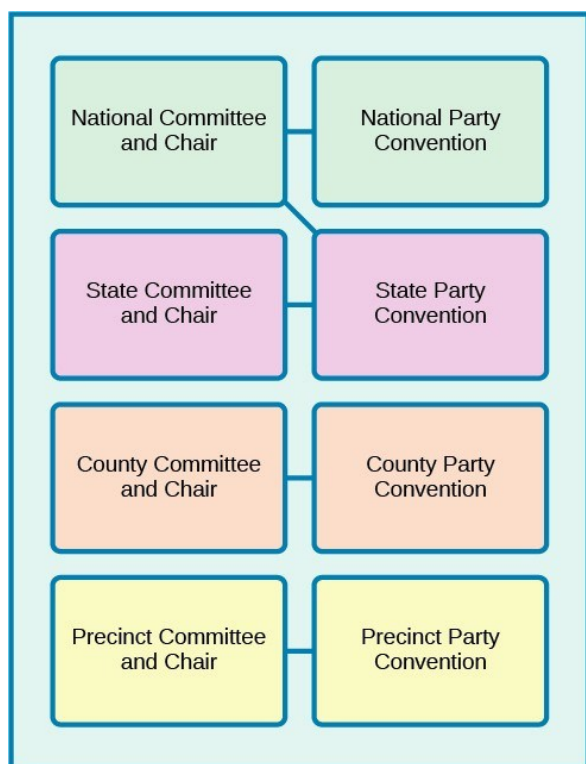


Political Parties

Class Notes...



Terms to remember...

- ⇒ **party platform**--the collection of a party's positions on issues it considers politically important
- ⇒ **personal politics**--a political style that focuses on building direct relationships with voters rather than on promoting specific issues
- ⇒ **political machine**--an organization that secures votes for a party's candidates or supports the party in other ways, usually in exchange for political favors such as a job in government
- ⇒ **political parties**--organizations made up of groups of people with similar interests that try to directly influence public policy through their members who seek and hold public office
- ⇒ **third parties**--political parties formed as an alternative to the Republican and Democratic parties, also known as minor parties
- ⇒ **critical election**--an election that represents a sudden, clear, and long-term shift in voter allegiances
- ⇒ **Electoral College**--a presidential system in which the winner is selected not directly by the popular vote but indirectly by a group of electors
- ⇒ **majoritarian voting**--type of election in which the winning candidate must receive at least 50 percent of the votes, even if a run-off election is required
- ⇒ **party realignment**--a shifting of party alliances within the electorate
- ⇒ **plurality voting**--the election rule by which the candidate with the most votes wins, regardless of vote share
- ⇒ **proportional representation**--a party-based election rule in which the number of seats a party receives is a function of the share of votes it receives in an election
- ⇒ **two-party system**--a system in which two major parties win all or almost all elections
- ⇒ **majority party**--the legislative party with over half the seats in a legislative body, and thus significant power to control the agenda
- ⇒ **minority party**--the legislative party with less than half the seats in a legislative body
- ⇒ **party identifiers**--individuals who represent themselves in public as being part of a party
- ⇒ **party-in-government**--party identifiers who have been elected to office and are responsible for fulfilling the party's promises
- ⇒ **party-in-the-electorate**--members of the voting public who consider themselves part of a political party or who consistently prefer the candidates of one party over the other
- ⇒ **party organization**--the formal structure of the political party and the active members responsible for coordinating party behavior and supporting party candidates
- ⇒ **precinct**--the lowest level of party organization, usually organized around neighborhoods

- ⇒ **bipartisanship**--a process of cooperation through compromise
- ⇒ **census**--counting citizens for purposes of representation in the U. S. House and the Electoral College; data collected every 10 years to allow for reapportionment of House seats
- ⇒ **divided government**--a condition in which one or more houses of the legislature is controlled by the party in opposition to the executive
- ⇒ **gerrymandering**--the manipulation of legislative districts in an attempt to favor a particular candidate
- ⇒ **moderate**--an individual who falls in the middle of the ideological spectrum
- ⇒ **party polarization**--the shift of party positions from moderate towards ideological extremes
- ⇒ **reapportionment**--the reallocation of House seats between the states to account for population changes
- ⇒ **redistricting**--the redrawing of electoral maps
- ⇒ **safe seat**--district drawn so members of a party can be assured of winning by a comfortable margin

Class Notes...

