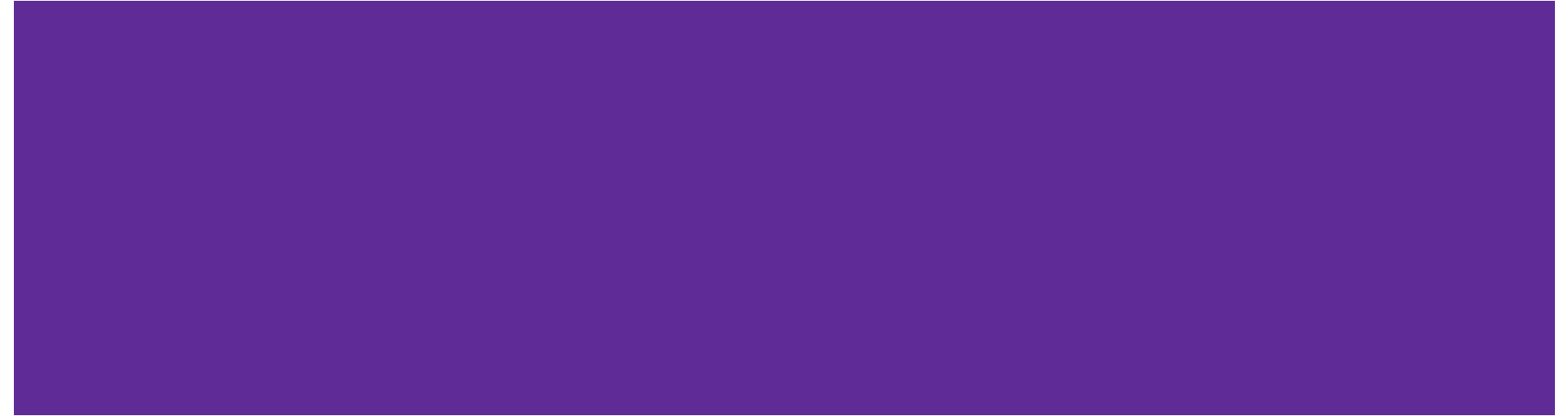


# Political Parties

Parties, Elections, and Voting



# U.S. Political Parties: Defined

## What is a political party?

- Organization of people who share broad, common ideas about the way the country should be governed and want to influence policy by electing candidates to office



# Political Party Systems

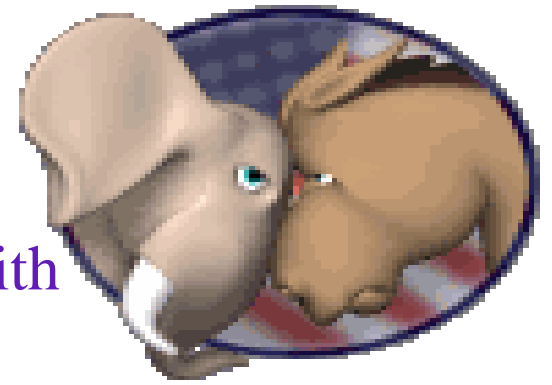
- **3 Political Party Systems in the World**

1.) **One-Party System:** Political party and the government are the **SAME**

- Only 1 party, so no competing ideas
- Party membership based on lineage, wealth, military power, religious power
- **Example: China (Communist Party)**



# Political Party Systems



2.) **Two-Party System:** Two parties compete with each other to run the government.

- Party system of U.S.: **Democrats and Republicans**
- **Advantages:** Continuity (fewer radicals/fringe groups); familiarity (more parties may confuse voters); Established parties can absorb minority party ideas
- **Disadvantages:** Minority parties (third parties) receive little attention (such as media coverage)— focus is on two main parties; Minority parties receive fewer resources (donations and volunteers); absorption of ideas by major parties

# Political Party Systems

3.) **Multi-Party System:** Three or more parties compete for control of the government

- Common in Europe, also Israel & Japan
- **Advantage:** provides voters with many different choices and ideas
- **Disadvantage:** difficult for one party to get majority of votes, which leads to a **Coalition:**

