Sistem Pemilu di Amerika Serikat


Pemilihan di Amerika Serikat


Ada dua ragam dasar pemilu AS: pemilihan pendahuluan dan pemilihan umum. Pemilihan pendahuluan dilakukan sebelum pemilihan umum untuk menentukan calon-calon dari partai yang akan maju untuk pemilihan umum. Para calon yang menang dalam pemilihan pendahuluan selanjutnya mewakili partainya dalam pemilu.

Syarat-syarat Calon

Berdasarkan konstitusi Amerika Serikat, syarat calon presiden adalah:

- Usia 35 tahun atau lebih.
- Seorang warga negara yang lahir di Amerika Serikat.
- Tinggal di Amerika Serikat setidaknya selama 14 tahun. Untuk wakil presiden ditambahkan dengan:
- Tidak boleh berasal dari negara bagian yang sama dengan presiden.

Syarat calon anggota Kongres-Dewan Perwakilan:

- Setidaknya berumur 25 tahun.
- Tinggal di Amerika Serikat selama 7 tahun.
- Menjadi warga yang sah dari negara bagian yang mereka wakili di Kongres.

Syarat calon anggota Senat:

- Setidaknya berumur 30 tahun.
- Tinggal di Amerika Serikat selama 9 tahun.
- Menjadi warga yang sah dari negara bagian yang mereka wakili.

Pemilihan Presiden

Setiap empat tahun, pemilih untuk presiden AS digelar pada Selasa pertama setelah Senin pertama bulan November. Berikut adalah tahapan pemilihan presiden Amerika Serikat:

1. Negara-negara bagian melakukan pemilihan pendahuluan atau kaukus untuk menentukan calon-calon dari partai yang akan mengikuti konvensi nasional.
2. Konvensi nasional, suatu ajang dimana calon-calon partai hasil kaukus akan diseluk-lukis dan salah satunya kemudian ditetapkan sebagai kandidat presiden.


Pemilihan Kongres


Pada masa lalu, pemilihan Kongres cenderung menjadi “terpusat ke partai” dimana banyak pemilih yang loyal kepada satu partai politik cenderung memilih anggota Kongres dari partai yang bersangkutan. Namun sejak 1960-an, pemilihan anggota Kongres semakin berpusat kepada si calon. Pertumbuhan media dan internet, pentingnya penggalangan dana kampanye yang agresif, jajak pendapat yang konstan dan aspek-aspek kampanye...
The 2012 Presidential Election: Economy or Personality?

By Andre Kohut
President of Pew Research Center. April 16, 2012

With the focus now fully on the campaign between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, commentary about the issues, the voting blocs and the strategies of the two campaigns dominates political discourse. But having polled on the last 10 presidential elections, I’m struck by a meta-question about each candidate’s viability that may trump all else. Obama and Romney both carry so much political baggage that one or the other will have to defy modern political history to win in November.

For Mitt Romney, the history buster would be that no candidate in the modern polling era with personal favorability ratings as low as his has ever won the presidency. With a 29 percent rating, he is far and away the least personally popular presidential candidate since pollsters have been regularly checking favorability ratings.

Barack Obama is much more personally popular than Romney, but his problem is that no incumbent president has ever won re-election with unemployment rates as high as they are likely to be in November. The modest decline in the unemployment rate in the Labor Department’s March report — to 8.2 percent — adds to the challenge he faces. In recent times, only Ronald Reagan struggled with a comparably high unemployment rate (8 percent) at the start of his re-election year. However, it declined steadily over the course of 1984 and it stood at 7.2 percent by Election Day.

Even if Obama succeeds in making further progress on unemployment, he is not likely to mirror Reagan’s experience. He will remain vulnerable on the economy more generally.

While Obama’s overall job rating inched up in recent months as the public heard somewhat better reports about the condition of the economy, at Pew our March survey continued to find a 53 percent majority disapproving of Obama’s handling of the economy.

And so it has been over the course of Obama’s presidency. On average, only 10 percent of Americans have rated the national economy as excellent or good. For President George W. Bush, about 30 percent rated the national economy positively in his first term. In President Clinton’s first term, an average of about 20 percent rated the economy excellent or good, but the numbers were markedly higher in late 1995 as his re-election approached (30 percent).

Perhaps tellingly, the public’s rating of the economy in the Obama years comes closest to its assessment of life under the first President Bush; in 1992 only about 10 percent held a positive opinion of the national economy in the final year of George Bush’s one term in office.

Mitt Romney’s personal unpopularity may well be as intractable for him as public opinion about the economy is for Obama. There is no indication in the polling that presidential candidates transform their personal images over the course of a general election campaign.

