

ELECTION 2020

GRADES

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AMERICA'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Everything you need to know about the candidates,
the issues, and how our country elects its leader

 SCHOLASTIC

The Race for the White House

Americans will vote for the next president on November 3. But for the main candidates, getting to Election Day is a long process. Here are some key steps a candidate takes on the road to becoming his or her party's **nominee**.

Hitting the Road

Candidates try to share their ideas about solving the country's problems with as many people as possible. They crisscross the country, meeting voters and giving speeches and interviews.



An Early Start

Candidates start campaigning about a year and a half before Election Day. In this election, 4 Republicans (including current president Donald Trump) and more than 20 Democrats joined the race. But each party selects only one nominee for president.



Meeting the Competition

Candidates from the same political party face off in debates. Millions of Americans watch and compare the candidates' views on key issues.



WORD TO KNOW

nominee: a person chosen to run in an election

Primaries and Caucuses

The field of candidates gets smaller once Democrats and Republicans begin holding special elections in each state. Two types of voting contests are held. Most states hold primaries, in which voters cast secret ballots. Other states hold caucuses, in which voters meet in small groups across a state to discuss the candidates and then vote for their top choices.



Turn the page to meet the two main nominees for president!

Making It Official

Democrats and Republicans each hold a national convention in the summer. At these big meetings, each party officially nominates, or names, its candidate for president. Millions of Americans watch the conventions on TV. The official presidential and vice presidential nominees give speeches to try to energize voters.



Taking the Lead

The first primaries and caucuses are held in January or February. All 50 states and Washington, D.C., eventually hold one or the other. The last of these voting contests are held in June. By that time, one Democrat and one Republican usually have gained enough support to become their party's nominee for president.



Use the information you learned “on the road” to answer the questions below.

1. When did candidates start campaigning for this year's presidential election?

2. What is the purpose of primaries and caucuses?

3. At one time, more than 20 candidates were in the race to become president. Why do you think most of them dropped out? Use evidence from the text in your answer.

