

I.C.19

Communicative skills – Reading

How do you become President of the USA? – Die Präsidentschaftswahlen in den Vereinigten Staaten verstehen (Klassen 9/10)

Nach einer Idee von Paul Jenkinson, Weitramsdorf

Illustration von Julia Lenzmann, Stuttgart



Die USA haben gewählt. Der neue Präsident der Vereinigten Staaten steht fest: Joe Biden – auch wenn der aktuelle Präsident Donald Trump es noch nicht akzeptieren möchte. Aber wie wird man eigentlich Präsident der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika? Welche Parteien gibt es und wofür stehen sie? Und was hat der *president-elect* dem amerikanischen Volk zu sagen? In dieser Einheit erarbeiten die Lernenden anhand eines DIN-A4-Posters und Texten das amerikanische Wahlsystem und die entsprechenden Parteiprogramme. Das Leseverstehen der Lernenden wird außerdem anhand der ersten Rede von Biden als gewählter Präsident geübt und durch Wortschatz- und Analyseaufgaben ergänzt.

KOMPETENZPROFIL

Klassenstufe: Klassen 9/10

Dauer: 5 Unterrichtsstunden

Kompetenzen:

1. Leseverstehen: eine Grafik verstehen, relevante Informationen aus Texten entnehmen; eine *speech* verstehen und analysieren;
2. Interkulturelles Lernen: das Wahlsystem der USA kennenlernen

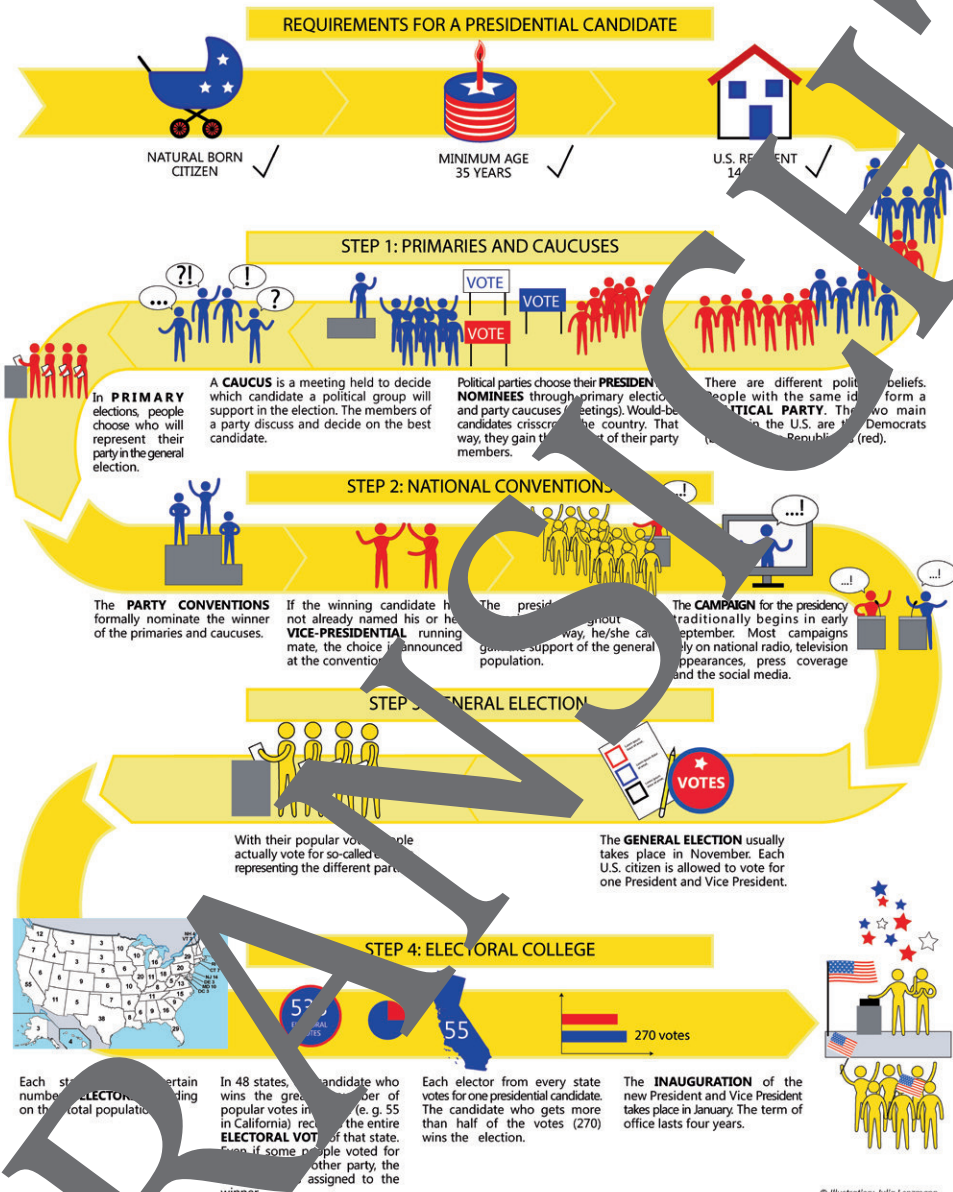
Thematische Bereiche: USA, Wahlsystem, Politik