As Election Day approaches, favorable ratings for past candidates have typically remained about where they were early in the campaign — or have declined. The losing candidates Michael Dukakis, Bob Dole and Bush saw their personal popularity slip at the end of the campaign. But even at their low points, they were all much more personally popular than Romney is today.

Romney may have somewhat more potential to improve public regard for him than past candidates, however, because his image took such a hit during the nomination race. More Americans had a favorable rating of the former Massachusetts governor late last year when the public first began paying attention. His favorable rating was 36 percent in November 2011, compared with 29 percent now. And his unfavorable rating has jumped from 42 percent to 51 percent.

Obviously, this is the consequence of a very negative primary campaign struggle. Romney’s personal image even soured among Republicans, who came to see him as less in tune with the needs of people like themselves. His elitist image led him to under-perform among working class voters in almost every primary. Growing numbers of Republican voters also came to see Romney as inconsistent on the issues. He ran poorly among voters who told exit pollsters that voting for the “true conservative” was what mattered most to them.

But both candidates struggle with huge handicaps. One of the oldest axioms about presidential elections is that they are referendums on the times. And for the 69 percent of the public who continue to say they are dissatisfied with national conditions, these are bad times. That is very bad news for Obama. However, Americans don’t back candidates they don’t like or trust. This is Romney’s challenge.

There is no track record on how voters will resolve such conflicting pressures. Core Republicans and Democrats are certainly likely to rally to their party’s standard bearer, but where the swing voters are headed in November is very unclear given the political burdens both candidates carry.

The variability in the polls these days may well be an indication of how difficult it will be for many voters to choose between a president they believe has underperformed and a challenger they are uncomfortable with personally. But whatever they do will defy modern political history.

Source:
New York Times online, accessed on 10/01/2012 at http://goo.gl/TNE5z

Related links:

Job Reports Crucial to Presidential Election Outcome; Paul Steinhauser, CNN, 2012 Read more http://goo.gl/o0Fg1

Obama-Romney Race Competitive in 12 Swing States; Lydia Saad, Gallup, 2012 Read more: http://goo.gl/GbEmF

Get more articles on the U.S. Elections related topics from eLibraryUSA, which offers access to over 30 authoritative databases that covers broad range of resources about American societly, culture, foreign policy, as well as learning English, health, business, and more.

To get personal access and training on eLibraryUSA please email: ircjakarta@state.gov
Web-Based Resources on U.S. Elections

U.S. ELECTIONS PROCESS
How to Become President of the United States/Kids.gov, 2012
A poster outlines the process of the U.S. presidential election. Accessible at: http://goo.gl/Xjr65

Electoral College in the U.S. Elections/IIP Digital, 2012
Americans elect their president using a representative system called Electoral College. Watch the video outlines the system at: http://goo.gl/x8T2C

FINANCING CAMPAIGN
New regulation on financing campaign in U.S elections have opened new avenues for political spending by corporations, unions and non-profit organizations. Read more at: http://goo.gl/mbrWvP

FEC regulates that in 2012 elections, individual contributions to a presidential candidate are limited to $5,000 during the election cycle. Additionally, the campaigns are required to identify anyone who contributes more than $200. Read more at: http://goo.gl/Smuvt

U.S. ELECTIONS & NEWS MEDIA
Surviving “News Media” A Good Test for Candidates./By Stephen Kaufman, IIP Digital, 2012
Politicians must ask themselves how they face the news media and the challenge of steering clear of controversies while simultaneously delivering their messages so that they will be broadcast accurately to potential voters. Read more at: http://goo.gl/kq0vb

POLING ROLES IN THE U.S. ELECTIONS
Political Polls: Why We Just Can’t Live Without Them/John Zogby, 2008
Polling expert John Zogby discusses the importance of polls, not only in gauging people’s attitudes toward candidates running for office but also in revealing voters’ values and their feelings about current issues.

Read more at: http://goo.gl/J7Bjl

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA
When Will Social Media Elect a President?/Andy Kessler, WSJ, 2012
Twitter and Facebook will change U.S. politics, as new technology always has. Think Nixon or 'Obama Girl.' Read more at: http://goo.gl/O3RKa

Will the U.S. Election Be Won on Facebook?/Haydn Shaughnessy, Forbes, 2012
Facebook is altering the way politicians communicate with an electorate. So will this be the Facebook election? Read more at: http://goo.gl/dWSQe

ISSUES CONCERNED VOTERS
Explore some hot issues for Americans related to the elections 2012. Read more at: http://goo.gl/VKDkJ

Recent Pew Research survey finds that on gun control, Americans have become more conservative and on gay marriage, they have become more liberal. Read more at: http://goo.gl/2iczn

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, RELIGIOUS & RACE
A new survey finds signs of public uneasiness with the mixing of religion and politics. Read more at: http://goo.gl/600b0

Barack Obama versus Mitt Romney, an African-American and a white Mormon, representatives of two groups and that have endured oppression to carve out a place in the United States. How much progress has America made against bigotry? Read more: http://goo.gl/lxnh1

IRC Resources on U.S. Elections

Bloggers on the Bus:/Erich Boehlert.
Free Press, 2009
The book describes the changes made by Internet in politics and press areas.

