

Explain and Predict Analyze the visual as a class, and ask students the following questions:

- In the picture, what does the horse represent? (*The horse represents a third-party candidate.*)
- Why is our electoral process expensive? (*The process is expensive because each phase requires financing. Even the financing phase, during which money is raised, costs money. Then come primaries and national elections. During both of these, money is spent to launch and maintain political campaigns.*)
- What might happen if we had a different process that was not as long or as expensive? (*Possible answers: Elections might not cost as much, but there is also a possibility that they might not be as democratic. Having primary and national elections allows more candidates to run for office, and provides a longer period during which candidates can voice their views and issues can be debated. A shorter process might mean that issues are not discussed as much.*)

Extend Have students redraw the visual by adding details for each of the banners across the track. Their annotations should address the following questions: What is involved in campaign financing? What laws affect and shape campaign financing? How are political campaigns financed? What are the details of primary elections? What happens as a direct result of primaries? How are national elections organized? What happens to the field of candidates after primary races? What happens when the finish line is crossed? Allow students to use the library or Internet resources to do research. Ask students to compare their research with the class.

