

Congress, Political Parties and Elections

A "refresher" lecture

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Congress

- ★ Legislative supremacy
- ★ Bicameralism
 - ★ Two *different* chambers
- ★ **House**: 'populist'; constant campaign
- ★ **Senate**: 'elite'; deliberative
- ★ Different *perspectives*

	House	Senate
Term:	2	6
Size:	435	100
District Size:	~765k	~6.6 mil.
Constituency:	Alike	Diverse

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Representation

- ★ Sociological: background, characteristics
- ★ Agency: the 'Electoral Connection'
 - ★ Incumbency: constituency service; re-election
 - ★ Districting: gerrymandering
 - ★ Different districts, different outcomes
- ★ Direct patronage ("Pork Barrel", "Earmarks")

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Political Parties

- ★ **Definition:** organized to *control/government* through elections
- ★ **Select** candidates
 - ★ Recruit, Nominate
- ★ **Elect** candidates
 - ★ Get out the vote (GOTV), Facilitate choice
- ★ **Organize** and staff government
 - ★ Congress: majority/minority; Executive: appointments

Growing partisan gaps on government, race, immigration
by 2012 (approx.)

Government should do more to help the middle class
Race discrimination is the main reason why some people can't get ahead these days
Immigrants strengthen the country and their families and theirs

RIP RESEARCH CENTER

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Political Parties

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Anti-Federalists ★ Democratic-Republicans (Jefferson) ★ Democrats (e.g.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 'Common man' ★ Minorities, Workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Federalists ★ Whigs (Clay, Calhoun) ★ Republicans (Lincoln) ★ Commercial Business, Socially Conservative
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Political Parties

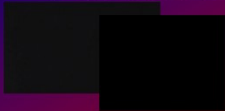
- ★ **Current Party Strength by Region**
 - ★ 2018 party identification by state
- ★ **Democrats:** Northeast, Great Lakes, West
- ★ **Republicans:** South, Upper Midwest, Plains
- ★ **Notice:** BOTH are competitive in MANY areas!

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Elections

★ Voting Cues

- ★ Party Identification: socialization
- ★ Issues
 - ★ Manipulation?
- ★ Candidate characteristics
 - ★ Background, demographics
 - ★ Personality



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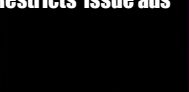
Money

- ★ Parties were once 'people-based'
- ★ They are now 'capital-intensive'
 - ★ Polling, Media, Mail, Phones, Web, Public Relations
- ★ These require **MONEY**
 - ★ Limits make fund-raising harder
 - ★ Individuals/PACs are limited, Public funds (Pres)
 - ★ Candidate/independent spending not limited

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Campaign Finance

- ★ Reform
 - ★ 1970s: major contribution limits, public funding
 - ★ 1990s: Concerns over 'soft money' and 'issue ads'
 - ★ 2002: Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA)
 - ★ Bans national 'soft money'; Restricts 'issue ads'
- ★ Issue ad loopholes?
 - ★ Non-profit '527' groups...



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Campaign Finance

★ 2010:

★ *Citizens United v. FEC*

★ Allows unlimited spending by Corporations and Unions

★ SuperPACs

★ Can raise/spend unlimited money (but can't donate)

★ '501' groups: not political...?

★ End Lecture