responsibility to a political system. (2.8)
* Alternative parties bring up new ideas or press for action on certain issues. (2.8)
* The qualifications for voting in federal, state, and local elections. (5.1)
* How citizens can implement laws and influence government policy through voting. (5.1)
* Criteria and resources used to help citizens make informed choices in elections. (5.1)
* The role media plays in elections. (5.1)
* Constitutional amendments and laws related to voting rights. (5.1)
* The federal, state, and local qualifications for elected office and why they exist. (5.1)
* Progression of the election process at national, state, and local levels. (5.1)
* The structure and purpose of the Electoral College in presidential elections. (5.1)
* Controversies relating to the Electoral College and why they matter. For example: the elections of 1800, 1824, 1876, 1888, 2000, 2016 (5.1)
* Elected leaders are expected to represent the interests of the electorate. (5.1)
* Elections may allow citizens to guide the direction of public policy and limit the power of government (5.1)
* The processes and procedures of democratic elections are often established to ensure the integrity of the electoral system and the participation of qualified citizens (5.1)