The book chronicles the U.S Presidents’ lives, loves, friends, administrations, foes, successes, and failures.

Dynamics of America Political Parties/Mark D. Brewer & Jeffrey M. Stoncash. Cambridge University Press, 2009
Authors examine the process of gradual change that inexorably shapes and reshapes American politics.

How Congress Gets Elected/Rhodes Cook. CQ Press. The author outlines a solid introduction to how American voters elect their representatives and how the process has changed throughout American’s history.

The set presents an informative and balanced overview of all aspects of the electoral process in America.

In this book, author focuses on 3 focal points: the media’s role in both the public and private sectors; its impact on the attitudes of ordinary Americans and political elites; and the ways in which the news media cover government and politics.

The book examines how today’s young people are combining technology with a vigorous social spirit to revive progressive politics.

Check more of IRC books collection at: http://goo.gl/BwpC8

DPR dimaksudkan untuk menjadi badan yang paling dekat dengan rakyat, dipilih dari distrik yang relatif kecil dengan pemilihan yang lebih sering (dua tahun sekali). Sebagian negara bagian dijamin pemilihan orang tersebut akan diperiksa sementara, dan kelayakan pemungutan suara, akan mendapatkan kartu suara tercantum. Pemilih yang tidak memenuhi syarat tidak tercantum. Pemilih yang tidak menemukan namanya di tempat pemegang suara, akan mendapatkan kartu suara sementara, dan kelayakan orang tersebut akan diperiksa ulang sebelum suara-suara mereka dihitung.

Salah satu tugas terpenting pejabat pemilihan adalah memastikan setiap orang yang memenuhi syarat ada di daftar, sementara orang yang tidak memenuhi syarat tidak tercantum. Pemilih yang tidak menemukan namanya di tempat pemegang suara, akan mendapatkan kartu suara sementara, dan kelayakan orang tersebut akan diperiksa ulang sebelum suara-suara mereka dihitung.

Prosedur-prosedur Pemilihan


Sistem Pemilu di Amerika Serikat

Sambungan dari hal. 1

modern lainnya telah membuat pemilihan lebih cenderung memberi bobot kepada kekuatan dan kelemahan calon sebagai individu, bukan sebagai anggota partai tertentu.


DPR dimaksudkan untuk menjadi badan yang paling dekat dengan rakyat, dipilih dari distrik yang relatif kecil dengan pemilihan yang lebih sering (dua tahun sekali). Sebagian negara bagian dijamin pemilihan orang tersebut akan diperiksa sementara, dan kelayakan pemungutan suara, akan mendapatkan kartu suara tercantum. Pemilih yang tidak memenuhi syarat tidak tercantum. Pemilih yang tidak menemukan namanya di tempat pemegang suara, akan mendapatkan kartu suara sementara, dan kelayakan orang tersebut akan diperiksa ulang sebelum suara-suara mereka dihitung.

Salah satu tugas terpenting pejabat pemilihan adalah memastikan setiap orang yang memenuhi syarat ada di daftar, sementara orang yang tidak memenuhi syarat tidak tercantum. Pemilih yang tidak menemukan namanya di tempat pemegang suara, akan mendapatkan kartu suara sementara, dan kelayakan orang tersebut akan diperiksa ulang sebelum suara-suara mereka dihitung.

Disarikan dari:
U.S. Elections in Brief http://goo.gl/ZoZJ9


About the Information Resource Center

The U.S. Embassy’s Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized reference and research facility whose goal is to provide you with accurate, up-to-date and authoritative information about U.S. society and policy materials, covering such topics as U.S. foreign policy, government, economics and trade, history, social and cultural issues. Three professionally-trained reference specialists will help you to retrieve needed information quickly, conveniently, and free of charge.

The IRC collection includes a collection of reference titles, a periodicals section, and access to extensive online commercial-databases. For details on reference and periodical collections, please check our online catalog at http://69.63.217.22/U10086Staff/OPAC/index.asp.

For all IRC information products, including this info package are available online at: http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/infoproduct.html

Information queries may be submitted to us by phone, fax, mail, and e-mail. You are also welcome to visit us by appointment for personal research assistance.

Disclaimer: Books, articles, and websites described in this info package present a diversity of views in order to keep our readers abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. government policy.