

B 3a Definition Cards – Election Terms

1 Primaries

A state-level election held before a general election to choose each party's candidate for nomination.

2 Nominee

A person selected by others to run for office is the nominee. Nominees may be selected in primary elections or caucuses.

3 National Conventions

An official meeting of the delegates of a political party where they choose their candidates and decide upon their party platform.

4 Running Mate

The chosen candidate picks a political colleague to run with him or her in the presidential election and who – if elected – will become Vice President.

5 Platform

A political party's formal written statement of its principles and goals.

6 Electoral College

A group of delegates – also called electors – who formally elect the president of the USA.

7 Caucus

A local meeting of members of a political party for the purpose of choosing candidates for an election.

8 Candidate

A person who is running for an elective office.

9 Stump Speech

A political speech on a campaign tour outlining a candidate's core messages.

10 Campaign

The period of time before an election when candidates try to persuade people to vote for them.

11 Front Runner

The political candidate who is considered most popular or most likely to win.

12 Poll

A survey of people (usually voters) that is taken to find out which candidate they might vote for.

13 Debate

A televised program during which candidates state and defend their positions on major issues.

14 Dark Horse

A candidate who is unexpectedly nominated and about whom little is known.

15 **Swing State**

A state of the U.S. in which the Democratic and Republican candidates both have a good chance of winning.

16 **Blue State**

A state where people tend to vote for the Democratic Party.

17 **Red State**

A state where people tend to vote for the Republican Party.

18 **Super Tuesday**

An important day in early March when a large number of states hold primary elections.

19 **Ballot**

A piece of paper listing the candidates running for office. It is used to cast a vote.

20 **Spin Doctor**

A political adviser employed by a campaign to ensure that a candidate receives the best possible publicity.



<http://learningapps.org/watch?v=p37nk6ara16>