**Absentee Voting**-The process by which a registered voter who cannot physically attend their designated polling place can still cast their vote.

**Ballot**-The process in which registered voters cast their choice for a candidate running for political office.

**Caucus**-A nominating process where a group of like-minded people meet to select the candidate that they will support in an upcoming election.

**Closed Primary**-A party’s nominating election in which only registered members of that political party can vote.

**General Election**-Regularly scheduled elections in which citizens cast their vote for office holders.

**Hard Money**-Financial contributions that are given directly to a political candidate in a limited amount that must be used when campaigning for Congress or the White House.

**Open Primary**-A party’s nominating election in which any qualified voter can cast a ballot.

**Polling Place**-The place where registered voters go to cast their ballot.

**Political Action Committee (PAC)**-The political arm of a special-interest group or other organizations who hold a stake in the upcoming election.

**Soft Money**-Unlimited monetary funds given to parties or other political organizations for activities that will help build support for the party or increase voter registration.