**EXAMPLE – Italy** (50 different govts. since WWII)

## Coalition



Daisy Alliance

500,000 votes

Sunflower Alliance

450,000 votes

Italian Communist

200,000 votes

# U.S. Political Parties: Beginnings

- **George Washington warned against political parties**
  - *"First, Washington warned of 'the baneful effects of the **SPIRIT OF PARTY.**' To Washington **POLITICAL PARTIES** were a deep threat to the health of the nation for they allowed 'a small but artful and enterprising minority' to 'put in the place of the delegated will of the Nation, the will of a party.'"*
    - from Ushistory.org "17 d. Farewell Address"
- **Parties formed after his exit:**
  - 1. Democratic-Republicans**
  - 2. Federalists**



# U.S. Political Parties: Beginnings

- **Federalists**

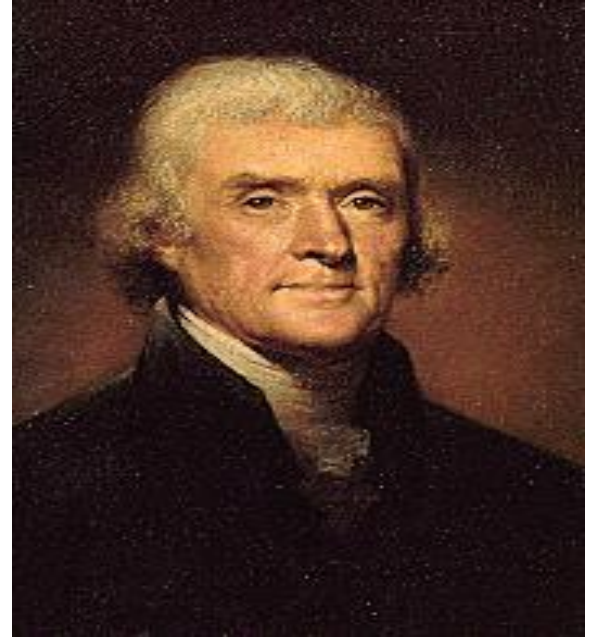
- Supported strong national govt.
- Supported economy based on industry
- Power in hands of wealthy and educated
- Led by Alexander Hamilton



# U.S. Political Parties: Beginnings

- **Democratic-Republicans**

- Grew in power from 1800-1816
- Supported states rights
- Supported economy based on agriculture
- Power in hands of all people
- Led by Thomas Jefferson





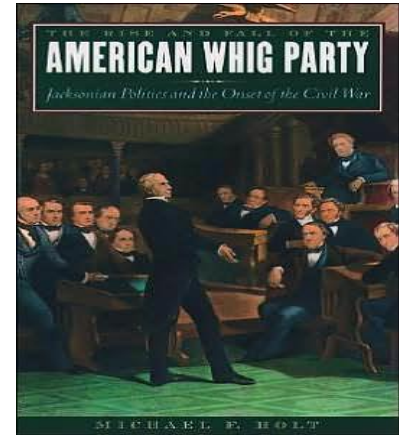
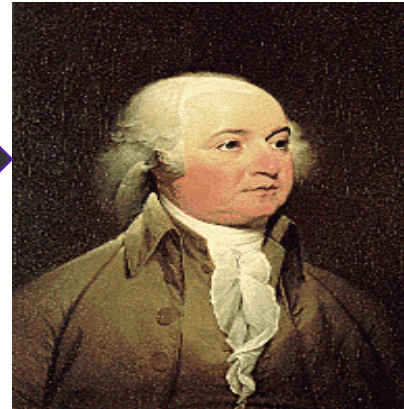
# U.S. Political Parties: Beginnings

- **Federalists Breakup**

- Federalists gradually disappear – no political momentum

- **John Adams** only party member to be elected President

- Supporters formed new party: **Whig Party** (1834-1856)



