

## A.II.55

### Business communication: speaking

# The U.S. presidential elections – How they vote in the United States of America

Nach einer Idee von Paul Jenkinson

Illustration von Julia Lenzmann



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Trump oder Biden? Republikaner oder Demokraten? Und wie funktionieren die Wahlen überhaupt? Die Präsidentschaftswahlen am 7. November 2020 in den USA werden nicht nur einen Einfluss auf die Vereinigten Staaten, sondern auch auf die ganze Welt haben – und somit auch auf die Lebenswelt Ihrer Lernenden an den beruflichen Schulen. Die Schülerinnen und Schüler lernen anhand einer Postervorlage das amerikanische Wahlsystem kennen und erarbeiten mithilfe eines Textes, wofür die beiden großen Parteien stehen. Die Materialien der Reihe fördern interkulturelle Kompetenzen und ermöglichen es, komplexe Sachverhalte besser zu verstehen und einzuordnen.

#### KOMPETENZPROFIL

**Modul:** 2/B1

**Dauer:** 3–4 Unterrichtsstunden

**Kompetenzen:**

1. Sprechen: sich über das amerikanische Wahlsystem austauschen und darüber diskutieren; 2. Leseverstehen: einem Poster und einem Informationstext relevante Informationen entnehmen; 3. Medienkompetenz: eine Internetrecherche durchführen

