**Chapter 12 - Elections and Voting**

* “Americans are voting for the rest of the world.”  
  Bruce George – Member of the House of Commons for 36 years

I. Election Campaigns

* National elections are held every two years
* All members of the House of Representatives are elected
* 1/3rd of the Senate is elected every two years

A. Electing the President

* **Election Day –**

* **Electoral College –**
* Number of electors is equal to the number of Senators and Representatives from each state + for D.C.
* **270 –**

B. Original System

* Founders did not want common people voting for the president
* Believed they were uneducated and uninformed
* In early elections no popular vote was even counted – Electors got to vote for two people
* Person who received the most voted became president
* Runner-up became vice-president – **Problem?**
* **Twelfth Amendment (1804) –**

C. Electoral College Today

* Popular vote in each state determines who win the electoral votes – Not chosen by popular votes in many states until 1860
* **Winner-Takes-All** –

* Nebraska and Maine are the only exceptions to this rule
* Candidates who win the popular vote are not guaranteed to win the presidency

Presidents Who Lost the Popular Vote

* **John Quincy Adams (1824)**
* **Rutherford B. Hayes (1876)**
* **Benjamin Harrison (1888)**
* **George W. Bush (2000)**

D. Financing Campaigns

* **2008 –**
* **2012 –**
* Each individual is only allowed to donate $2,600 dollars to a candidate
* **Soft Money –**
* **Political Action Committees (Super PACs) –**
* ***Citizens United V Federal Election Committee* (2010) –**