

Onlookers' Guide

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 had received just under 30 per cent of the popular votes, but secured 57 per cent of the votes of the Electoral College.

Prime to and during the sessions of events described above, there are other stages in choosing the President, notably the primaries, the national conventions and the campaign.

Open Primaries
 Presidential primary elections emerged shortly after the beginning of the century. Like other features of the American election system, these primaries are, in effect, largely controlled at the state level by party organizations and regulated by state legislation. In about one-third of the states, party voters are given the opportunity to choose delegates to the national nominating conventions and, in some states, to express their preference among party aspirants for presidential nomination. The results of these direct primaries do not as a rule influence the decisions of the national conventions as much as they affect the choice of party candidates for state and local offices.

The national party nominating conventions, first held in the 1830's, have evolved outside the United States Constitution. The size of each delegation fluctuates from convention to convention but is weighted roughly according to the population and the number of party supporters in each state. The selection of delegates and alternates is made by state party organizations through the use of primaries, as mentioned above, or by other means such as state conventions.

Candidate's Choice
 The three main purposes of a national convention are to write the party platform, to organize the party for the election campaign to follow and, most important, to choose the party's presidential candidate. It is on this last item of business that the attention of several thousand delegates and alternates and the public is centered in the summer of a presidential election year. The Constitution requires only that the President of the United States shall be a natural-born citizen, at least 35 years of age, and resident within the United States for 14 years. It goes without saying, however, that the personal and political requirements for a presidential candidate are many and varied. Apart from the obvious criteria of character and ability, it is perhaps significant that, with one or two exceptions,

certain traditional "background qualifications" appear to apply. For instance of the eleven presidential candidates elected since 1900, it is noteworthy that nine have been Governors or Senators, and six have hailed from states with more than 20 Electoral College votes.

The Principal Task
 Usually by the third day of the national convention has completed its other business, and takes up its principal task — the nomination of presidential and vice-presidential candidates. The secretary of the convention begins a roll-call of states to place names in nomination. Often a state listed at the beginning of the alphabet will "yield" its nominating position to a state listed later, so that a candidate may have the advantage of being nominated by a key state early in the proceedings.

The qualifications of each candidate are extolled in the nominating and seconding speeches, and these speeches are usually followed by noisy colorful demonstrations. This procedure, frequently lengthy, is followed by a second roll-call by state when delegates cast their votes for particular candidates. When there are a number of candidates it may be necessary to take several roll-calls of the states on the convention floor — often a dramatic procedure — until one candidate achieves a majority of the votes. As a rule, state delegations vote as a unit although delegates from many states are free to vote as individuals if they wish.

The rules covering the Republican and Democratic national conventions differ considerably, but both now require a simple majority of the delegates' votes

to select a presidential candidate. This candidate assumes the leadership of his party for at least the duration of the election campaign and serves as its national standard-bearer.

The Vice President
 One of the first tasks of a candidate, once he has received the nomination of his party, is to indicate his choice for running mate — the party's nominee for Vice President, whose name will be coupled with that of the presidential candidate. The Vice President, who must meet the same constitutional qualifications as the President, succeeds to the "powers and duties" of the presidency in the event of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of said office. President Johnson is the eighth President to assume office as a

result of the death of his predecessor.

The American voter has an unusually heavy responsibility on Election Day. Not only does he choose the Electors for President and Vice President, but he also votes for his Representative to Congress, often for a senator and usually for a number of state officials. The ballot which he uses to record these choices may include over 100 names and may be over 500 square inches in size.

Voting Machines
 The voting machine, which was introduced in New York State in 1892, is now used in a number of states and facilitates the recording and counting of votes. Unlike Canadian ballots, American ballots usually carry political party designations in the form of a

symbol or party name. Like most other regulations governing elections in the United States, the type of ballot used is determined by each state. In summary, the major events which lead to the choice of a Chief Executive begin with the presidential primary elections in several states, held through June.

In the summer of a presidential election year, the major political parties hold their national nominating conventions to choose their candidates for President and Vice President. This year the Republicans met at San Francisco in mid-July, and the Democrats convened at Atlantic City starting August 24.

Vote on Nov. 3
 Active election campaigning usually begins after Labor Day and (Continued on Page Two)

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