

## US Government Final Exam - Reading Section

**Use the five documents to answer the questions 1-25.**

Document #1: Chart, *How a Bill Becomes A Law*. by Kids Discover

Document #2: Gallup Poll on *Same Sex Marriage*

Document #3: Infographic, *Who Actually Votes*, by Column 5

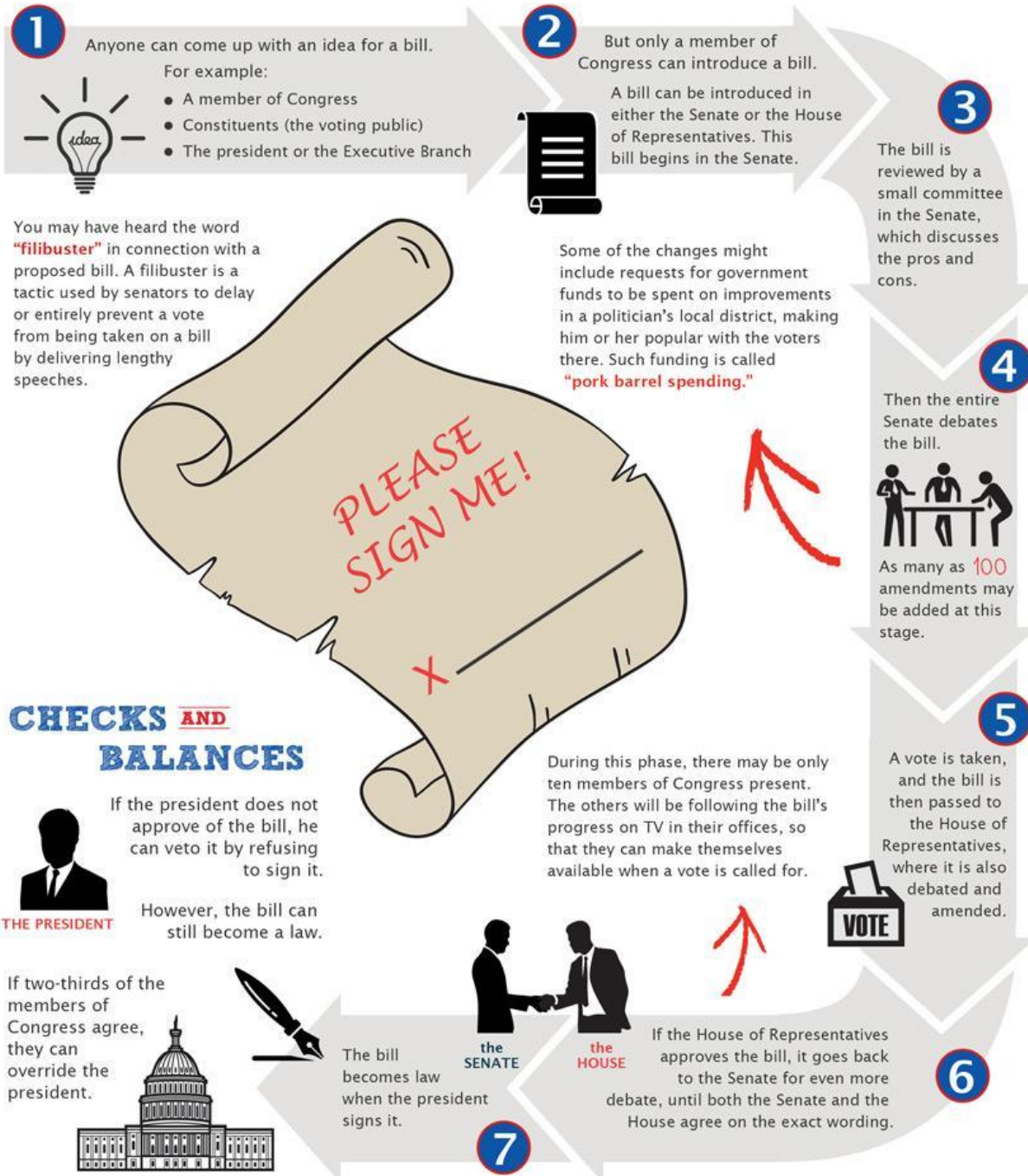
Document #4: *2016 and 2012 Electoral Maps* from 270 to Win

Document #5: Article, *What Does the President's Cabinet Do?*, from Whitehouse.gov

# How a Bill becomes a Law



All U.S. laws start out as bills in Congress. For a bill to become a law can be a lengthy process, and many bills don't make it through. Of the approximately 5,000 bills that are introduced each year, only about 150 actually become laws.



