

# CHAPTER 5 POLITICAL PARTIES





**PARTIES AND WHAT DO THEY  
DO**  
SECTION 1

# WHAT IS A PARTY?

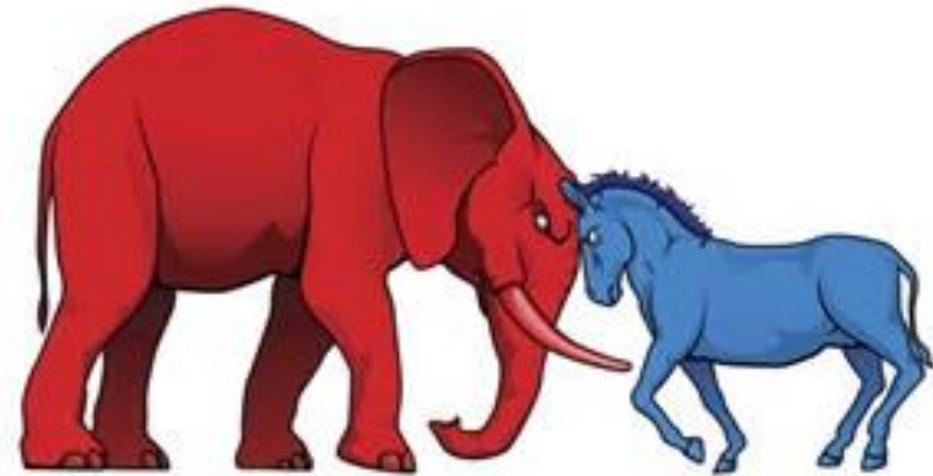
- **Political Party:** is a group of persons who seek to control government through the winning of elections and the holding of public office.
- In US there are two political parties: Democrats and Republicans.



# WHAT IS A PARTY?

Political parties have the 3 elements:

1. The party organization.- These include all party professionals.
2. The party in government. These include people in office and those who seek office
3. The party in the electorate. - These include everyone who refers to themselves as a democrat or republican.



# WHAT PARTIES DO?

Political Parties are nearly essential to modern day politics.

Reasons for parties:

- Link people to government
- Allows govt to know what the people want
- encourage compromise
- Helps people identify where they are on the political spectrum



# WHAT DO PARTIES DO?

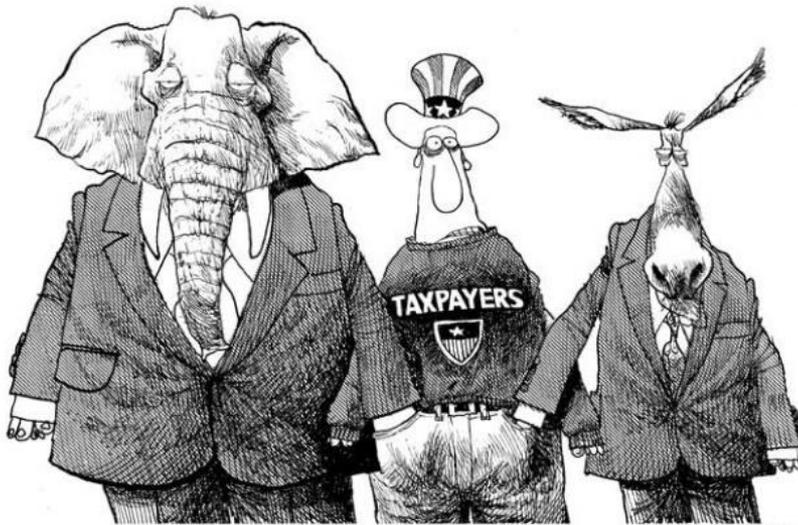
- Nominate  
Candidates
- Inform &  
Activate Voters
- Bonding Agent
- Governing
- Act as Watchdog



# NOMINATING CANDIDATES

The major function of a political party is to nominate candidates for public office.

This set political parties apart from all other groups that operate in the political process.



THE COMPROMISE.

