From Ballot to Office

Compare how local, state, and federal leaders are chosen

5.C.4 "Describe the primary and general election processes for local, state, and federal offices, including those used to select congressional and presidential office holders."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions that help select party nominees, circle actions that happen in general elections, and number the president's steps from the primary through the Electoral College.

Three Campaign Signs

1. Picture campaign signs for mayor, governor, and president along one street. These jobs serve different areas: a city, a state, and the nation. Many elections have two main stages. In a party primary, voters help choose that party's candidate, called a nominee. In the general election, voters choose among candidates on the ballot. Rules vary by state and city. Some local races do not use party primaries.

2. A governor leads a state. Party primaries can pick governor nominees; statewide voters choose the governor in the general election. Congress makes federal laws. House members represent districts, while senators represent whole states. Candidates for these offices can seek party nominations in primaries. In general elections, voters in each district choose a House member, and voters across a state choose a senator. Independent candidates may also run.

3. The president's path has an extra step. In many states, presidential primaries help parties award delegates who choose a nominee at a national convention. Some states use caucuses instead. In the general election, voters choose a presidential ticket, a president and vice president together. Their votes decide which electors a state appoints under its rules. The electors then vote for president and vice president in the Electoral College.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How might a mayoral election differ from a governor's election before the general election?

2. Compare who votes in a House general election with who votes in a Senate general election.

3. How do presidential primaries and a national convention work together to select a nominee?

4. How does choosing a governor in the general election differ from choosing a president?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A neighbor says, "A primary winner takes office right away." Write four sentences correcting this claim. Use one local or state office and the presidency, and include what happens after the presidential general election.

ANSWER KEY

From Ballot to Office

GRADE 5 · 5.C.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline actions that help select party nominees, circle actions that happen in general elections, and number the president's steps from the primary through the Electoral College. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How might a mayoral election differ from a governor's election before the general election?	**Some local races do not use party primaries. Party primaries can select nominees for governor.**
2	Compare who votes in a House general election with who votes in a Senate general election.	**Voters in a House district choose its representative. Voters across the state choose a senator.**
3	How do presidential primaries and a national convention work together to select a nominee?	**Primaries help parties award delegates. The delegates choose a nominee at a national convention.**
4	How does choosing a governor in the general election differ from choosing a president?	**Statewide voters choose the governor. In a presidential election, voters choose a ticket, and their votes determine which electors the state appoints.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a city that uses party primaries, a mayoral primary picks a party nominee, not the mayor. Voters choose the mayor in the general election. Presidential primaries help choose delegates who pick a party nominee at a convention. After the presidential general election, appointed electors cast votes in the Electoral College.

Accept either a local or state office in the open response. Look for a clear distinction between selecting a nominee and choosing an officeholder, plus the electors' role after the presidential general election.