U6 Political Parties, Elections, State/Local Government

SSCG15 Demonstrate knowledge of local, state, and national elections.
a. Describe the historical development, organization, role, and constituencies of political parties.
b. Describe the nomination and election process.
c. Examine campaign funding and spending and the influence of special interest groups on elections.
d. Explain how recent policy changes and Supreme Court rulings have impacted the campaign finance process.
e. Analyze the influence of media coverage, campaign advertising, and public opinion polls.

SSCG16 Analyze the difference between involuntary and voluntary participation in civic life.
a. Describe how and why citizens are required by law to pay taxes, serve on a jury, and register for military duty.
b. Describe how citizens voluntarily and responsibly participate in the political process by voting, performing public service, being informed about current issues, and respecting differing opinions.
c. Explain the meaning and history of the Pledge of Allegiance.

SSCG17 Demonstrate knowledge of the organization and powers of state and local government described in the Georgia Constitution.
a. Examine the structure of local governments with emphasis on counties and cities.
b. Analyze the relationship among state and local governments.
c. Examine sources of revenue received by local governments.
d. Analyze the services provided by state and local governments.
e. Analyze limitations on state and local government that may be exercised by the citizens (e.g., the initiative, referendum, and recall).
Unit Topics

1. Political Parties and Elections ✔
2. Citizenship Duties and Responsibilities
3. State and Local Government
Political Parties

- Group of people
- Broad political interest
- Nominate candidates
- Win elections
- Influence public policy

- Republican Party: 55 million
- Democratic Party: 72 million
- Independents: 42 million
Origins of Political Parties

• Federalist/Antifederalist
• Hamilton/Jefferson
• Conservative less action from government
• Liberal more action from government
Two Party System

- Avoid political parties
- Self centered
- Divisive
- Promote self interest
- Most Americans identify as or Republican or Democratic parties
Supporters of the two major Political Parties

• Democrats; African Americans, Catholic, Jews, union members, workers, and middle, lower, and poor economic classes.

• Republicans; Protestants, males, business owners, upper middle and wealthy economic classes.
Nomination and Election Process

• Party Nomination equal party support
• On your own until you win the party election
• Presidential Primary all 50 states
• National Convention to nominate a candidate
• Party Platform—what the party believes
Elections

• General Election for president every four years
• Precinct—where people live and vote
• Ballot how you vote—electronic
Electoral College

• Feared the average person
• Indirect system
• Winner take all (in most states)