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# District Competitiveness

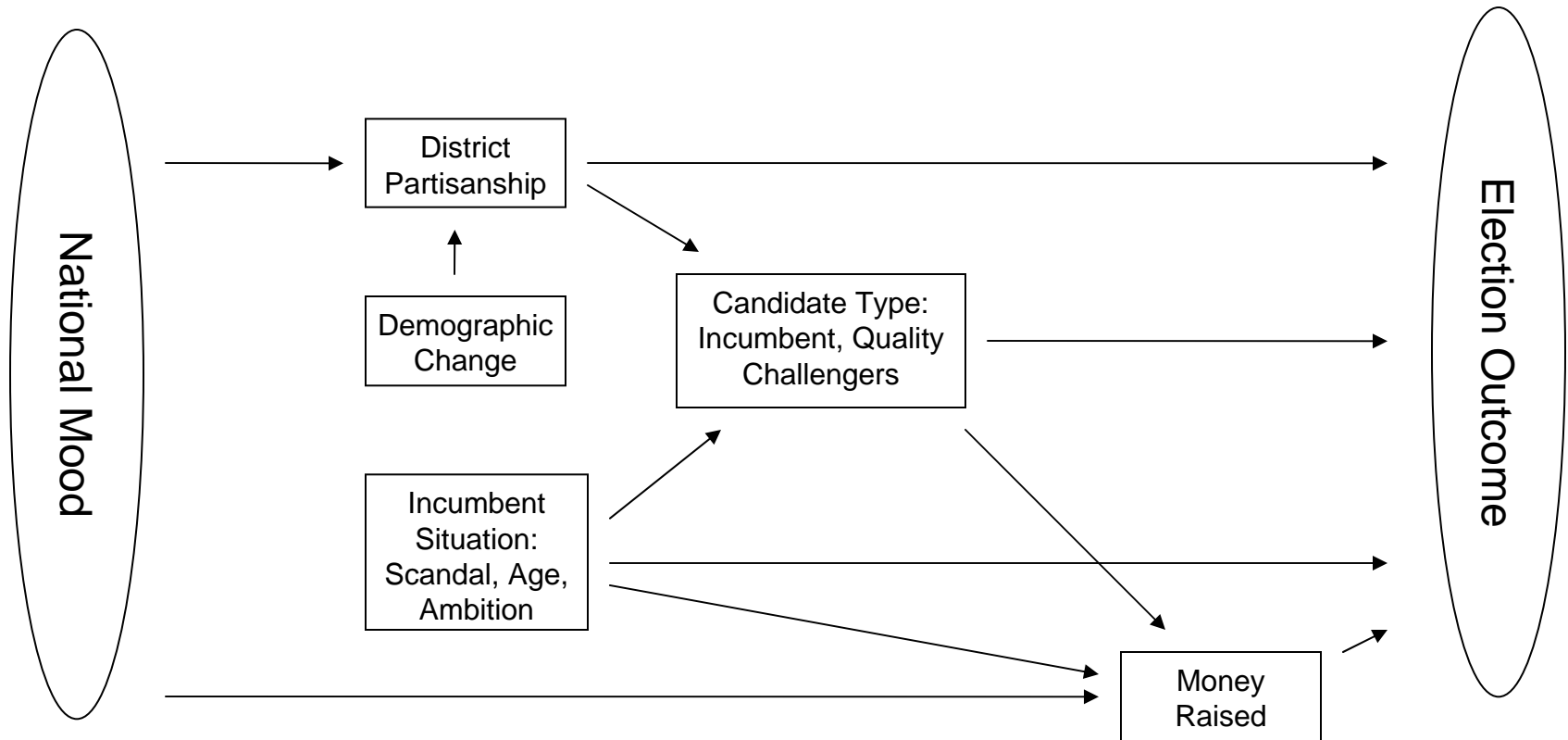
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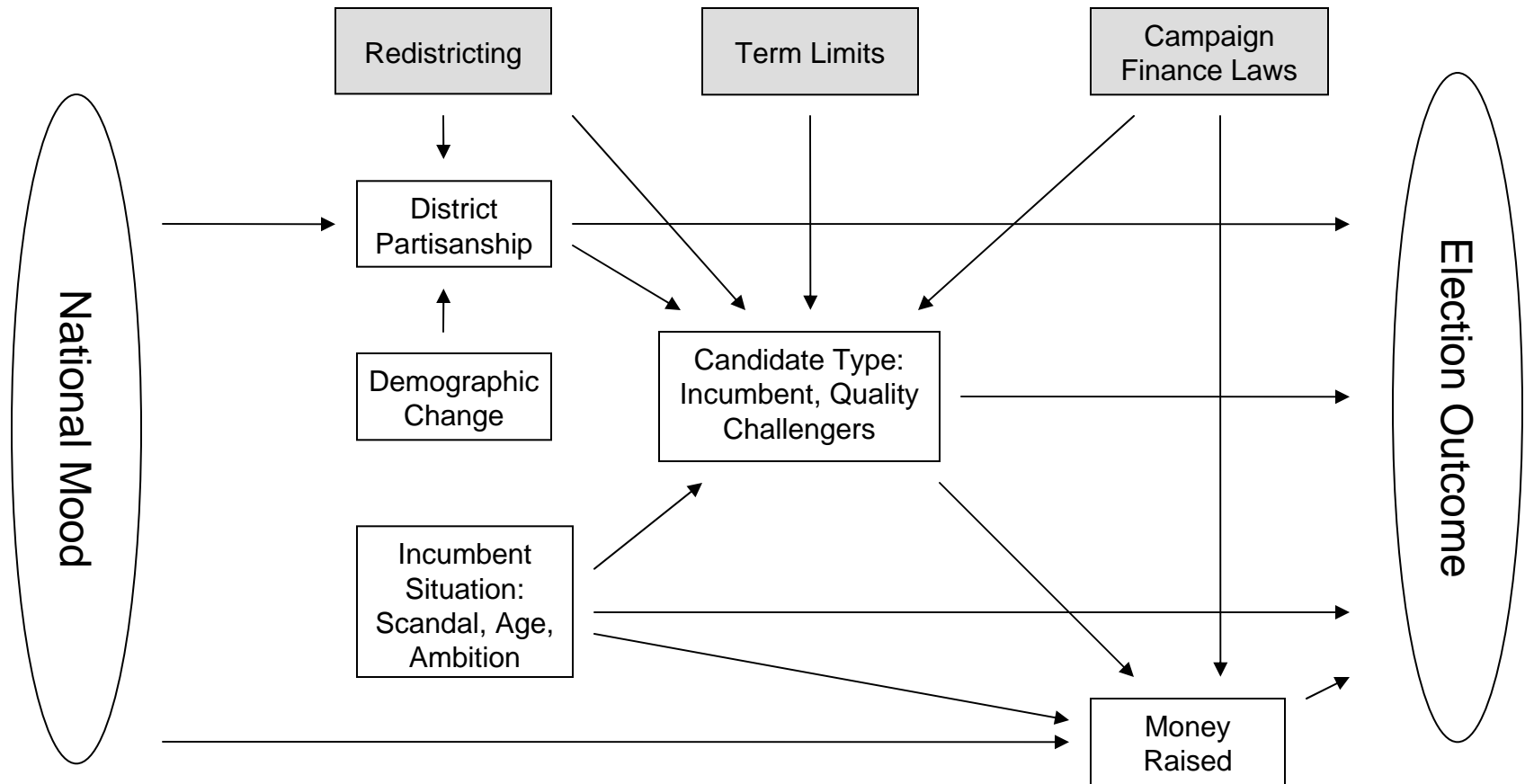
# The Election Process Within a District



