VOCABULARY CARDS

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| **Straw poll**An unofficial vote, often conducted prior to a caucus or primary, which gives a candidate and their campaign staff an idea of how the majority of citizens in a state will vote | **Favorability**The extent to which someone or something is liked and approved of by people | **Electorate**The group of people in a country or an area who have the right to vote |
| **City council**A group of elected individuals that make laws for a city and help govern it | **Swing state**A state where none of the candidates can be guaranteed elector support during a U.S. presidential election | **Electoral College**A process in which officials known as electors submit votes for a presidential candidate on behalf of the electorate they represent. Each state has a number of electors equal to the number of politicians that serve that state in Congress. |

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| **Delegates**People who are chosen or elected to represent the views of a group of people and to vote and make decisions for them | **Popular vote**The choice expressed in an election by the majority of people who vote (but which may not necessarily determine who wins the election, depending on the system used) | **Voter registration**The process that takes place when an eligible individual meets the necessary conditions within a state to vote |
| **Issues campaign**A campaign with a series of messages used to share an idea or concern. Politicians often use these messages to appeal to voters and gain support. | **Smear campaign**A campaign in which negative advertising is used to ruin the reputation of a public figure or political candidate | **Political fundraiser**An event at which guests contribute money to the campaign of a candidate they support |

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| **Rally**An event at which people gather to show support for a candidate and/or the political party of which the candidate is a member | **Primary**An election in which people in a particular area vote to choose a nominee or a candidate for a future important election | **Caucus**A meeting of the members or leaders of a political party to choose candidates or to decide policy |
| **State legislature**A group of elected representatives who are responsible for making laws for the state |  |  |