[www.investors.com/cartoons](http://www.investors.com/cartoons)

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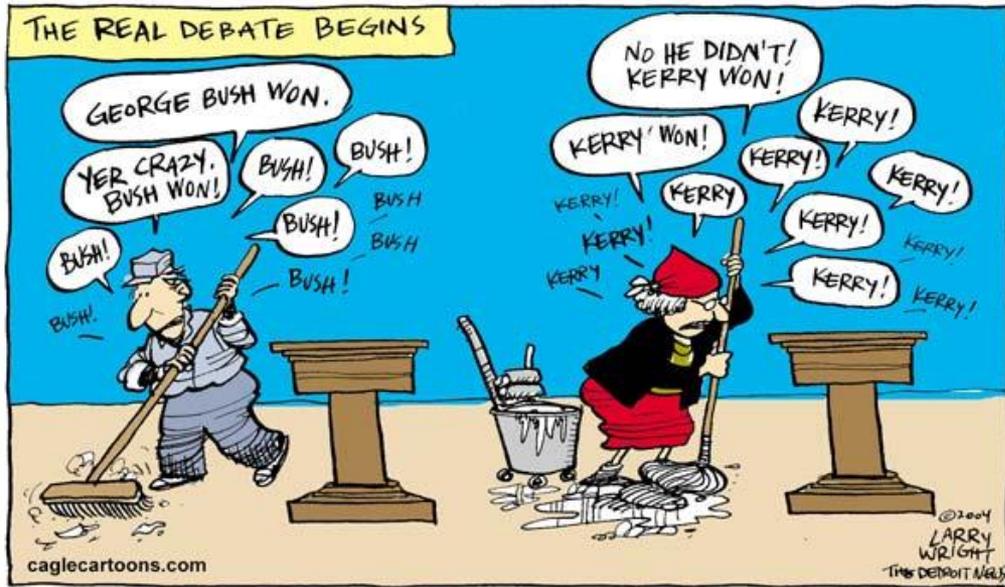
# INFORMING AND ACTIVATING SUPPORTERS

Get people interest to participation in public affairs.

How do parties inform people:

- campaigning for candidates
- taking stands on current issues
- use pamphlets, signs, buttons, social media, television, speeches, etc.

# GOVERNING



- Government in the USA is run by the party system.
- This means that almost everything that happens, both while candidates are in or trying to get in office, reflects their party.

# GOVERNING

Partisanship- strong support of their party and its policy stands.

Parties provide a basis for the conduct of government.



# THE WATCHDOG FUNCTION



Parties act as a watchdog, especially those out of office.

The party out of office is responsible for checking all behavior of their opposing party and report back to the general public any behavior that is unfit.



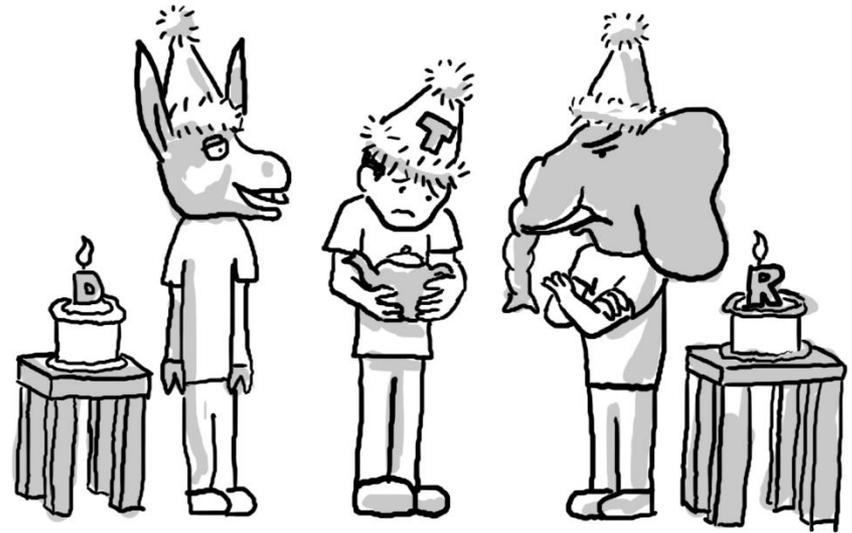
# **THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM**

## **SECTION 2**

# THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM

Because there are two major parties in the US, it is said to be a two-party system.

One of these two parties will win every election and often dominate certain areas of the country.



“There’s only room for two parties.”

