Political Dictionary

- chief of state (p. 354)
- chief executive (p. 354)
- chief administrator (p. 355)
- chief diplomat (p. 355)
- commander in chief (p. 355)
- chief legislator (p. 355)
- chief of party (p. 355)
- chief citizen (p. 355)
- presidential succession (p. 359)
- Presidential Succession Act of 1947 (p. 360)
- balance the ticket (p. 362)
- presidential electors (p. 365)
- electoral votes (p. 365)
- electoral college (p. 366)
- presidential primary (p. 369)
- winner-take-all (p. 371)
- proportional representation (p. 371)
- national convention (p. 372)
- platform (p. 373)
- keynote address (p. 373)
- district plan (p. 382)
- proportional plan (p. 382)
- direct popular election (p. 383)
- electorate (p. 383)
- national popular vote plan (p. 384)

Practicing the Vocabulary

Matching Choose a term from the list above that best matches each description.

1. The group chosen every four years to make the formal selection of the President and Vice President
2. The role in which the President exercises leadership over his or her political party
3. The role in which the President acts as the main architect of the nation's public policies
4. An election at which a party's voters choose delegates to the party's national convention and/or express a preference for candidates for the party's nomination
5. All the people entitled to vote in a given election

Word Recognition Replace the underlined definition with the correct term from the list above.

6. In the past, some presidential primaries were contests in which the winner of the preference vote won the support of all the delegates.
7. As the representative of all the people, the President speaks for the people of the nation and offers important moral leadership.
8. As the head of a large organization that employs nearly three million people, the President leads one of the world's largest governmental machines.
9. The written declaration of principles and policy decisions of a party is an important product of each national convention.
10. The speech given at a party convention to set the tone for the convention and the campaign to come is usually delivered by one of the party's best orators.

Reviewing Main Ideas

Section 1

11. Explain the significance of each of the following presidential roles: chief executive, chief diplomat, commander in chief.
12. (a) What was the origin of the no-third-term tradition? (b) Which President broke with this tradition? (c) What is the maximum number of terms that a President may now serve?
13. Why do some critics want the 22nd Amendment repealed?

Section 2

14. How does the Constitution ensure a smooth transition of power in the event of a presidential disability?
15. Explain how the Constitution and the Presidential Succession Act of 1947 address the issue of presidential succession.
16. (a) What does the Constitution say about the vice presidency? (b) What effect have recent vice presidents had on the stature of the office?

Section 3

17. Describe the Framers' plan for the selection of the nation's President.
18. Why did the electoral college cease to function as the Framers had intended?
19. What was the purpose of the 12th Amendment?

Section 4

20. How do presidential primaries differ from the caucus-convention process?
21. For what major purposes do parties hold national conventions?
22. What have been the effects of the Democrats' proportional representation rule?

Section 5

23. (a) How are presidential electors chosen? (b) How are electoral votes counted?
24. On what grounds is the electoral college system criticized?