Chapter 13 in Brief

SECTION 1

The President’s Job Description (pp. 354–358)
★ The President has eight major roles, which are exercised simultaneously.
★ The Constitution outlines the formal qualifications for the presidency.
★ Presidents are limited to two four-year terms.
★ Congress determines the President’s salary.

SECTION 2

Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency (pp. 359–363)
★ The Constitution provides for an orderly succession of power if the President dies or leaves office.
★ The Constitution provides for the transfer of power should the President become disabled.
★ Although the vice presidency is often belittled, the Vice President is “a heartbeat away” from becoming President.

SECTION 3

Presidential Selection: The Framers’ Plan (pp. 365–367)
★ The Framers created the electoral college for choosing the President and Vice President.
★ With the election of 1800, political parties began to control the nominating process.

SECTION 4

Presidential Nominations (pp. 368–375)
★ National conventions play a key role in the presidential nominating process.
★ Most States hold presidential primaries to determine convention delegates.
★ A few States select delegates through the caucus-convention process.
★ National conventions follow a schedule, culminating in the candidate’s acceptance speech.
★ The candidate who is considered most electable usually wins the nomination.

SECTION 5

The Election (pp. 377–384)
★ Presidential electors today mainly “rubber-stamp” their party’s candidate.
★ The electoral college is plagued by three major flaws.
★ Critics of the electoral college have proposed a variety of reforms.

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