# WHY POLITICAL PARTIES?

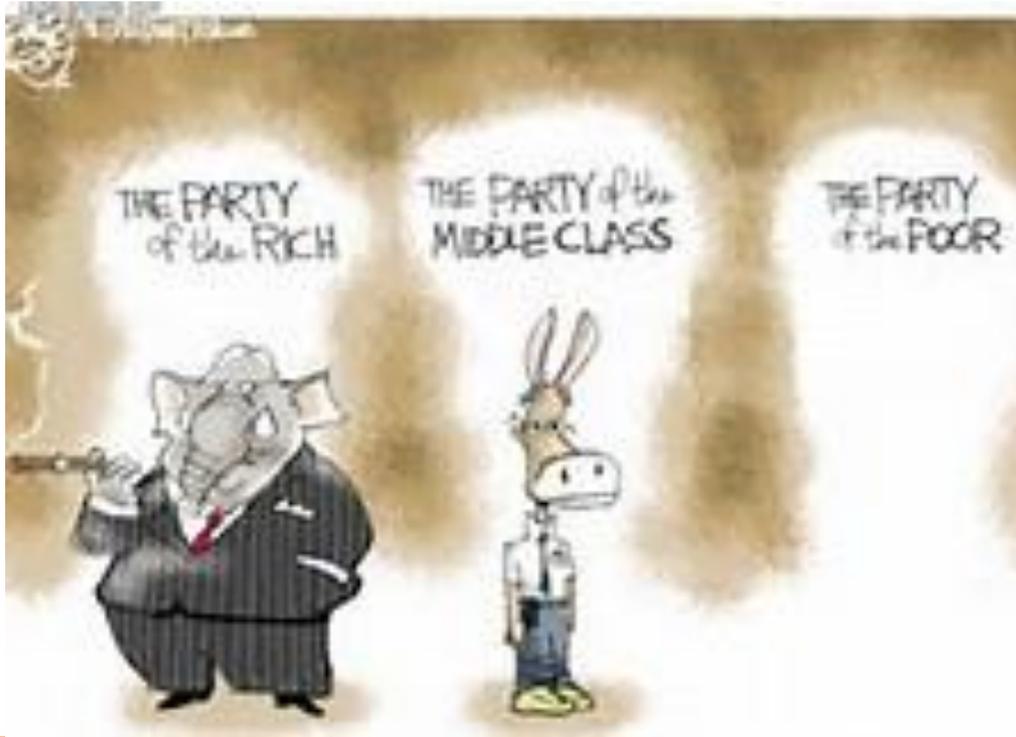
- Historical
- Tradition
- Electoral System

# THE HISTORICAL BASIS

- Federalists and Antifederalist considered first two political parties.
- Originally, there were conflicting ideas about Constitution: Federalist and Anti-Federalist.
- However, many founding fathers did not want parties in our government fearing it would divide the country.



# FORCE OF TRADITION



Most Americans accept the two-party system because there always was a two-party system.

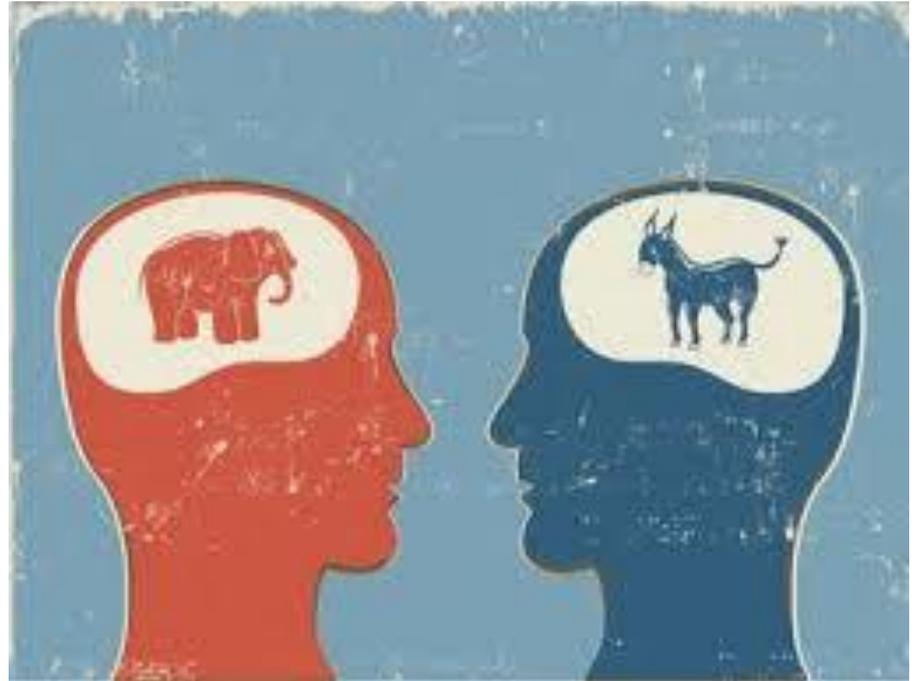
# THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

