## **5.5** Third-Party Politics

## Explain how structural barriers impact third party and independent candidate success.

- 1. Which of the following best describes the political party system in the United States?
- a. Dominant party system
- b. Multi-party system
- c. Two-party system
- d. Three-party system
- 2. Plurality elections go a long way to explain our political party system. What is true of plurality elections?
- a. Most votes win
- b. Majority wins
- c. Run-off elections are required
- d. You must win twice
- 3. Which of the following provides an important role played by third parties in American politics?
- a. Third parties champion new issues
- b. Third parties champion rising new candidates
- c. Third parties unite the other two parties
- d. Third parties distract voters from the real issues
- 4. All of the following help explain why the United States maintains a two-party political system EXCEPT
- a. Rigid ideological policy commitments
- b. Plurality elections
- c. Winner-take-all rules
- d. Single-member districts
- 5. Most of our elections in the United States follow plurality rules. Plurality elections mean
- a. The most votes win
- b. Only two political parties can be on the ballot
- c. At least two names must be on the ballot
- d. You must receive a majority of the votes to win
- 6. On occasion third parties gain attention by championing an issue that garners wide support. What typically is the outcome when this happens?
- a. A new competitive party replaces one of the older parties
- b. The third party fights for the right to champion that issue in court
- c. The media chooses to stop covering the issue
- d. One of the two major parties adopts the issue

- 7. Our two-party system can be explained by all of the following EXCEPT
- a. Plurality elections
- b. Winner-take-all rules
- c. Parties as broad based coalitions
- d. Lack of third parties
- 8. According to French sociologist and political scientist Maurice Duverger structural barriers impact political processes. Which of the following best summarizes Duverger's Law?
- a. Winner-take-all rules tend to favor liberal candidates
- b. Single member districts tend to support two party systems
- c. Plurality elections tend to recruit extreme third party candidates
- d. Thirds party candidates do better if they were once elected by a major party
- 9. Parliamentary governments typically use proportional rules when determining election outcomes. Which of the following best describes the political party system in most parliamentary governments?
- a. Dominant party system
- b. Multi-party system
- c. Two-party system
- d. Three-party system
- 10. Single member districts characterize what is at stake in most American elections. A simple explanation of single member districts would be
- a. Winner-take-all outcomes
- b. Incumbency dominates
- c. Constituent service determines outcomes
- d. Party labels no longer assist voters