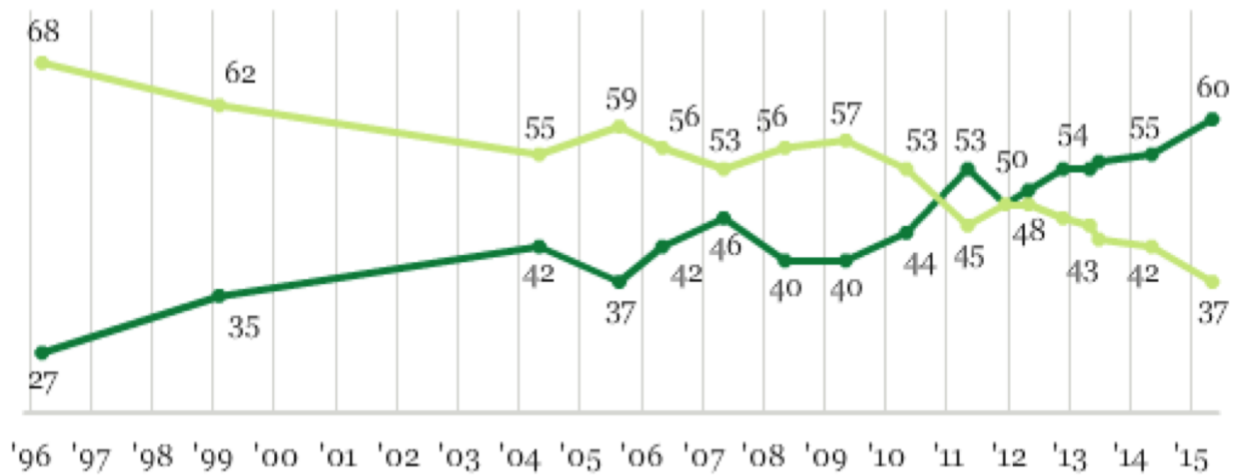
**Look at the Kids Discover infographic on *How a Bill Becomes a Law* and answer questions 1-5.**

1. According to infographic:
  - A. The majority of bills introduced to Congress become laws
  - B. A small minority of bills introduced to Congress become laws
  - C. About half of all bills introduced to Congress become laws.
  - D. Not enough information in infographic to answer this
  
2. The idea for a bill may come from:
  - A. A member of Congress
  - B. The voting public
  - C. The President
  - D. All of the Above
  
3. A bill:
  - A. Must be introduced to the Senate first.
  - B. Must be introduced to the House of Representatives first
  - C. Must be introduced in both the House and the Senate at the same time.
  - D. May be introduced first in either the House or the Senate
  
4. A tactic used in the Senate to delay or keep a vote from being taken in the Senate is called:
  - A. An amendment
  - B. Pork barrel spending
  - C. Filibuster
  - D. Veto
  
5. If a President vetoes a bill, the Congress may pass the bill anyway if:
  - A. A majority of Congress votes for the bill
  - B. The House or the Senate add amendments
  - C. The House and the Senate agree on the exact wording of the bill.
  - D. The Congress overrides the President's veto by a two thirds vote.

**Use the graph below from the Gallup organization to answer questions 6-10.**

*Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?*

■ % Should be valid    ■ % Should not be valid



Note: Trend shown for polls in which same-sex marriage question followed questions on gay/lesbian rights and relations  
1996-2005 wording: "Do you think marriages between homosexuals ..."