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# Outcome-Based Criteria

- Districts shall not favor...
- Districts shall be competitive...

# “Unduly Favor” Criteria

## Hawaii State Constitution, Article IV §6

No district shall be so drawn as to unduly favor a person or faction.

## Idaho Statutes 71.1506(8)

Counties shall not be divided to protect a particular political party or a particular incumbent.

## Iowa Code Title II 42.4(5)

No district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, incumbent legislator or member of Congress, or other person or group...

## Washington RCW 44.05.090 (5)

The commission's plan shall not be drawn purposely to favor or discriminate against any political party or group.

# Competitiveness Criteria

## Arizona Constitution, Article IV, 2.1(14)(F)

To the extent practicable, competitive districts should be favored where to do so would create no significant detriment to the other goals.

## Washington RCW 44.05.090 (5)

The commission shall exercise its powers to provide fair and effective representation and to encourage electoral competition.

## Wisconsin Statutes 4.0001(3) [Enacted for 1980]

...reflect a good faith effort to apportion the legislature giving due consideration to.... competitive legislative districts.

## Colorado SB08-198

After considering other factors in law pertaining to redistricting, to the extent practicable the General Assembly shall create districting that promote fair and equitable representation and electoral competition.

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# A Competitive District is...

A district where two equally matched partisan candidates have an equal chance of winning  
In other words, where partisan voters are equally balanced

# Is a District is Competitive?

## Averaging Statewide Election Results

- Examine statewide elections & partisan voter registration
  - Best elections are recent lower ballot races where partisanship is primary cue for voters, though any highly partisan races, such as the 2000 presidential election, can also serve well.
  - Good to average across a large number of elections

# Is a District is Competitive?

## Statistical Modeling

- Develop a correspondence between legislative elections and statewide elections (and where available other factors such as incumbency and spending)
  - Forecast hypothetical election outcome if two evenly matched candidates ran
  - Complications: minor party candidates, uncontested elections
  - Benefit: can statistically describe a competitive district using 95% confidence intervals

# Limitations on Competitive Districts

- Geography
- Time
- Communities of Interest/Political Boundaries
- Overall state competitiveness
- Voting Rights Act
  - In a Democratic state, can improve competitiveness in the remainder
  - In a Republican state, can work against competition