**Thematische Bereiche:** USA, Wahlen, Wahlsystem, Politik

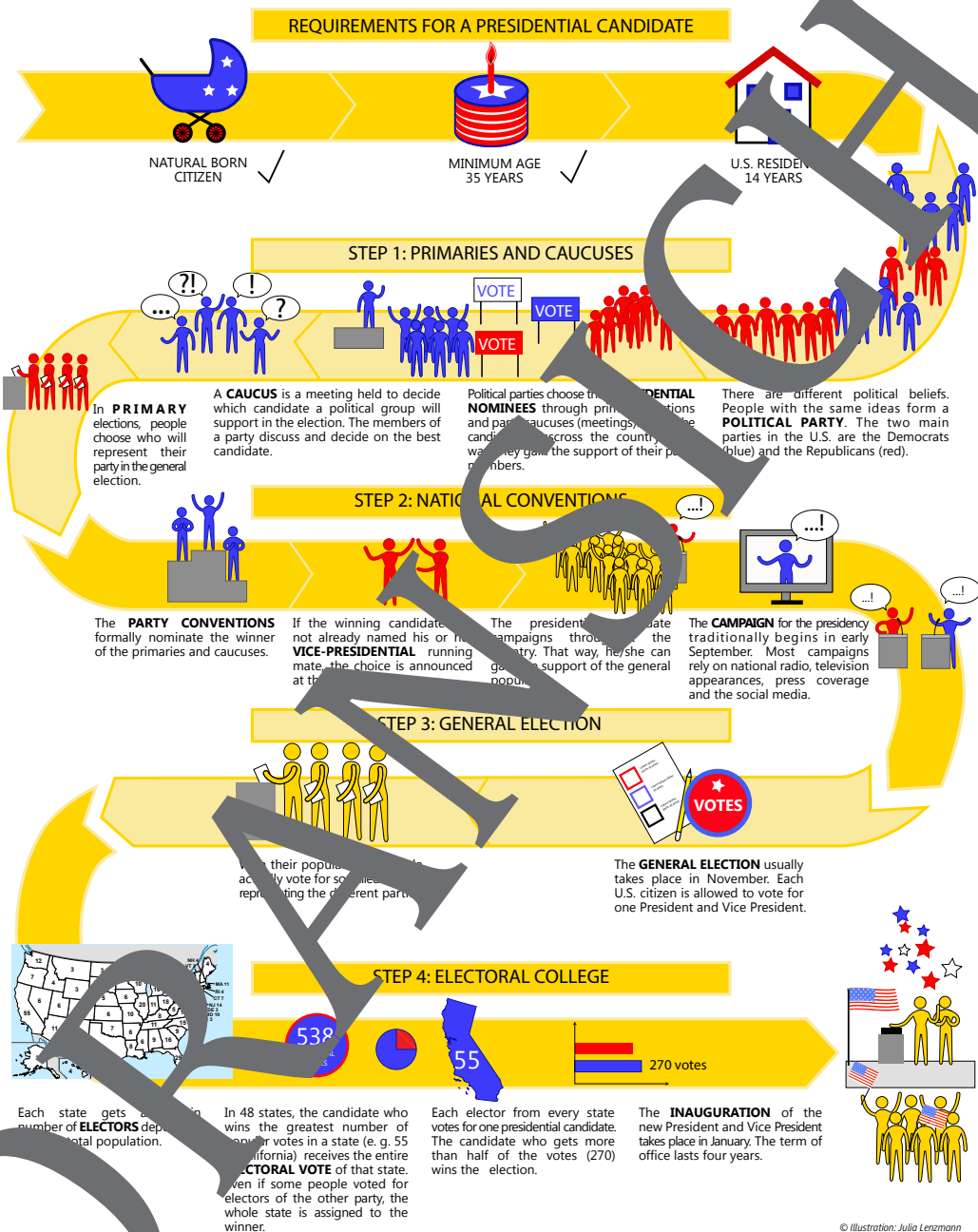
**Medien:** Texte, Video

**Zusatzmaterialien:** Poster(vorlage)

M 1

Part A – The road to presidency in the United States

THE ROAD TO **PRESIDENCY** IN THE **UNITED STATES**



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**Vocabulary**

**requirement:** die Voraussetzung – **party:** die Partei – **primary election:** die Vorwahl – **caucus:** das Gremium, die Fraktionssitzung – **to crisscross sth.:** etw. durchkreuzen – **to gain sth.:** etw. gewinnen – **formally:** offiziell – **running mate:** der/die Kandidat/in für die Vizepräsidentschaft – **to announce sth.:** etw. bekannt geben – **to campaign:** Wahlkampf führen – **popular vote:** die Volksabstimmung, landesweites Ergebnis einer Präsidentschaftswahl in der Bevölkerung – **elector:** der Wahlmann – **electoral vote:** Ergebnis einer Präsidentschaftswahl im Wahlmännergremium – **inauguration:** die Amtseinsetzungszeremonie

to limit possession of assault<sup>8</sup> weapons. Democrats are against the death penalty preferring it to be replaced by life sentences.

**Education:** *“Democrats know that every child, no matter who they are, how much their families earn, or where they live, should have access to a high-quality education, from preschool through high school and beyond.”* Improving public education through reforms and the raising of standards is a major aim along with making education available and affordable to everyone: their proposals include having pre-schools for all, reducing university tuition fees and making student loans<sup>9</sup> cheaper.

**The environment:** *“[We believe] climate change poses a real and urgent threat to our economy, our national security, and our children’s health and futures, and that America deserves the jobs and security that come from becoming the clean energy superpower of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”* Democrats are supportive of measures to protect the environment and respond to climate change. Increasing alternative energy sources from solar parks to wind farms is high on their agenda, together with reducing emissions through stricter controls. However, they also want to balance taking environmental action with developing the economy, not at the cost of it. In addition, they wish to expand conservation areas.

**Immigration:** Democrats see a need to control immigration, but they want to make obtaining<sup>10</sup> American citizenship easier for immigrants.

**Foreign policy:** Democrats tend to adopt a softer approach to foreign policy and are less inclined<sup>11</sup> to use military action. Consequently, they would reduce military spending. There are concerns that democracy is at risk through poor leadership: this has to be addressed in order for America to regain respect.

*Author: Paul Jenkinson; all quotations are from the Democratic Party Platform*

#### Vocabulary

1 **to foster:** etw. fördern – 2 **to provide sth. to sb.:** etw. jmd. zur Verfügung stellen – 3 **voluntary paid-in:** freiwilliges Einzahlen – 4 **to intervene:** einschreiten – 5 **to advocate sth.:** etw. unterstützen, befürworten – 6 **incentive:** der Anreiz – 7 **to uphold sth.:** etw. aufrechterhalten – 8 **assault weapon:** die Handwaffe – 9 **student loan:** das Studientdarlehen – 10 **to obtain sth.:** etw. bekommen, erhalten – 11 **inclined:** geneigt, bereit

### Partner B: What do the Republicans stand for?

The **Republican Party** – also referred to as the Grand Old Party, or GOP – is conservative and strongly adheres<sup>1</sup> to the concept that individuals and companies control their own destinies<sup>2</sup> without undue support or interference from the government. Economic success is believed to be gained from having free markets, without imposed<sup>3</sup> minimum wages, for example, or other restrictions.

