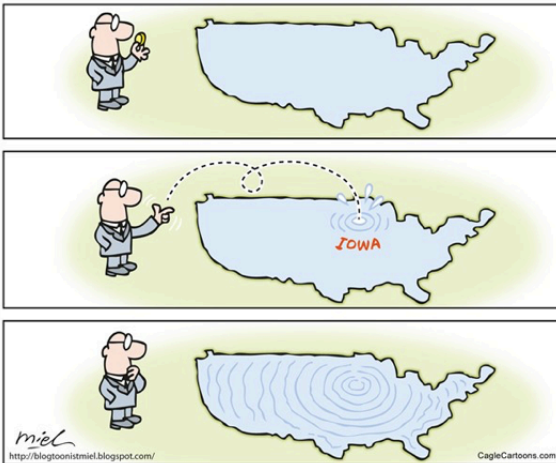


Unit 5 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Room 2B HIVE

5.8 Electing a President

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ESSENTIALS

Processes and outcomes in U.S. presidential elections are impacted by:

- Open and closed primaries
- Caucuses
- Party Conventions
- General (presidential) Elections
- The Electoral College

The winner-take-all allocation of votes per state (except Maine and Nebraska) under the setup of the Electoral College compared with the national popular vote for president raises questions about whether the Electoral College facilitates or impedes democracy.

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

2. Why Iowa?

DEFINE: Caucus

Investigate: What states still use the CAUCUS method to nominate presidential candidates? What is their rationale to do so? What are the rules of a caucus? For one of the states mentioned above, what turnout can be expected in a state caucus?

DEFINE: Party Convention

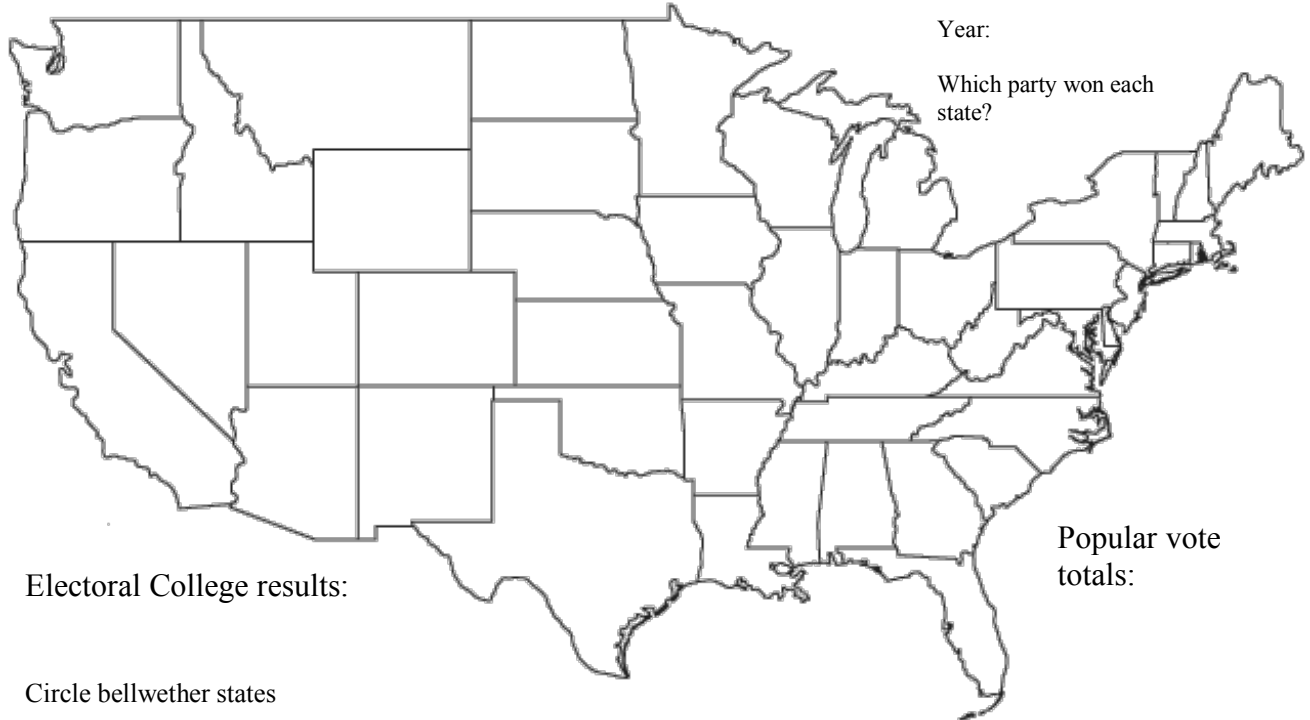
Investigate: What is the purpose of a STATE party Convention? What is the purpose of a NATIONAL party Convention? What is the rationale for a party convention? What are the rules of a national convention? What are "super delegates"?

