

QUESTION

Compare and contrast electoral campaigns of Senatel and House of Representatives in United States.Are there differences in their nominations?(2000 words,use citations where possible)

ELECTION CAMPAIGNS FOR THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN UNITED STATES

INTRODUCTION

The United States Congress is the legislative branch of the federal government and consists of two houses: the lower house known as the House of Representatives and the upper house known as the Senate. There are 535 members of Congress: 100 senators and 435 representatives in the House.

In United States,national elections take place every even-numbered year. Every four years the president, vice president, one-third of the Senate, and the entire House are up for election (on-year elections). During this period, when there isn't a presidential election, one-third of the Senate and the whole House are included in the election (off-year elections).

Shortly before elections are done,campaigning, which is the act of running for office are done by the candidates. This can include using media, polling, and fundraising in order to get a candidate's name and the reasons why he or she should be elected out to the masses. The process is expensive and time consuming.

After the successful candidates announce their interest in running formally, the nomination process begins in truth.Each state usully have a primary, which can be open or closed, or a caucus. After the results are in, one candidate from each party will receive the party nomination and be announced as that party's candidate at the nomination convention. Throughout this process, the major parties play a strong role in selecting and supporting the candidates.

REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AS A CANDIDATE

An individual running for a seat in the House of Representatives or Senate becomes a candidate when he or she raises or spends more than \$5,000 in contributions or expenditures. Money raised and spent to test the waters does not count toward this dollar threshold until the individual decides to run for federal office or conducts activities that indicate he or she is actively campaigning rather than testing the waters.

The \$5,000 threshold is reached when:

- a)The individual and/or persons they have authorized to conduct campaign activity receive over \$5,000 in contributions or make over \$5,000 in expenditures; or
- b)The individual fails to disavow unauthorized campaign activity by writing a letter to the Federal Election Commission(FEC) within 30 days after being notified by the agency that another person or group has received contributions or made expenditures of more than \$5,000 on the individual's behalf.

Within 15 days after an individual becomes a candidate as described, they must designate a principal campaign committee. This designation is made by filing either a Statement of Candidacy (Form 2) or a letter with the same information. A candidate

required to file electronically cannot designate a principal campaign committee with a written letter but must instead file Form 2.

All candidates file with the FEC, electronically or by paper: Candidates who file electronically are required to use Form 2. Candidates who file by paper can use either Form 2 or a letter with the same information that's captured on Form 2. The Statement of Candidacy requires a candidate's signature. It collects some basic information, including the candidate's name and address. It's also where candidates authorize any campaign committees working for them and for those who were in offices before updates an existing registration.

Updating the principal campaign committee: Using Form 2, the candidate may either redesignate their previous campaign committee (if it has not been terminated) or designate a new principal campaign committee. If the candidate redesignates an existing committee, the committee need only amend its Statement of Organization (Form 1) within 10 days to reflect any new information (for example, a change in the committee's name or address). The redesignated committee will retain its original FEC identification number. If the candidate designates a new principal campaign committee, the committee must file a new Statement of Organization (Form 1) within 10 days after being designated. The newly designated committee will receive a new FEC identification number.

Registering for special elections: In addition, a separate Form 2 must be filed for any special election in which the candidate is running. The candidate can designate the same principal campaign committee or designate a new committee to raise and spend funds for the regularly scheduled elections.

DISCUSSION

There are different factors that are important for senate campaign and elections as opposed to House of Representatives campaign and elections. These include:

a) According to Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution, to be able to run in an election for the Senate one must be 30 years old by the time one takes the oath of office and a citizen of the U.S. for at least nine years whereas in order to be elected to the House of Representatives one must be at least 25 years old by the time one takes the oath of office and a citizen of the U.S. for at least seven years.

b) In references to the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, Senate and House of Representative elections differ in who votes for the candidates. All eligible voters within a state may vote for Senator. A Representative is elected by only those eligible voters residing in the congressional district that the candidate will represent. Hence a candidate seeks popularity from his or her eligible voters.

c) Each state has two Senators who are elected to serve six-year terms while the number of persons representing each state depends upon its population as reported in the Nation's decennial census for example, smaller states like Vermont and Delaware have one representative while large states like California have 53 representatives.

d) Whereas every two years one third of the Senate is up for election all members of the House of Representatives are up for reelection every two years.

The similarities in House of Representatives campaign and elections and senate campaigns and elections include:

a) In both House of Representatives and Senate, the candidates must be residents of the state from which they are to be elected.

b) Both Senate and House of Representatives election winners are decided by the plurality rule. That is, the person who receives the highest number of votes wins. This may not necessarily be a majority of the votes. In some states, this may not necessarily be a majority of the votes. For example, in an election with three candidates, one candidate may receive only 38% of the vote, another 32%, and the third 30%. Although no candidate has received a majority of more than 50% of the votes, the candidate with 38% wins because she or he has the most votes (the plurality). In other states, if there is no majority, there is a run off election between the top two. Therefore, the candidates are required to seek utmost popularity from their eligible voters during campaigns.

c) In both Senate and House of Representatives nominations are held in most states in order to decide which candidates will be on the November general election ballot. The nominations are similar as in both, some state parties hold conventions in conjunction with the primary. If a candidate is unopposed, there may not be a primary election. Those who represent a major political party are automatically placed on a state's primary ballot. Minor party candidates are chosen by their party's rules while independent candidates nominate themselves. Independent candidates and those representing minor parties must meet various state requirements to be placed on the general election ballot. An example of this would be to submit a petition with signatures from a certain number of registered voters.

CONCLUSION

The qualifications to run for office in the House of Representatives and Senate are found in Article 1 of the Constitution and they include: a) House of Representatives; 25 years of age, citizen of the United States for at least 7 years at the time of election and a resident of the state which he or she wants to represent. b) U.S. Senate; 30 years of age, citizen of the United States for 9 years at the time of election and a resident of the state which he or she wants to represent.

There are a total of 535 Members of Congress. 100 serve in the U.S. Senate and 435 serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. Each state sends two Senators to represent their state in the U.S. Senate. However, in the House of Representatives, a state's representation is based on its population.

Members of the House of Representatives serve two-year terms and are considered for reelection every even year. Senators however, serve six-year terms and elections to the Senate are staggered over even years so that only about 1/3 of the Senate is up for reelection during any election.

In both House of Representatives and Senate, similar nominations are held to decide which candidates will be in the November election ballot during an even numbered year.

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