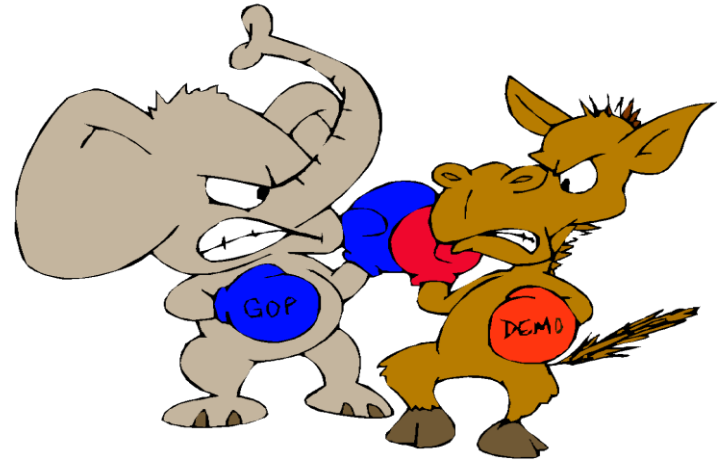
# U.S. Political Parties: Beginnings



- **Mid 1820's:**  
Democratic-Republicans  
breaking up
- **Democratic Party**  
formed to continue  
representing small  
farmers and working  
people

# U.S. Political Parties: Beginnings

- 1850's: **Democratic Party** and **Whig Party** split over slavery
  - Pro-slavery voters form **Democratic Party**
  - Whigs and anti-slavery Democrats formed **Republican Party**



# U.S Political Parties: Beginnings

- **Republican Party**
  - **1860:** Abe Lincoln becomes 1<sup>st</sup> Republican president
  - Emerges as stronger of 2 parties after Civil War
  - **1865-1931:** Only 2 Democratic Presidents elected
    - Grover Cleveland
    - Woodrow Wilson



# U.S. Political Parties: Characteristics

- **Democratic Party**
  - In recent years has attracted
    - Working people (blue collar)
    - Liberals
    - Catholics (true? W v H)
    - Minorities
    - Union Members
    - People in favor of govt. involvement in social policies



# U.S. Political Parties: Characteristics

- **Republican Party**
  - In recent years has attracted
    - Businesspeople (white collar)
    - Protestants (true? - W v. AA)
    - Conservatives
    - Non-minorities
    - Non-union supporters
    - People against govt. involvement in social policies



# Third Parties

- **What are Third Parties?**
  - Parties representing minority opinions that challenge the Democrats and Republicans
  - Some successful Third Parties:
    - **Populist Party – 1890's**
    - **Progressive Party – split off from Rep. Part in 1912**
    - **Libertarian Party – third most popular party i**



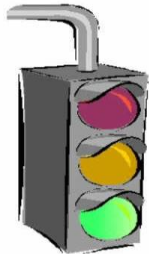
# Third Parties

- **3 Kinds of Third Parties**

- **1. Parties Tied to a Single Issue:**

- **Examples:**

- ❖ **Prohibition Party:** formed in 1872 to support banning of alcohol in the U.S.
      - ❖ **U.S. Marijuana Party:** formed to support the legalization of marijuana in the U.S.
      - ❖ **Green Party:** formed to protect the environment



Republicans put us in the Red.

Democrats have turned Yellow.

*Go Green !*





# Third Parties

- 3 Kinds of Third Parties
  - 2. Parties Tied to a Political Belief
    - Examples:
      - ❖ Libertarian Party
      - ❖ The Third Party
      - ❖ Socialist Parties



# Third Parties

- **3 Kinds of Third Parties**
  - **3. Parties Tied to a Single Candidate**
    - **Examples:**

- ❖ **Reform Party** – formed around Presidential candidate Ross Perot in 1996
- ❖ **American Independent Party** – formed around Presidential candidate George Wallace in 1968



# ROLES OF PARTIES

- Nominating/campaigning for Candidates → parties raise money for candidates & help register voters
- Carry the message of the people to government → parties listen to the ideas of the people; elected party members try to get these ideas onto the policy agenda
- Informing Citizens → parties use pamphlets, speeches, TV, radio, and newspaper to inform citizens about issues facing government
- Helping Manage Government → executives (president, governor, mayor) often get to appoint party members to jobs in government
- Linking Different Levels of Government → connections between party leaders at different levels make it easier to tackle mutual problems
- Acting as a Watchdog → the out of power party monitors the actions of the party in power for mistakes and misuses

# What is the purpose of political parties?

- Major function of each party is to get its candidate elected to office.
  - Steps include:
    - 1) Party members **nominate**, or name the candidates they want to run for office.



