

Political Conventions: Republican Party State Convention

11/12th Grade Civics and Government

OBJECTIVES

- Understand the purpose of political conventions
- Understand the role the political convention plays in the electoral process
- Understand how an individual becomes a delegate and what a delegate does

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Teach with TVW video: [Washington State Republican Convention](#)
- [Student Notebook](#)

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- Why do political parties have conventions?
- How did the Republican party use the convention to shape the electoral process?

ACTIVITY

1. **Class Opener:**
 - Individual brainstorming in student notebook:
 - Ask students to name ANY State office that is up for election in 2024.
 - Ask students how they think candidates for statewide offices like governor are narrowed down to the two that will be on the ballot in November.
2. **Whole Class Discussion:**
 - Explain to students that today they will watch a short documentary about the 2024 Washington State Republican Party Convention to learn about strategies political parties employ, as well as more about the role of the delegate in a political party.
3. **Student Activity:**
 - Vocabulary Preview: Have students complete the vocabulary preview in the Student Notebook.
 - Watch the mini-documentary on the Republican State Convention.
 - In small groups, answer discussion questions.
 - The Primary Election is held in August, months before the General Election in November. In Washington's Top Two Primary, only the top two vote

getters, regardless of party affiliation, move on to the General Election.

Why is the Republican party endorsing candidates for the Primary Election?

- How do political conventions unite people?
- How do political conventions divide people?
- Why were tensions high at the 2024 Republican convention?
- What is the role of a delegate?
- Why are delegates empowered?
- What is the power of the individual “who shows up”?

4. End of Lesson Task:

- Individually, answer the essential questions in paragraph form.
 - Why do political parties have conventions?
 - How did the Republican party use the convention to shape the electoral process?

5. Further Research Opportunities:

- Students learned about the role of the delegate in a State Convention. Watch these videos to learn more about how to become a PCO (Precinct Committee Officer), elected officials who are also delegates at the State Conventions.
 - [What is a PCO?](#)
 - [How to become a PCO](#)
- One of the important tasks of the State Political Convention is to adopt a party platform.
 - [Examine these excerpts](#) from the Republican and Democratic Party Platforms.
 - What elements resonated with you and why?