

**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