

A.P. GOVERNMENT

Unit 4

Political Parties, Ideology, and Elections

“Political Parties Functions and Campaign Finance”

Mr. Ahlberg

Notes #5




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Two Party System

- This is a BIPARTISAN SYSTEM that is reinforced by U.S. election rules and electoral system




- Winner-Take-All vs Proportional Representation
 - Difficult to unify a party around a single issue
 - Multi party systems in England and Israel



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Party Structure

- National Convention
 - Meets every 4 years to nominate President
- National Committee
 - Manages party affairs on daily basis
 - Sets Primary schedule and organizes Convention
 - Sets Parties PLATFORM
- Congressional campaign committee
 - Supports party's candidates for Congress
- National chair
 - Manages daily work



Democrats 2016
Philadelphia



Republicans 2016
Cleveland



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Party Functions

- Political Parties try to put their beliefs/ ideologies into practice through the control of government by winning elections.

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Party Functions

- Recruit Candidates
 - Find the most electable
- Activate and Inform voters
 - Propaganda and rallies
- Provide campaign funds and support
 - Money and Endorsements
- Organize and Operate Government
 - Leadership in Congress is determined by party
- Provide Opposition toward party in power
 - Criticism of the party in power



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3rd/Minor Parties

- Represent people disenfranchised by the two major parties
 - Reform Party
 - Green Party
 - Tea Party
- Most often are Single Issue or Splinter Group
- Flourish during times of dissatisfaction
- No chance of winning, but can have an impact
 - Ralph Nader (Green Party) taking votes from Al Gore in 2000
 - <http://www.nbcnews.com/video/meet-the-press/23320410#23320410>

A.P. GOVERNMENT **Independent Candidates**

- Run with no party affiliation
 - Eugene McCarthy in 1968
 - John Anderson in 1980
- Lack of money, no National organization and the electoral system make Independent candidates fail

A.P. GOVERNMENT **Party Alignment**

- Party Base
 - Liberals and Conservatives within their parties that the party leaders and candidates must placate by not being to extreme
- Party Realignment
 - Occurs when the minority party becomes stronger than the majority party.
- Party De-Alignment
 - Results of party members becoming disaffected with a parties position on the issues

A.P. GOVERNMENT **Campaign Finance**

- Federal Election Campaign Act (1971)
 - Requires politicians to disclose details about:
 - Contributors and amounts given
 - Expenditures
 - Put limits in place for Presidential Elections
 - Candidates could officially donate \$50,000 of their own money to the campaign
- Parts of this were Struck down by the S.C. in *Buckley v. Valeo*
 - Donations are protected as free speech

A.P. GOVERNMENT ***Citizens United v. F.E.C. (2010)***

- Supreme Court ruled a corporation and/or unions can NOT be limited in it's campaign spending.

A.P. GOVERNMENT **Presidential Election Matching Funds**

- Primary Candidates who get more than 10% of the vote in a primary election can apply for them.
 - They double all contributions of \$250 or less by matching them
 - Spending is then limited
 - \$42 million in primary elections
 - \$84 million in general election
 - No other Donations are allowed

A.P. GOVERNMENT **Congressional Campaigns**

- There is no public financing
- There are also no limits on spending
- Legislators inherently don't want reform
 - It would make re-election more difficult for incumbents