**2004 Republican National  
Convention**

# What is the purpose of political parties?

## 2) Party starts an election campaign

- An effort to gather support for its candidates and inform voters of the party's stand on issues
- Requires many party workers and volunteers to perform dozens of jobs that include:
  - Raising funds
  - Polling voters/making phone calls
  - Drive voters to the polls
  - Register voters

Barack Obama campaigning



# Additional terms

- **Platform** → a formal statement expressing basic principles, objectives, or positions on major issues which is designed to attract voters
- **Plank** → party's position on an individual issue
- Parties create a **platform**, made up of individual **planks**.

# What is the purpose of political parties?

## Presidential Election Campaigns



# What is the purpose of political parties?

3) Once a party's candidate is elected, the party helps the candidate organize and manage the govt.

- **Example:** When a president is elected, many job vacancies in govt. must be filled. Jobs usually filled by party members who have contributed time, energy and money to the campaign.
- **Patronage:** giving jobs or special favors to party workers



# PARTY ORGANIZATION

National Chairperson → runs the national party committee

National Committee → party reps from every state helps organize for pres. elections

National Convention → event when parties formally nominate their pres candidates

State Chairperson → runs the state party committee

State Committee → party reps from across state help raise money and register voters for the party

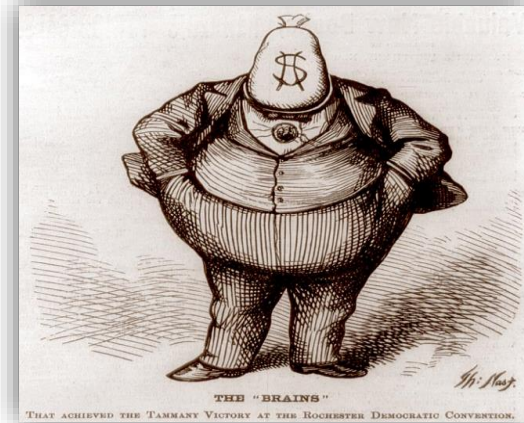
Local Chairperson → runs the county/district party committee

County Committee → party representatives from across the county help with voter turnout

Precinct Captains → organizes party volunteers and encourage voters on Election Day

# Political Machines

- Political Machines → form of organization that maximizes turnout of voters
- Historically: party “bosses” in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries who used unfair voting practices in elections, traded favors for votes, and often put unqualified friends into political office
- *Ex. Boss Tweed*



# Political Party Organization

- **Political Parties are organized at every level:**
  - **Local Party Committee :** Goal is to get candidates from party elected to local political office, like **mayor, city councilman, school superintendent, etc...**



Harold Weinbrecht  
Mayor of Cary



Zora Felton  
Wake County Board of Ed  
District 7 (PC's district)

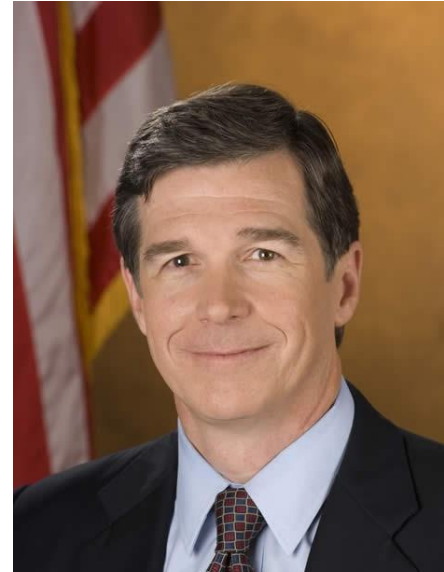
# Political Party Organization

- **Political parties are organized at every level:**
  - **State Party Committee:** Goal is to get candidates from party elected to state political office, like **governor, attorney general, state legislator, etc...**



Tim Moore (R) - District 111,  
Speaker of NC House

Roy Cooper (D) -  
Governor of North Carolina



# Political Party Organization

- **Political parties are organized at every level:**
  - **National Party Committee:** Goal is to get candidates from party elected to national political office
  - **Ex. President, Senators, House of Representatives**



**President of the U.S.:**  
**Donald J. Trump - (R)**



**NC Senator:**  
**Thom Tillis - (R)**



**NC Representative:**  
**David Price - (D) 4th District**

Question for the room:

Why should I join a political party?

# Why should I join a political party?

Offers a way to get involved at grassroots level.

Provides avenue to change the status quo.

Creates no duties or obligations for members.

Volunteering, donating money are optional.