# PARTIES AND CAMPAIGNS IN THE STATES

### POLITICAL PARTIES

- What is a Political Party?
- Why are Parties Necessary?
- Who created Parties?
- What Problems do Parties Solve?
- Two models of party behavior
  - Responsible-Party or Party-Centered Model
  - Candidate-Centered Model

#### WHY PARTIES?

- Founders' fears
- What is their purpose?

#### WHO CREATED PARTIES?

- Two key actors
  - Office seekers
  - Benefit seekers

#### WHAT PROBLEMS DO PARTIES SOLVE?

• Three main problems:

- 1. Ambition
- 2. Decision making
- 3. Collective action

## WHY ONLY TWO PARTIES?

- Winner-Take-All system
- Duverger's Law
- Barriers to third party success
  - Securing a place on the ballot
  - Name recognition
  - Media coverage
  - Financing

### **RESPONSIBLE-PARTY MODEL**

• Parties do several important things:

- Develop/clarify alternative policy positions for voters
- Educate voters
- Recruit candidates
- Hold their elected officials responsible for enacting the parties' policy positions after they were elected
- Organize legislatures to ensure party control of policymaking
- Problems with the model

#### THE RISE OF THE CANDIDATE-CENTERED MODEL OF ELECTIONS

- Shift in focus from party to candidates
  - Why?
- Impact on the Political System
  - Rise of single-issue interest groups, PACs, and 527 groups

## HISTORY OF PARTIES

- 19<sup>th</sup> Century era of strong parties
  - Machines
  - Patronage
  - Progressive movement weakened parties
    - Civil service
      - Pendleton Act 1883
      - Hatch Act 1939
    - Australian ballot
    - Direct primaries
  - Legacy of progressive movement?
    - Decrease in voter turnout
    - Decline in machine politics
    - Candidates become focal point

#### ARE PARTIES STILL RELEVANT?

- Parties are still important for several reasons:
  - Organize elections and narrow the choices of political office seekers confronting the voters.
  - Play an important role in voter choice.
  - Shape the party's image with the voters.
  - Organize state legislatures.

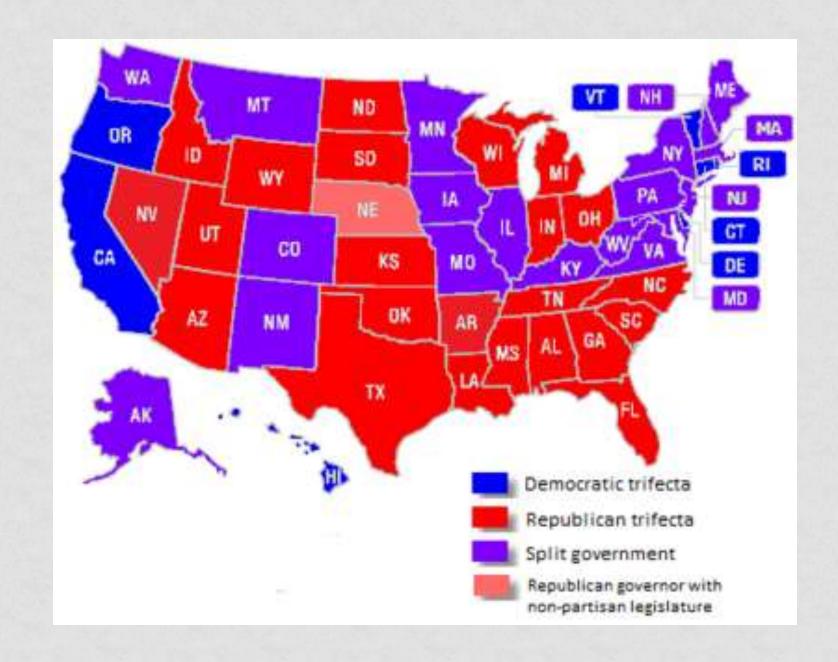
#### PARTIES AND PRIMARIES

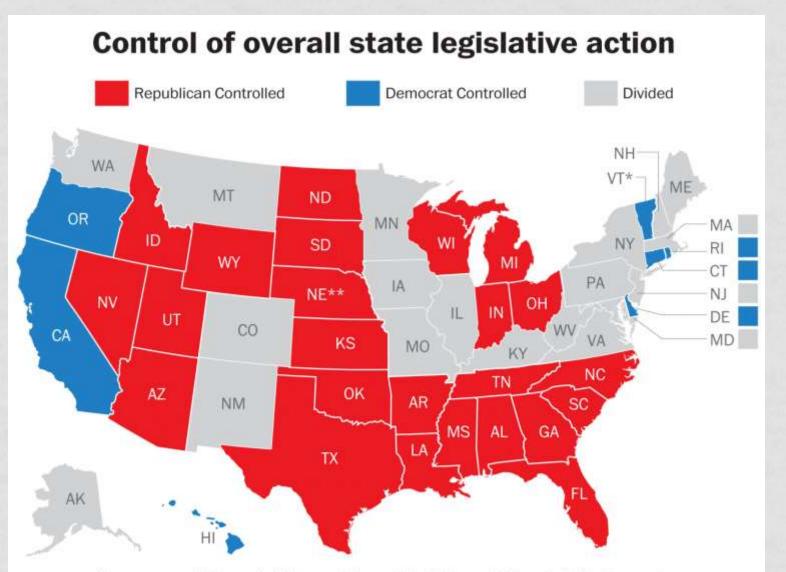
- Filing
  - Virginia's Ballot Access Rules
- Endorsements
- Closed and Open Primaries
- Runoff Primaries
  - 11 states
- Conventions

