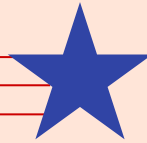




AP Government and Politics: Civic Readiness Project



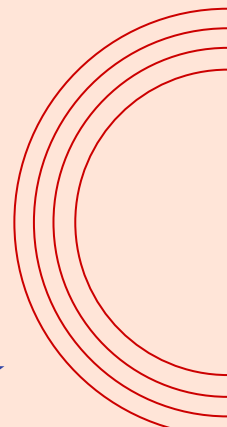
Olivia Buckley, Erin Alvarez, Anna Herschmann,
Abigail Montes, Victoria Gluszczyzyn and Kristine
Picache





POP QUIZ

WHAT ARE THE MIDTERM
ELECTIONS?





What are the Midterm Elections?

- ★ Occur every 4 years (2 years after the presidential election)
- ★ Congress
 - 435 Representatives of the House
 - $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Senate (33-34 senators every 2 years)



Midterm Elections

Federal Election Cycles

	Term	2020	2022	2024	2026	2028	2030	2032	2034	2036	2038
President	4	✓									
Vice President	4	✓									
US Senate	6	1/3	1/3								
US Representative	2	✓	✓								





Midterm Trends

★ **Link to Presidential Approval Rates**

- Decent correlation between POTUS' approval rating and seats lost by that party in the House

- POTUS' party almost always loses seats, popular presidents mitigate losses

★ **Incumbency Advantage**

- Current House officeholders are re-elected 95% of the time

 - *name recognition

 - *more campaign funding

 - *redistricting and gerrymandering



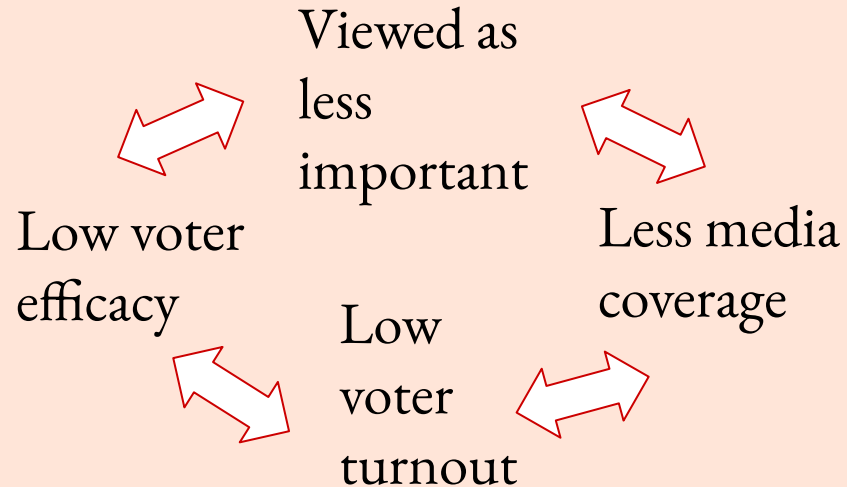
Factors Affecting Turnout

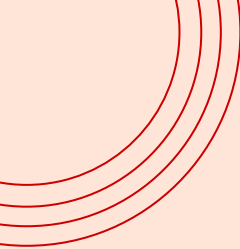
Turnout:

- Presidential Elections → ~55%
- Midterm Elections → ~40%

Factors Influencing Turnout

- Viewed as less important
- Low media coverage
- **Voter Efficacy:** trust in the public's ability to change the government and belief that they can understand and influence political affairs





★ What was the Civic Readiness
Project for Division Avenue's
AP Government Class?



- 1) Research and read about some of the key midterm races.
- 2) On Google Classroom, signup to cover one of the midterm races.
- 3) Create a Google Slides presentation which will be presented to the class. Your presentation must include:

A. Identify and describe each candidate.

- Incumbent or challenger or open seat
- Party
- Biography
- Political or personal experience
- Noteworthy third party candidates

B. Election District

- National level? State level? District level?
- Demographics of district - population, religion, urban or rural, political leanings, race, etc.
- Recent history of the district - who recently controlled the seat, was the district redrawn, etc.