DEFINE: Primary

Investigate: What states use the PRIMARY method to nominate presidential candidates? What is their rationale to do so? What are the rules of a primary? Differentiate between open and closed primaries. For one of the states mentioned above, what turnout can be expected in a state caucus?

Presidential Election (general elections) outcomes are determined by bellwether states (swing states). What is a bellwether state? Using data from the last two presidential elections find five (5) bellwether states and record who they voted for (including political party), turnout %, money spent by both candidates in that state.

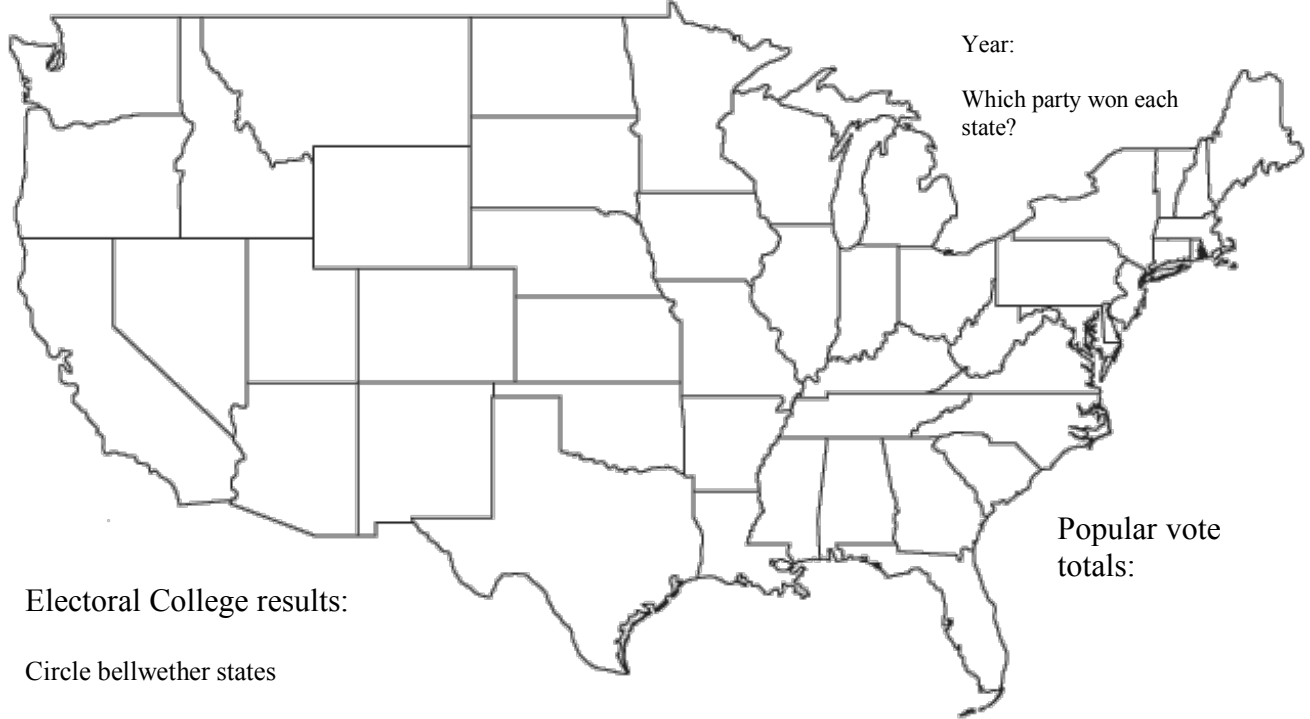
Complete these two U.S. maps using Presidential election data from the last two elections:



Electoral College results:
 Circle bellwether states

Year:
 Which party won each state?

Popular vote totals:



Electoral College results:
 Circle bellwether states

Year:
 Which party won each state?

Popular vote totals:



What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?

Is being old and archaic necessarily bad? What are the advantages of holding on to "old ways"?