POLS 205

American National Government

Elections Unit, Lecture 2:

Democratic Weirdness

Political Parties, Interest Groups, Campaigns, and the Electoral College

Whodunnit?

Who or what is responsible for the decline of American political \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Were the parties a “dead man walking” once TV became common?

**1) Political Parties**

Part of our ongoing cultural imperialism

That is, 100 years ago, parties were confined to the US and Europe. Now they are everywhere!

We didn’t start out with them ourselves

They began to develop in the election of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Federalist vs. Democratic Republicans

I hate labels!

But a party provides voters with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through the party label

What is a Party?

An organization that runs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for office under the party’s name.

An \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ structure for candidates and volunteers.

Provides information for voters:

 Party label

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Raises resources: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to help candidates get elected.

And the number of the parties shall be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…

We have had more options from time to time

Other countries have a vast array of options

Why do you think we tend towards two?

Historic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* The original fight between federalist and anti-federalists

Center-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-ism

* We’re not comfortable with revolutionary radicals

Winner take all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Single member districts
* Electoral college
* (We don’t do proportional representation)

Thunder Stealing

* Our parties are very good at bringing in the ideas of third parties, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their potential base

I’m \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

“The number of political independents has continued to grow, as both parties have lost ground among the public. Based on surveys conducted in 2012, **\_\_\_\_\_\_ describe themselves as independents**, up from 32% in 2008 and 30% in 2004. Meanwhile, the percentage of self-described **Democrats** has fallen from 36% four years ago to **32%** today. **Republican** identification has remained largely stable over this period (**24%** today, 25% in 2008). In 1991, however, there were nearly equal percentages of Republicans (31%), Democrats (31%) and independents (33%).” (Pew Poll) http://www.people-press.org/2012/06/04/section-9-trends-in-party-affiliation/

However, we don’t actually have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ choices…

In the end, they must choose. (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Voters)

Thus in 2006 there was about a 52/44 Democratic/Republican voting pattern in the mid-term elections.

The 2008 Presidential Election was 53/46 in favor of the Democrats.

The 2010 mid-term for the House was 51.4/44.8 Republicans/Democrats, and the Senate split was 49.3/45.1.

In 2012, Obama (D) had 51% and Romney (R) had 47%

http://www.gallup.com/poll/15370/party-affiliation.aspx

Will this be the thing that killed the parties?

Or maybe this…

**2) I’m interested!**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of adults have worked for a political party or candidate

Less than 10% have been members of a political club or organization

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of adults are members of one or more organized interest group

Which is Which?

Political Parties

Link **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to government by running \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for office who advocate certain programs or positions and who will implement them if elected

Interest Groups

Link **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to government by organizing folks with similar \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on a specific policy area and presenting these views to government official (not necessarily elected)

Political Parties

Primary purpose is to choose and equip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ activity

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ array of issue

Stands taken on \_\_\_\_\_ policy questions

Must appeal to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ spectrum of electorate

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is absolutely necessary

Diversity a fact - “\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”

Interest Groups

Do not run candidates

Carry out political and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ activities

May be concerned with only one or a very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ scope of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Less inclusive, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Not as willing to compromise

More \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ among members

Parties vs. Interest Groups

It’s a big enough umbrella…

But it’s always me who ends up getting wet!

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are the wave of the future!

How will parties adapt?

**3) Campaigns**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Party members meet in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to select their candidates

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ holds the first caucus

These require a high amount of dedication, and often over represent the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ side of parties

Primaries

An \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to select the individual who will represent the party in the general election

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ primary

Only declared \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the party can vote

Independents have no say

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ primary

No restriction on who can vote, but you must choose on parties slate of candidates

SUPER DUPER TUESDAY! FEBRUARY 5th was a dud!

Now they are all racing to be first. We may even move into December.

* + But Arkansas gave up and went back to May!

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years (quadrennially) each party holds a convention to nominate their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for President and Vice President

Delegates, selected during the primaries cast their votes for the nominee

These used to be actual contest, with political intrigue and multiple ballots. Now they are “week long political \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Head to head compare and contrast between the two candidates

The most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ view you will get of the candidates!

The lesson of Nixon: shave and wear the face powder!

Ads

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Bites (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

Visual Images

“Going Negative” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mudslinging by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“I’m George Bush and I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ this message.”

We’ve come a LONG way from:

“Gentlemen don’t run for office” to

 Hunting for votes and dollars…

I ask you again, What will be the thing that killed the parties?

Do voters need parties to supply them with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ anymore?

Do candidates need the parties to help them raise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

4) The Electoral College

You are actually voting for an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, NOT a Presidential \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Each State gets electoral votes equal to the number of Senators (2) plus its number of House members (proportionate to the population).

Courtesy of the 23rd Amendment, DC gets \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ electors

Every state except Maine and Nebraska has a “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” system.

There are 538 electors; you need \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to win

There are 538 electors; you need 270 to win (the 11 largest states alone would get you 230)

Because of this, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (most votes, but not a majority) presidents are not uncommon

Minority Presidents include:

* Abraham Lincoln
* Woodrow Wilson
* Harry Truman
* John Kennedy
* Richard Nixon (1968) and
* Bill Clinton
* The Electoral College, not the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ vote, determined the winner in
* 2000 (Bush-Gore)
* 1888 (Harrison-Cleveland)
* 1876 (Hayes-Tilden) and

 All Tied up:

If no one gets 270 electors, then the question goes into the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be decided, and I, and my canned goods go into hiding…

The election between Jefferson and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ required \_\_\_\_ House votes in early 1801 to settle. Neither wanted to accept the Vice Presidency.

This was one reason for the passage of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ amendment in 1804.

 (It also set the stage for the duel between Burr and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in 1804.)

The House chose John Quincy Adams to be president in 1825. (There were four candidates, none of whom got the required majority. Andy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ made great hay of the “stolen election”.)