C. Major Issues

- What are the key issues dominating this campaign?
- Examples of election ads from each candidate?
- Any noteworthy or controversial moments?
- Why is this race significant?

D. Status of the Race

- What is the current polling saying?
- How much money has each candidate raised?

E. Race Prediction

- Who do you think will win the race?
- At least three ideological reasons/evidence to support your prediction



Senator Mark Kelly (Incumbent)



Party : DEMOCRATIC

Biography:

- Son of two police officers
- B.S in Marine Science
- 39 missions in Desert Storm
- recipient of the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, and multiple Air Medals.
- Astronaut for NASA from 1996 to 2011

Political experiences :

- Took office in December 2020 after Arizonans elected him to fill out the remainder of the late Senator Martha McSally
- First democrat in Arizona Senate Seat FOR A LONG TIME
- INFLATION REDUCTION ACT
-

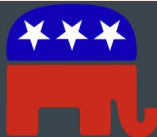
AD CAMPAIGNS



VS.



Blake Masters



Party : REPUBLICAN

Biography:

- Grew up in Tucson Arizona
- Graduated Stanford Law School
- President of the Thiel Foundation-> nonprofit organization

Political experiences

- joined President Trump's transition team in 2016.
- Only his first time running for a political position
- Directly endorsed by Trump
- endorsed by the Border Patrol Council, an association of federal border agents, and the 12,000-member Arizona Police Association.
- He ran an ad during his primary claiming falsely that Trump did win, but in the general election he says he now believes he didn't.

Race prediction factors

- Republican Blake Masters won the primary — thanks to a timely endorsement from former President Donald Trump and eight figures in spending from his former boss, billionaire Peter Thiel
- Mark Kelly has done very little to present valid counterarguments to the positions that Masters has criticized him on (immigration, inflation, economic crisis, abortion, technology)
- Kelly has not done enough over his term to demonstrate that he is taking initiatives to address the points he is passionate about





Civic Readiness Essay

- ★ Reflects upon the key activities and lessons learned during the Midterm elections

The essay includes:

- ★ Exploring our role as future voters in American politics and how we can be involved
- ★ An overview of our learning experience
- ★ Exemplifies the Midterm Elections to be crucial to amplifying the voice of citizens





Example

- “Overall, this experience helped me understand the importance of midterm elections because I was shown real life situations that were happening live around the country and how the outcome of each election affects these situations. I was also able to look at different candidates in each state, their goals for that state, and learn all about the pre and post polling process.”

-Anna Herschmann





Example

- “They receive a fraction of the media attention, and usually fewer voters cast ballots. Since 1972, voter turnout in the midterm elections is on average 17 points lower than in presidential elections. I used to assume that this is an indication of the midterm elections’ unimportance and irrelevance, but they are in fact crucial to all levels of government.”

-Victoria Gluszczyzyn





Example

“For candidates it is important to be memorable or known by the voters, thus advertising is stressed upon and mudslinging, a tactic in which politics use the opponents secrets and disadvantages against them, is still used today in our modern politics. As evident through Valadao’s ad against Salas, in which he claims Salas only votes to raise the prices on necessities and drugs for low-income families,”

-Abigail Montes





Example

“..I failed to realize that the incumbency advantage was something that I should have kept in mind because it has proved to be a strong idea throughout the country for many years.”

-Kristine Picache





Example

“ The Midterm Election project is not an experience needed to be kept in school. The project is an experience that can and should be remembered, taken out of school, and used to make decisions about Midterms in the future. The information gained throughout the entirety of the project is information that is useful to not only myself but others as well.”

- Olivia Buckley





Example

“The structure and the written procedures of our government- although complex- can be learned. However, the practice in politics is what makes it difficult for the people to have an actual voice. The midterm elections, like every other election, is very important. It is our civic duty to vote. It is important that we vote, but are the wishes of the true majority accurately represented by the election results?”

- Erin Alvarez





Why is teaching Civic Readiness important?

- ★ Makes students more aware about politics
- ★ Youths more active and educated about the systems that represent them, even before being able to vote
- ★ Will increase voter turnout during local and national elections





Thank You!

