U.S. Elections in the Classroom:
An Annotated Resources List

270toWin: https://www.270towin.com/
This website is devoted to a number of resources on the U.S. elections year-round. Here you can access an interactive electoral votes map, headline news published by 270toWin staff with links to further articles, and resources about important dates and key facts about the elections. 270toWin is run by the LLC "Electoral Ventures" and focuses on forecasting election results with their interactive map tool.

VOA News: https://www.voanews.com/usa
Voice of America (VOA) has been broadcasting news and information internationally since 1942 and is part of the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM). Funding for the website is provided by the U.S. Congress. During the election season (beginning with the primary elections in 2024), VOA News dedicates quite a few of their weekly, easy-to-read U.S. news articles to the election cycle. Aside from the elections, VOA also focuses on crucial topics like foreign policy events, immigration, healthcare, and more.

PBS Learning Media – the Election Collection:
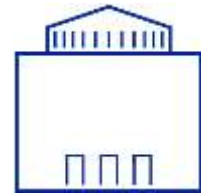https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/election-collection/
The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) is a longstanding staple of the informal U.S. educational media landscape. Their collection of PBS NewsHour videos, lesson plans, games, and more gives users a wide selection of information and resources for the classroom. While the materials are meant for native English speakers, experienced English speakers should have no problem following along.

ABC News – Project 538: https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com
Like many broadcasting companies, ABC News has a dedicated elections information site. ABC tracks national polls, fundraising and other aspects of the elections, and their staff create graphs and other visuals that may be useful in the classroom. 538 is just one of many projects ABC News produces, so it may be worth scrolling through to see what else may be relevant for your classrooms.

New York Times 2024 Elections: https://www.nytimes.com/news-event/2024-election
During elections, the NYT offers free access to their election news and polling information. Their "Issues Tracker" tool offers insights into the variety of views within a particular party. Issues span the current gambit of debate topics and topics candidates speak about online and during campaign trail visits.

Library of Congress – Elections Materials: https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/elections/

The U.S. Library of Congress has digitized thousands of primary sources, including sources related to the elections system like the right to vote, the election process and historical campaigns. For each set of primary sources, the LoC offers lesson plans and presentations free of charge.

iCivics Game – Win the White House: https://www.icivics.org/games/win-white-house

As a non-partisan civic education organization, iCivics offers not only its simulation game, but also further materials for educators and interested students about U.S. civic education. The free simulation game leads players through various challenges candidates face during an election. Note: the loading time and time to connect to the server can be a bit long.

State of Iowa's Elections 101: https://elections101.iowa.gov/curriculum/history-and-iowas-first-in-the-nation-status/

Iowa uses a caucus format for its primary elections. What is this process, and how do news outlets report and explain this rather unique voting format? The lesson plans have been devised for Iowan schools and use a combination of teaching materials, videos and primary sources.

U.S. Department of State – The Role of Social Media in U.S. Elections: https://2017-2021.state.gov/elections-101-the-role-of-social-media-in-us-elections/

Archived from the State Department website, this is a transcript of a presentation by an NYU politics professor, which took place in the New York Foreign Press Center. It focuses on the use and potential dangers of social media in elections and political coverage. After the presentation transcript, audience questions and the answers to these are included.

The resource list above is non-exhaustive. By sharing this list, Amerikahaus Munich does not condone, nor is represented by, the views presented in these sources.