The American Electoral System tends to promote 2 political parties.

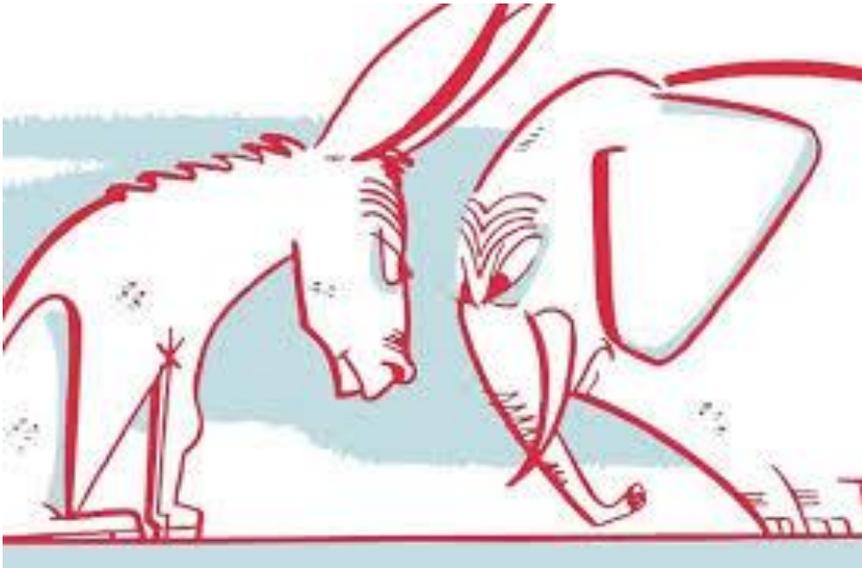
Single-Member Districts:  
Elections that only one winner takes all.

The winner is declared by whoever has plurality.

Voters feel a third party is often a “wasted vote”



# THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

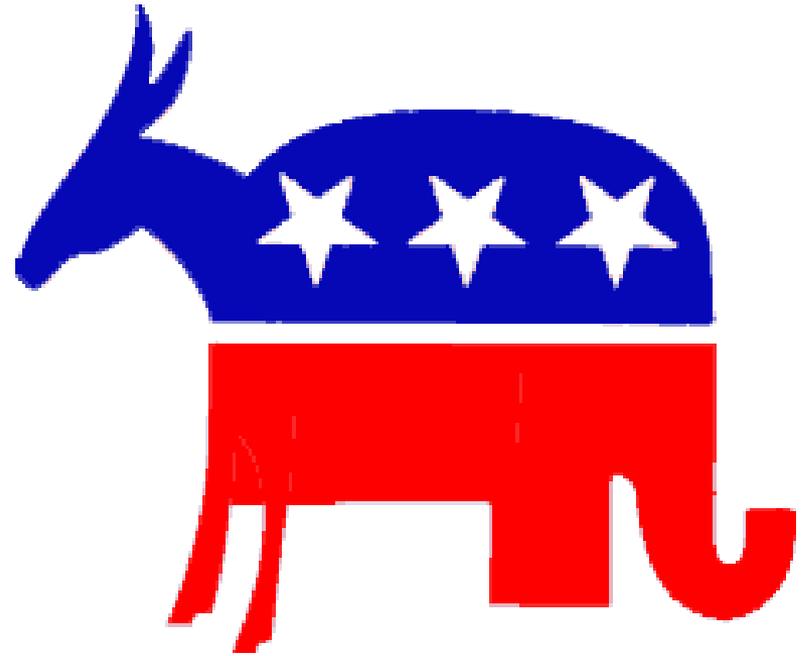


The GOP and the Democratic Party regularly act in a bipartisan way which often makes a third party hard to win.