Type of Primary						
First Primary						Second Primary
Closed: Proper party registration required	Semiclosed: Voters may register or change party on Election Day	Semiopen: Voters may request any party's ballot	Open: Voter decides in which primary to vote in voting booth	Open: All voters; ballot lists all candidates; top two vote-getters advance to general election	Blanket	Runoff Primary <sup>i</sup>
Connecticutª	Alaska <sup>d</sup>	Alaska <sup>h</sup>	Hawaii	California	Formerly used in Alaska, California, and Washington <sup>k</sup>	Alabama
Delaware	Arizona <sup>c</sup>	Arkansas <sup>h</sup>	Idaho	Louisiana <sup>j</sup>	Declared unconstitu- tional by courts	Arkansas
Florida	Colorado <sup>e</sup>	Georgia <sup>h</sup>	Michigan	Washington		Georgia
Kentucky	Iowa <sup>e</sup>	Illinoish	Minnesota			Kentucky
Maine	Kansas <sup>c</sup>	Indiana <sup>h</sup>	Missouri			Mississippi
Nebraskaª		Mississippi <sup>h</sup>	Montana			North Carolina
Nevada	Maryland <sup>d</sup>	Ohio <sup>h</sup>	North Dakota			Oklahoma
New Jersey	Massachusetts	South Carolina <sup>h</sup>	Vermont			South Carolina
New Mexico	New Hampshire <sup>c</sup>	Tennessee <sup>h</sup>	Wisconsin			South Dakota
New York	North Carolina	Texas	Washington <sup>i</sup>			Texas
Oklahoma	Oregon <sup>d</sup>	Virginia <sup>h</sup>	100 BT540			
Pennsylvania	Rhode Island <sup>c</sup>	and an				
South Dakota	Utah <sup>f</sup>					
	West Virginia <sup>g</sup>					
	Wyoming <sup>b</sup>					

#### DIVIDED GOVERNMENT

- Does it make a difference when one party controls the governorship and the other controls the legislature?
- Gridlock tends to occur when there is divided government and legislation is controversial
- Party competition greater when voters are polarized



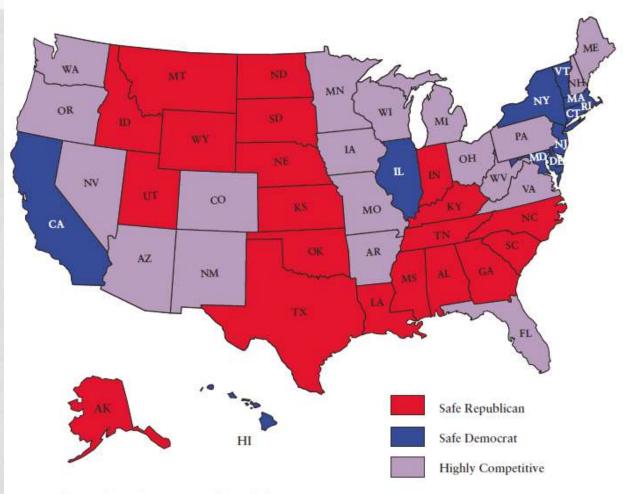


\*Because no candidate reached 50 percent, Vermont's legislature, which is controlled by Democrats, will choose the next governor. Gov. Peter Shumlin (D) is likely to win another term.

\*\*Nebraska has a unicameral, non-partisan legislature. In practice, Republicans dominate the Senate.

THE WASHINGTON POST

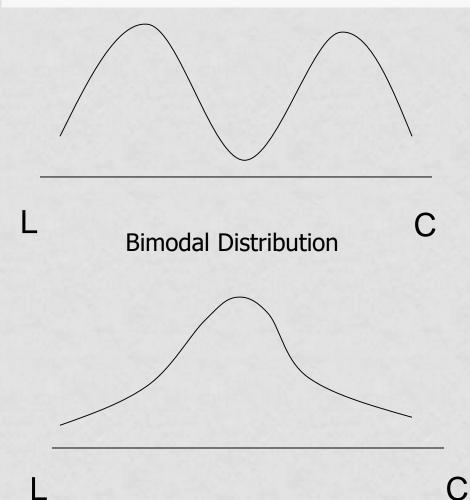
#### FIGURE 5-5 "Color-Coded" State Party Competitiveness in National Elections



Note: Color code applies to presidential elections.