GALLUP®

"A Tale of Two Supreme Court Decisions - Gallup." 6 Jul. 2015 <<http://www.gallup.com/opinion/polling-matters/183908/tale-two-supreme-court-decisions.aspx>>

6. In 1999, what percentage of Americans felt that same sex couples should have the same rights as heterosexual couples?

A. 62%

- B. 35%
  - C. 37%
  - D. 60%
7. In 2015 how has public opinion changed compared with sixteen years ago?
- A. The majority of Americans now think that same sex couples should receive the same legal rights as people in traditional marriages.
  - B. The majority of Americans still think that same sex couples should not be recognized as valid marriages by law.
  - C. It is not clear what the majority of Americans think from the graph.
  - D. Now all American support same-sex marriages
8. In what year was public opinion about same sex marriage almost evenly divided?
- A. 1999
  - B. 2005
  - C. 2012
  - D. 2015
9. If the public opinion trends continue in the same direction, we would expect that in 2025:
- A. Even more Americans will support equal marriage rights for same sex couples
  - B. Americans will go back to being evenly divided about rights for same sex couples
  - C. The majority of Americans will oppose equal rights to same sex married couples
  - D. Can't tell from the data
10. Which would be the most accurate title for this graph?
- A. American Views of Traditional Marriage Remains Constant
  - B. Gay Rights Are Controversial
  - C. More Americans Support Equal Marriage Rights for Same Sex Couples
  - D. Marriage is Declining in America

**Use the following infographic to answer questions 11-15.**



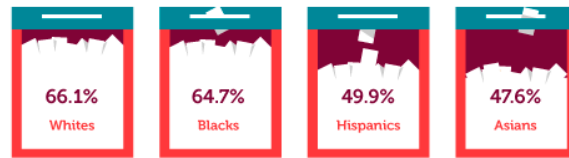
# ACTUALLY VOTES IN AMERICA?

During the 2008 presidential election, 64 percent of voting-age Americans—131 million people—showed up to their local polling places to cast a ballot. But who exactly turned out?

## ★ WOMEN VOTED AT A HIGHER RATE THAN MEN ★



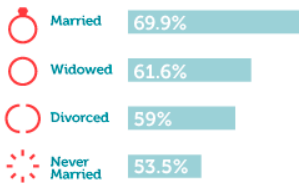
## ★ ★ WHITES AND BLACKS TOPPED THE VOTER TURNOUT TABLES



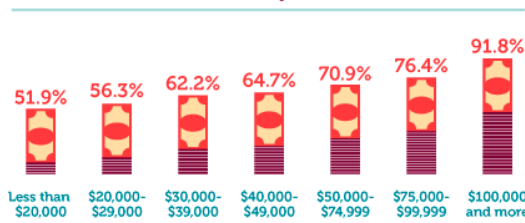
## TURNOUT RATES WENT UP WITH AGE



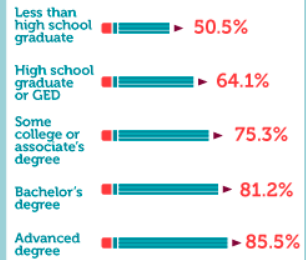
## ★ PEOPLE WHO WERE MARRIED—OR HAD BEEN AT SOME POINT—WERE BETTER AT SHOWING UP TO VOTE



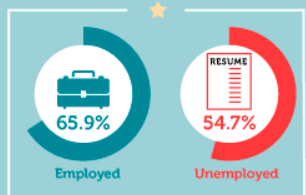
## ★ THE RICH VOTED AT HIGHER RATES THAN THE POOR



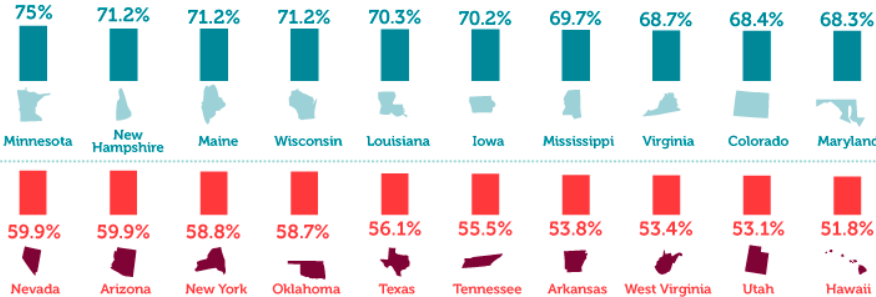
## HIGHER LEVELS OF EDUCATION TRANSLATED INTO HIGHER LEVELS OF VOTING



## ★ THE UNEMPLOYED WERE LESS LIKELY TO VOTE



## 10 STATES WITH THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST VOTER TURNOUT



SOURCES: US CENSUS BUREAU, PROJECT VOTE



★ TAKE ACTION ★  
Tell the world why you're voting this year at [Takepart.com/Tuesday](http://Takepart.com/Tuesday)

INFOGRAPHIC DESIGN BY COLUMN FIVE



11. According to the infographic, did men or women vote in higher percentages in the 2008

Presidential election?

