POLITICAL PARTIES & ELECTIONS, FALL 2012

# CHOOSING CANDIDATES

Hershey chapter 9

Wednesday, October 10

**Chapter 9 terms**: direct primary, closed primary (fully closed, semiclosed or semiopen), open primary, blanket primary, “top two” or nonpartisan primary, crossing over and raiding, runoff elections, why parties dislike primaries, divisive primary, ways that parties try to influence who gets nominated (persuasion/recruitment, party endorsements, tangible support), concerns about the primary system (mainly low voter turnout), impact of the direct primary

0. [1800 election summary](https://homepages.gac.edu/~cgilbert/p215/1800sum.pdf) (Tyler and Andrew)

1. Why did states begin to adopt the direct primary in the early 20th century? Ponder and discuss.

2. What pros and cons exist with the various types of primaries (closed, open, blanket, and the runoff system) from the point of view of political parties AND the party’s candidates and would-be candidates? Has the direct primary system in general made elections more democratic?

3. If you were running a state political party, and had the power to implement any of the processes described in this chapter to nominate your party’s candidates for state and federal office, which one(s) would you choose and why?

X. Pose a question of your own about these chapters!