*Source:* Louis Jacobson, Stateline.org columnist. "2008 may come down to Ohio—again." July 19, 2007. Available at http://www.stateline.org/live/printable/story?contentId=225442.

#### WHAT IS POLARIZATION?



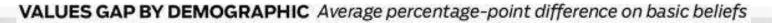
Polarization suggests large numbers of people near the ideological poles.

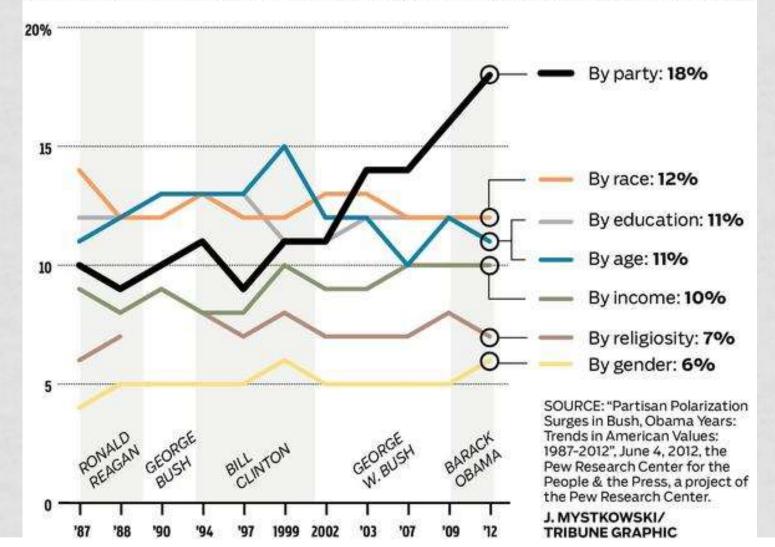
A lack of polarization suggests that most voters are in the center

Unimodal Distribution

#### Partisan value gap is greatest

A June survey by the Pew Research Center showed that Republicans and Democrats are more polarized in their basic beliefs than at any time since the survey began in 1987. The partisan divide is greater than any other values gap among those who differ in age, gender, race, class or religious affiliation. Religiosity data was not available for all years.





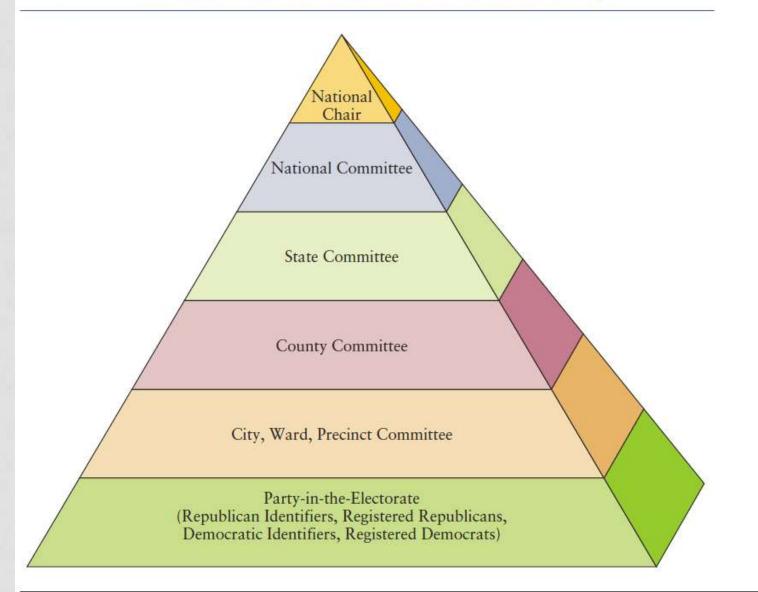
# PROFESSIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

- Public Relations Firms
- Polling
- Name Recognition
- Campaign Themes
- Grassroots Campaigning
- Media Campaigning
- Negative Ads
- Free Air Time
- Campaigning on the Web

# STATE PARTY ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVISTS

- Activists as Ideologues
- Activists as Potential Candidates
- State Party Organizations
- State Laws Govern Parties
- State Committees
- State Party Chairpersons
- County Committees
- Local Party Organizations





#### MAJOR PARTY FORTUNES IN THE STATES

- Gubernatorial Races
- State Legislatures
- Party Defectors/Switchers

# MONEY IN STATE POLITICS

- What Money Can Do
- Fundraising
- Campaign Spending in the States
- Third-Party Candidates Face Long Odds

#### STATE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

- State Campaign Finance Laws
- Federal Campaign Finance Laws
  - Federal Election Campaign Act of 1974
  - Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act (BCRA) of 2002
- The U.S. Supreme Court and Campaign Finance
  - Limits on contributions versus expenditures