- A. Men voted in higher percentages than women.
- B. Women voted in higher percentages than men.
- C. Men and women voted in exactly the same percentages.
- D. There is not enough information on the infographic to tell whether men or women had higher voter participation rates.

12. Which group in the 2008 Presidential election had the lowest voter participation rate?

- A. Whites
- B. Blacks
- C. Hispanics
- D. Asians

13. Which age group turned out to vote in the highest percentages?

- A. 18-24 year olds
- B. 35-44 year olds
- C. 65-74 year olds
- D. voters 75 or above

14. Which of the following generalizations about voting is supported by information in the infographic?

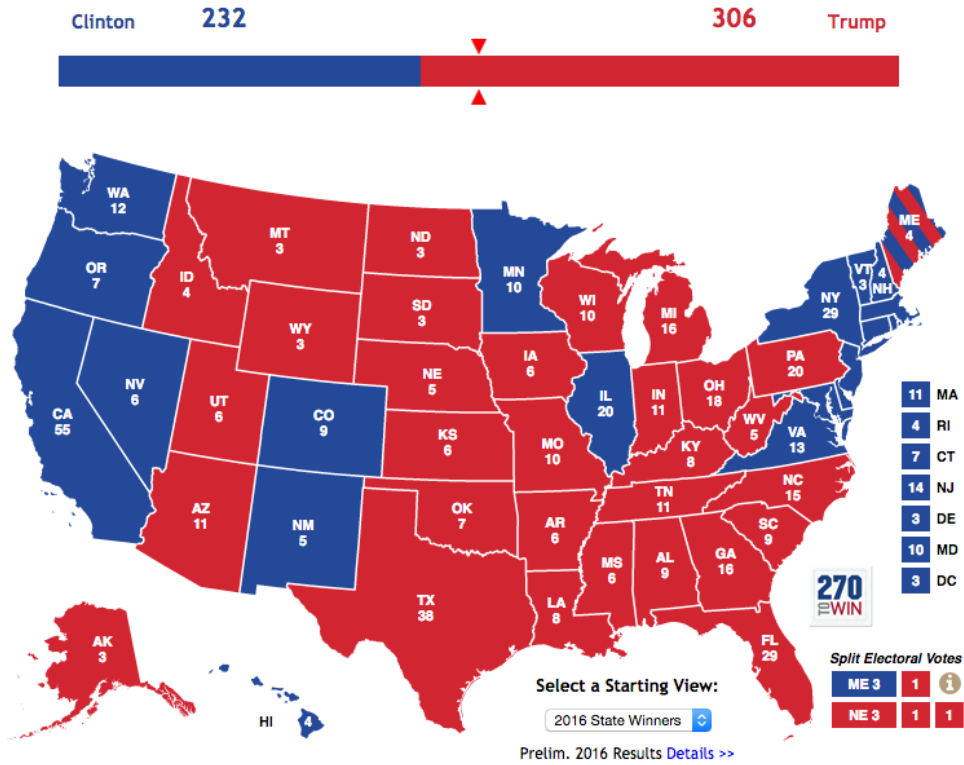
- A. The top reason for not voting is that people do not like the candidate choices.
- B. Unemployed people are more likely to vote than those who are employed.
- C. People who were never married vote at higher rates than people who are married.
- D. People with higher levels of education and incomes vote at higher rates than the poor and people with lower levels of education.

15. Which of the following generalizations about voter turnout in different states is supported by the infographic?

- A. In states with the lowest voter turnout, less than half of the eligible voters voted.
- B. In states with the highest voter turnout, over two thirds to three quarters of eligible voters voted.
- C. California was among the states with the highest voter turnout.
- D. States with the highest voting percentages were all located in the western United States.

