

# Guided Reading Activity

## Voting and Elections

### Lesson 2 *Influences on Voters*

#### Review Questions

**Directions:** Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your text to fill in the blanks.

#### I. The Structure of Elections

- A. Election \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ for elected officials, and ballot issues all influence voter choices at the polls.
- B. The federal \_\_\_\_\_ ensures that the entire government will not turn over at the same time.
- C. Members of the House of Representatives serve \_\_\_\_\_-year terms, Senators serve \_\_\_\_\_-year terms, and presidents serve \_\_\_\_\_-year terms.
- D. Ballot questions such as the legislative referendum, the popular \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ allow voters to have a more direct say in their own laws.
- E. Both the \_\_\_\_\_ referendum and the \_\_\_\_\_ referendum allow voters to approve or disapprove laws passed by the legislature.
- F. The \_\_\_\_\_ allows voters to propose and vote on their own laws or state constitutional amendments.

#### II. Voters' Election Choices

- A. Voters' election choices are driven by personal background, the degree of \_\_\_\_\_ loyalty, campaign \_\_\_\_\_, and perception of the candidates.
- B. Individuals who have multiple background traits that align them with several different positions on issues or candidates are \_\_\_\_\_ voters.

# Guided Reading Activity *cont.*



## Voting and Elections

- C. Voters who are strongly loyal to their party typically vote a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, choosing all candidates from their party on the ballot.
- D. Candidates do their best to portray a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ they believe voters value, and this image may be more important than the candidate's actual \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Voter Participation

- A. In the United States, citizens must \_\_\_\_\_ to vote and then \_\_\_\_\_ each time they move.
- B. The sheer \_\_\_\_\_ of elections held in the United States can contribute to \_\_\_\_\_ voter turnout.
- C. Proposals for increasing voter turnout include shifting \_\_\_\_\_ from Tuesday to a weekend and leaving the polls open longer.
- D. Other proposals for increasing voter turnout include a national \_\_\_\_\_ system and easier \_\_\_\_\_ balloting.

### Summary and Reflection

**Directions:** Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

How do personal background, party loyalty, issues, and perception of the candidates influence voters?

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