

# UNITED STATES POLITICAL PARTIES

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# INTRODUCTION

- The United States is ruled by a system diverging into several political parties for which candidates are elected and ran by.
- The US has many political parties though only 3 or 4 have established candidacy, while only 2 tend to dominate the political system itself.
- The two most known parties that successfully run and are elected are the Democratic and Republican parties.

# HISTORY OF POLITICAL PARTIES

- A political party is “a group of voters organized to support certain public policies”. The “aim of a political party is to elect officials who will try to carry out the party’s policies” (“The Origins and Functions of Political Parties”).
- In 1787 Alexander Hamilton among the “founding fathers” began the Federalist party, the first U.S. political party established. Eventually, an “anti federalist” party emerged calling themselves the Democratic-Republicans.
- Since this, the U.S. has adopted over 100 different political parties with some coming into power and others developing support and a following.

# MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES

- The purpose of political parties is to bring people together who hold similar core views about the government. Political parties allow people to identify with their core beliefs (supposedly) without direct monetary influence.
- The U.S. is run by a two party system commonly referred to as a “representative democracy” meaning citizens are to elect officials whom we most agree to represent our political views in government.
- Two most known parties that successfully run and are elected are the Democratic and Republican parties. It is not to say that other parties like the Green, Liberal, Socialist, etc. parties have no power or voice in government. They simply seem to never receive enough votes for any major nominations.
- Democratic Party: strong government with power to regulate business and industry in the public forum, separation of church and state, commonly favor affirmative action and gun control, etc.
- Republican Party: free market capitalism, free enterprise, business, strong national defense, social-conservative policies, and traditional values.
- Interest groups, or organizations of people with common goals for change in policy and legislation, also work together to lobby government, engage in political activities, educate public forums, and mobilize various public information. However, it may be argued that political parties establish a weaker foundation for these interest groups. Interest groups establish support through monetary suggestions and lobbying.

# WHY ARE POLITICAL PARTIES IMPORTANT?

- Political parties establish checks and balances, encourage voter participation, and establish view or group for people to relate with.
- The purpose of political parties is to create and maintain this system of checks and balances, meaning to prevent one group or party from acquiring too much power and authority leaving voters feeling not satisfied and secure.
- Political parties provide citizens with a diverse range of political theories to agree or disagree with. Political parties also provide an advantage to the American party system, leaving voters to feel stability and ease with a more moderate two-party system.
- Disadvantages to the political party system in the U.S. include regulations and boxed categories for voters to feel forced into as their beliefs may not fit into the “Democratic” or “Republican” option offered to voters. Individual thoughts may be forcefully shifted into group efforts that individuals don’t agree with, leaving voters to feel dismissed and unheard leaving more room for corruption, debate, and disagreement rather than peaceful resolution.

# INTERVIEWS

- Interview 1: My father, 51, Republican: Found political parties to be absolutely necessary to electing officials and regulating federal government.
- Interview 2: My friend, 23, Hispanic Democrat: Stressed the importance of not trusting any government official but reluctantly admitted the importance of voting among younger generations to create change.
- Interview 3: My friend, 26, White Democrat: Found political parties to be necessary but stressed an importance for more equality in voting system, opening more categories and options for officials to rise in (not through Republican or Democratic funding sources). Believes in the importance of more regulated government with less power with women's rights and discrimination.

# INTERESTING THOUGHTS

- I find political parties to be a crucial part of the political agenda. Though I do find the two-party system limiting and unequal when expressing individual views. As times change and issues grow I think it is important that voters opinions not be confined to only two boxes really offered when electing major officials.
- Limiting as it may be, the two-party system seems to best represent the democratic-republic.
- There are hundreds of political parties to choose and identify with. The two-party system does not have to label you.
- Choosing the right political party and registering to vote is an important role to exercise as part of being an American citizen. If able, voting matters when it comes to electing officials you best deem fit to serve the country.

# FUTURE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

- The future political scenario is bright and ready for change. With more younger generations becoming involved and understanding the political process, we may hope for the best version of U.S. politics.



# CONCLUSION

- What I found most interesting when researching my topic was the amount of different political parties offered to American citizens. There really is a political party for everyone and every belief.
- I was interested to do my project on political parties because I wanted to know more than the assumptions and opinions both I and those around me share. I eventually want to go on to study law and work for environmental change.
- In conclusion I learned more from my research about political parties and interest groups and what part they serve in the federal government.
- I find it important to be aware of the political party you're supporting and voting for as elected officials and running for office are the key to change in the United States. Political parties are necessary for political voice to be heard. Political INFORMED opinion is the hope of the future for the United States.

# REFERENCES

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