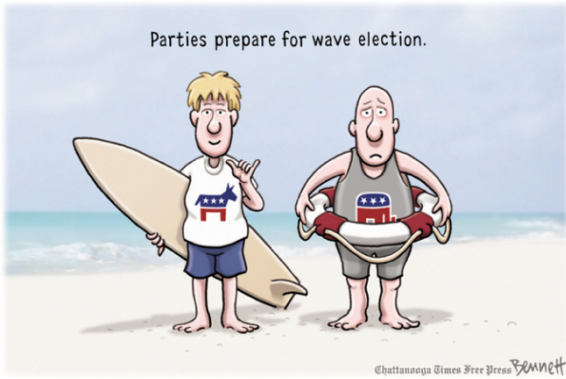


Unit 5 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
5.9 Congressional Elections

Room 2B HIVE
 mrreview.org



ESSENTIALS

The process and outcomes in U.S. Congressional elections are impacted by:

- Open and closed primaries
- Caucuses
- Party Conventions
- General (presidential and mid-term) Elections

1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon? [Write your response like a claim statement]

2. What is a “wave” election? When was the last “wave” election? Explain.

Complete the following chart:

Year	HOUSE		SENATE		President Party
	(D)	(R)	(D)	(R)	
2018 Turnout %					
2016 Turnout %					
2014 Turnout %					
2012 Turnout %					
2010 Turnout %					
2008 Turnout %					

Use the data above

Analysis:

1. Write a claim statement about voter turnout in presidential v. midterm elections.
2. What years resulted in DIVIDED GOVERNMENT? UNIFIED GOVERNMENT?
3. Write a claim statement about political parties and presidential elections?
4. Write a claim statement about political parties and midterm elections?

CONCEPT APPLICATION

If history is any indicator, only around 40 percent of eligible voters will vote in the midterm elections. Most people assume that voter turnout remains this low because Americans are apathetic and simply don't want to vote. But it's more likely that most Americans do want to vote, and one of the root causes of low turnout is this country's framework of restrictive voting laws...

The United States is unique in allowing state laws to largely govern voting in federal elections. Ever since key federal protections were dismantled by the Supreme Court in 2013 – including portions of the Voting Rights Act, which required some states and localities with a history of discrimination to obtain federal permission before changing voting procedures – state lawmakers have had more latitude than ever to enact laws affecting whether, how and when one can vote in a federal election.

Excerpted from “*The Myth of the Lazy Nonvoter*,”
by Sarah Jackel and Stuart A. Thompson,
NYTimes, October 9, 2018

After reading the scenario, respond to A, B, and C below:

- A. Describe one institutional obstacle that causes low voter turnout in midterm elections.
- B. In the context of the scenario, explain how the response in part A is affected by federalism.
- C. In the context of the scenario, explain how specific laws and procedures can be used to increase voter turnout.