For example, third party candidates often don't even make the ballot in every state.

# THE AMERICAN IDEOLOGICAL CONSENSUS

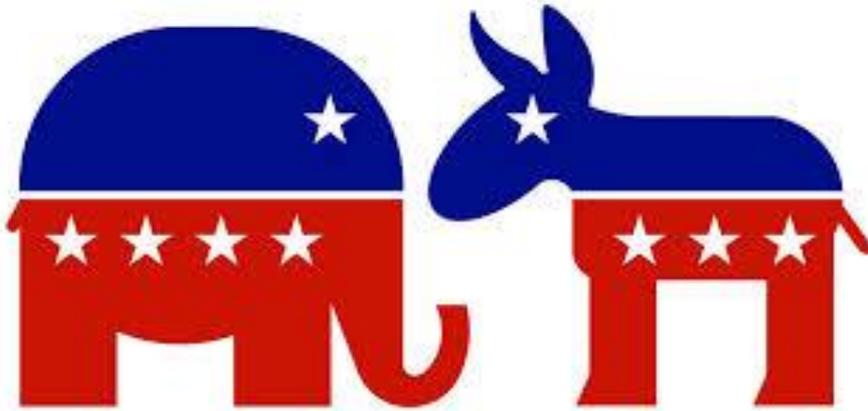
Americans, on the whole, are ideological homogenous people- meaning they generally agree on the same basic principles and hold the same pattern of beliefs.



# THE AMERICAN IDEOLOGICAL CONSENSUS

Although there are a variety of ethnic groups in the country, most draw a consensus on matters of fundamental importance.

Although we usually hold similar beliefs, throughout history there are many times that we were divided as a nation. Eg. Civil War, Vietnam, Great Depression



# THE AMERICAN IDEOLOGICAL CONSENSUS

In short, the realities of American society and politics simply do not permit more than two political parties.

Because of this, most political parties like to be in the middle.

Although there are major differences between the parties, no party wants to be considered radical in their views.



# MULTIPARTY SYSTEMS

Multiparty systems occur in many parts of the world, especially in Europe.

People argue that a multiparty system will allow voters to be better represented.

In a multiparty system, a political party will focus their cause on one particular issue and voters will choose to support that party based on that issue.

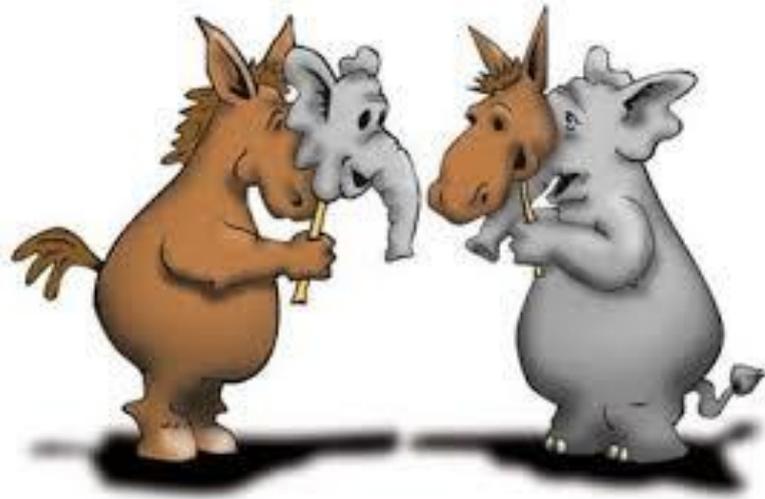


# MULTIPARTY SYSTEM

Problem with a multiparty system is that no one party will have enough support, resulting in the power to govern being shared by a number of parties in a coalition. (temporarily alliance between several groups who work together to form a majority and take control of government).



# ONE-PARTY SYSTEM



In a dictatorship, the ruling party is the only party allowed to exist, which really means there is no parties.

Some states are considered a one-party system because they only consistently vote for the same political party each election.

# IN CLASS ASSIGNMENT

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/spc/vote2012/quiz/>

Click on the link and take quiz.

After the quiz, you will get a result of what political party you belong to.

Create a quick reflection (no longer than one page) describing what political party you belong to and why you think this is important.

What beliefs do you have that make you fit in this category?