



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

## 2021-2022 TYPES OF ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

### VOCABULARY

**Directions:** Frontload (introduce and review) these vocabulary words with your students to facilitate their understanding of the topic and coinciding resources:

1. **Electoral System** (n.) - A set of rules that determine how elections and referendums are conducted and how their results are determined.
2. **Ballot** (n.) - A process of voting, in writing and typically in secret..
3. **Candidate** (n.) - A person who is running for elected office.
4. **First-Past-The-Post Voting (single-member plurality)** (n.) - A system of voting that has voters cast their vote for a candidate of their choice, and the candidate who receives the most votes wins.
5. **Proportional representation** (n.) - An electoral system in which parties gain seats in proportion to the number of votes cast for them.
6. **Runoff Voting System** (n.) - A voting system which could allow for a second election to determine a winner when no candidate in the first election met the required threshold for victory.

### CURRENT EVENT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

**Directions:** As you read through news and other resources about TOPIC, consider the following questions:

- Who is in charge of local, state and federal elections?
- What election rules are set by the Constitution and federal government?
- What are the different types of electoral systems currently being used in the United States?
- How do the electoral systems used in the U.S. compare to those used in other democratic countries?
- What are the similarities and differences between the various types of electoral systems?
- In your opinion, what should be the primary objectives of a country's electoral system?
- Thomas Jefferson is attributed with the quote, "... Laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind.. As that becomes more enlightened, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times." How does this quote relate to the debate around electoral system reform?