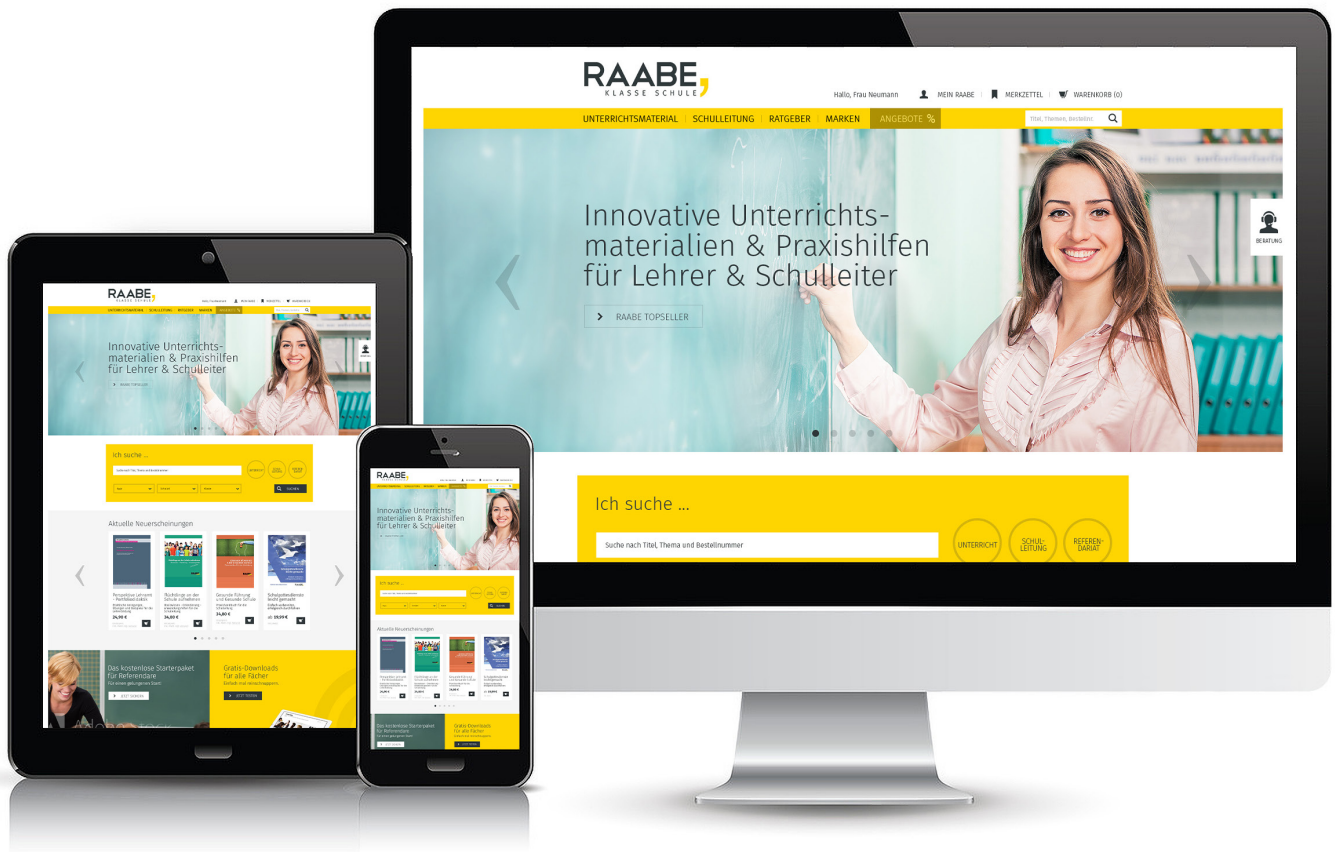
#### Health care beliefs

**Health care:** *“While a safety net should exist for those Americans that desperately need it, a free market system is the best solution to providing the greatest possible care to the most amount of Americans.”* Republicans are against a universal health care system, instead they believe people should pay for their own health care insurance. They see government rules being responsible for high costs, therefore relaxing them would reduce these costs benefitting everyone.

**The economy:** *“Central to our economic agenda is a commitment to revive jobs and industry here in the United States. [...] We want to make it easier for businesses to open up in America, and to encourage, not punish, American innovators.”* Republicans believe economic growth is fostered<sup>4</sup> through low taxes; subsequently, they are against the rich being taxed more. The wealthy and entrepreneurs<sup>5</sup> are more likely to invest in businesses and, therefore, indirectly contribute to job opportunities for everyone. They believe that businesses should have the freedom to decide on



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