

Primaries and Caucuses: How do the parties choose a candidate? – Handout

Directions: Define and explain the significance of the following terms. You may also use the articles, your textbook or the Internet to help you with the terms below.

Key term	Definition	Significance
nomination		
national party convention		
primary		
open primary		
closed primary		
caucus		
frontloading		

Super Tuesday		
delegate		
superdelegate		
proportional system		
winner-take-all system		

Directions: Look at the [2016 schedule](#) of primaries and answer the following questions about it.

1. When does the primary season begin and end?
2. Which events are expected first for both parties?
3. Are there groups of states that hold their primaries on the same days? Explain.
4. Are all states having a primary or caucus for both parties? Explain.
5. When is your state holding its primaries or caucuses?
6. Why does the schedule sometimes differ from one presidential primary season to another?
7. What traditionally happens during the nominating process for a party that has a sitting president up for re-election?
8. Explain the nomination process in your state. Students may consult their [state websites](#) or other materials provided by state election officials.
 - Does your state hold primaries or caucuses or both?
 - How are delegates to the national conventions allocated in your state?
 - Is there anything unique about the process in your state?