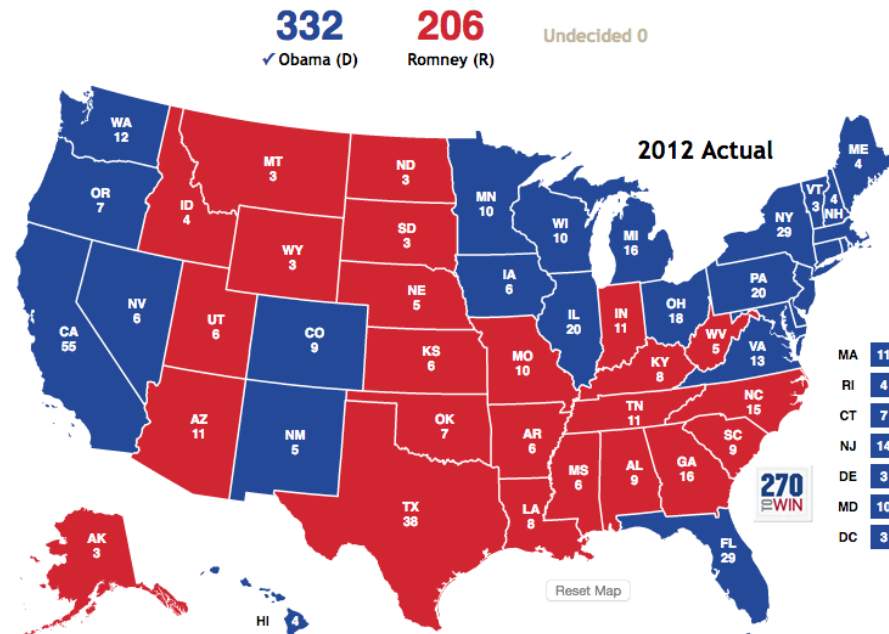
**Use the 2016 and 2012 Electoral maps to answer questions 16-20.**

2016 Electoral College Map



## 2012 Presidential Election Interactive Map

270 electoral votes to win



Look at the 2016 and 2012 Electoral College Maps and answer the following questions 16-20.



16. In 2012 and 2016 which political party won the western states of California, Oregon, and Washington?

- A. Democrats
- B. Republicans
- C. Can't tell from the map.

17. According to the 2012 and 2016 Presidential Electoral College Maps, how many electoral college votes are necessary to win the Presidency?

- A. 332
- B. 270
- C. 206
- D. Can't tell from map.

18. According to the 2012 Presidential Electoral College Map, The Republican Party had the most support support in which of the following areas of the country?

- A. The West Coast
- B. The Northeast
- C. The midwest near the Great Lakes (Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ohio)
- D. The South

19. According to the 2016 Presidential Electoral College Map which area of the country switched from Democratic support to Republican support?

- A. The West Coast
- B. The Northeast
- C. The Midwest near the Great Lakes (Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ohio)
- D. The South

20. Hillary Clinton won almost 3 million more votes than Donald Trump in the 2016 election. However, she lost the Electoral College primarily due to losing the popular vote in states that previously voted Democratic in the 2012 election. Which of the following states switched from Blue in 2012 to Red in 2016?

- A. Pennsylvania
- B. Florida
- C. Ohio
- D. All three of the above states.

**Read the article, *What Does the President's Cabinet Do?*, by the Whitehouse.gov on 11/21/16, and answer questions 21-25.**

21. According to the article, the President's Cabinet could best be described as:
- A. 9,000 mid level appointees
  - B. Close advisers to the President
  - C. Members of Congress
  - D. Members of the President's Immediate Family
22. The President's cabinet members are appointed by the President, but each cabinet position must be confirmed by:
- A. The voters
  - B. The House of Representatives
  - C. The Senate
  - D. The states
23. Cabinet members are in charge of different agencies and departments within the government. According to the article, since the first cabinet was formed by George Washington, the Cabinet today is:
- A. Smaller than the original cabinet
  - B. Less important than the original cabinet
  - C. Larger and more important than the original cabinet
  - D. Meets more often than the original cabinet
24. We can infer from the article that when Donald Trump becomes President, most of President's Obama's Cabinet members will:
- A. Keep their jobs in the Trump administration
  - B. Will be replaced by Trump's Cabinet picks
  - C. Continue to work in the career Civil Service
  - D. Will become close confidants of Donald Trump
25. The Cabinet members are in the "presidential line of succession - after the vice president, speaker of the House and Senate *pro tempore*." *Line of succession* in this context means:
- A. A cabinet member would take over the Presidency should something happen to the people listed above.
  - B. A cabinet member is a close advisor to the President.
  - C. A cabinet member heads a department within the Federal Government.
  - D. A successful cabinet member is in line for a promotion.