Zusatzmaterialien: Poster, Texte, *speech*

M 1

The road to presidency in the United States

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



© Illustration: Julia Lenzmann

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VORBR

requirements: 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

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 loans⁹ cheaper.

- 35 **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 Americans deserve the jobs and security that come from becoming the clean energy superpower of the 21st 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 obtaining¹⁰ American citizenship easier for immigrants.

- 45 **Foreign policy:** Democrats tend to adopt a softer approach to foreign policy and are less inclined¹¹ to use military action. Consequently, they would reduce military spending. There are concerns that democracy is at risk through poor leadership, this needs to be addressed in order for America to regain respect.

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

1 **(to) foster:** etw. fördern – 2 **minimum health care system:** das grundlegende Gesundheitssystem – 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 Studiendarlehen – 10 **(to) obtain sth.:** etw. bekommen, erhalten – 11 **inclined:** geneigt

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 adheres¹ to the concept that individuals and companies control their own destinies² without the support or interference from the government. Economic success is believed to be gained from having free markets, without imposed³ minimum wages, for example, or other restrictions.

- 5 **Core 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.

- 10 **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 fostered⁴ through low taxes; subsequently, they are against the rich being taxed more. The wealthy and entrepreneurs⁵ 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 how they run their own companies, including wages and benefits, and be able to operate in a free market. They see any minimum wage increase as resulting in job cuts and inflation.





Read: President-elect Joe Biden's remarks

(CNN) – *As prepared for delivery.*

My fellow Americans, the people of this nation have spoken. They have delivered us a clear victory. A convincing¹ victory. A victory for “We the People.”

- 5 We have won with the most votes ever cast for a presidential ticket in the history of this nation – 74 million.

I am humbled² by the trust and confidence³ you have placed in me.

I pledge to be a President who seeks⁴ not to divide, but to unify.

Who doesn't see Red and Blue states, but a United States.

- 10 And who will work with all my heart to win the confidence of the whole people.

For that is what America is about: The people.

And that is what our Administration will be about.

I sought this office to restore⁵ the soul of America.

To rebuild the backbone⁶ of the nation – the middle class.

- 15 To make America respected around the world again and to unite us here at home.

It is the honor of my lifetime that so many millions of Americans have voted for this vision.

And now the work of making this vision real is the task of our time [...]

And I will be honored to be serving with a fantastic vice president – Kamala Harris – who

will make history as the first woman, first Black woman, first woman of South Asian

- 20 descent⁷, and first daughter of immigrants ever elected to national office in this country.

It's long overdue⁸, and we're reminded tonight of all those who fought so hard for so many years to make this happen. [...]

And to all those who supported us in the campaign we built and ran. I am proud of the coalition we put together, the broadest⁹ and most diverse in history.

- 25 Democrats, Republicans and Independents.

Progressives, moderates and conservatives.

Young and old.

Urban, suburban and rural.

Gay, straight, transgender.

- 30 White. Black. Asian. Native American. [...]

And to those who voted for President Trump, I understand your disappointment¹⁰ tonight.

I've lost a couple of elections myself.

But now let's give each other a chance.

It's time to throw away the harsh rhetoric¹¹.

To lower the temperature.

To see each other again.

To listen to each other again.

To make progress, we must stop treating our opponents¹² as our enemy.

We are not enemies. We are Americans. [...]

- 40 Because it is this: Americans have called on us to marshal¹³ [...] the great battles of our time.

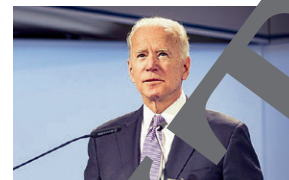
The battle to control the virus.

The battle to build prosperity.

The battle to secure your family's health care.

- 45 The battle to achieve racial justice and root out¹⁴ systemic racism in this country.

The battle to save the climate.



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