

POLITICAL SCIENCE 321 FALL 2017

THE ELECTORAL PROCESS



Wednesday, November 8
Political Parties

1. What are parties?
2. Partisan polarization
3. Parties solve problems

Week 7, Day 2

What are parties? Political Polarization Parties solve problems

Review

Campaign Finance

Monday, November 6

Outline

1. What is campaign finance?
2. Campaign Finance Regulations
3. How do campaigns use money?

Questions

1. Why is money important for elections?
2. What standard is the Supreme Court setting in *Citizens United vs. FEC* (2010) and *McCutcheon vs. FEC* (2014)?
3. What does "early money is like yeast" mean and why does this give incentive to incumbents to raise money for elections?

Should donating to campaigns be considered a matter of free speech?

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What are parties? Political Polarization Parties solve problems

Lecture Question

With such discord with America's political parties, why do they continue to exist?



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What are parties? Political Polarization Parties solve problems

What are political parties?

A group (politicians, activists, and voters) that attempts to control government



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Classifying Party



Party-in-organization



Party-in-government



Party-in-the-electorate

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What do parties do?

Recruitment

Nomination

Mobilization

Issue Platforms

Organize


Fundraise



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Political Polarization



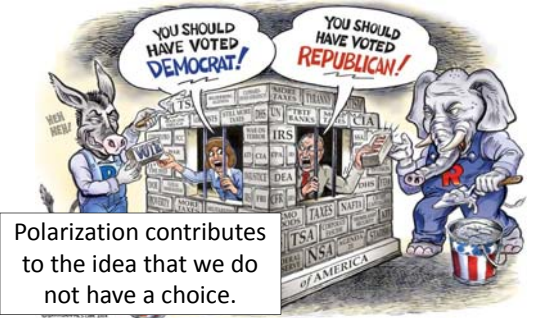
Polarization refers to the extent to which the two political parties are becoming more ideologically extreme.

Liberal Conservative

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The problem with parties



Polarization contributes to the idea that we do not have a choice.

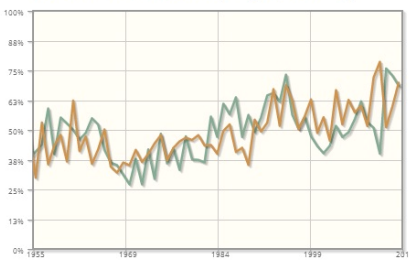
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Polarization in Government

Percentage of Party Unity Votes Senate: ■ House: ■

As a share of all floor votes requiring a "yea" or "nay"



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Polarization in Electorate

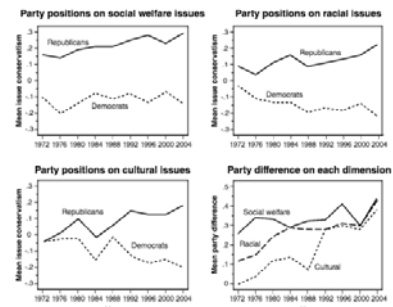
Table 2-19 Party-Line Voting in Presidential and Congressional Elections, 1956 - 2010 (as a percentage of all voters)

Year	Presidential election			Senate elections			House elections		
	Party-line voters ^a	Defectors ^b	Pure independents ^c	Party-line voters ^a	Defectors ^b	Pure independents ^c	Party-line voters ^a	Defectors ^b	Pure independents ^c
1972	67	25	8	69	22	9	75	17	8
1974	73	19	8	73	19	8	74	18	8
1976	74	15	11	70	19	11	72	19	9
1978	71	20	9	71	20	9	69	22	9
1980	70	22	8	71	21	8	69	23	8
1982	77	17	6	77	17	6	76	17	6
1984	72	19	8	72	19	8	70	23	7
1986	76	20	4	76	20	4	72	22	6
1988	81	12	7	72	20	7	74	20	7
1990	75	20	5	75	20	5	72	22	5
1992	68	24	9	73	20	7	70	22	8
1994	76	18	5	76	18	5	77	17	6
1996	80	15	5	77	16	7	77	17	6
1998	77	15	8	77	15	8	74	20	6
2000	81	11	7	80	13	7	76	17	6
2002	82	14	4	82	14	4	78	18	4
2004	85	10	6	81	14	5	80	15	6
2006	83	8	9	83	8	9	80	11	9
2008	81	12	7	81	12	7	81	13	6
2010	86	9	5	86	9	5	84	10	7

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Polarization in Organization




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Parties solve problems

In the midst of a significant partisan divide, why do we continue to support these organizations?



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Collective Action

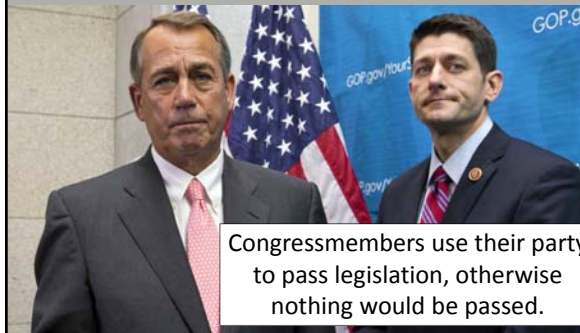


It makes more strategic sense to cooperate with others because the risk is too great otherwise.

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Coalition Building



Congressmembers use their party to pass legislation, otherwise nothing would be passed.

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Competition



Parties require elected officials to "get in line", regulating ambition.

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Mobilization



Parties negate voting costs for voters.

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Are parties a necessary evil?



If the two-party system doesn't provide adequate choices, do we need parties to *still* perform these three functions?

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