

## Political Parties and Elections

1. Political Parties
  - a. Major Parties
    - i. Democratic Party: favors more government support for programs, such as health care and public education.
    - ii. Republican Party: favors less government, lower taxes, and more freedom
  - b. Third Parties (NOT the big 2)
    - i. Libertarian Party: wish to maximize human freedom and to reduce government and taxation.
    - ii. Green Party: wants to reduce exploitation of the natural environment
    - iii. Socialist Party: favors more public services, public ownership of utilities and some industries
    - iv. Communist Party: believes capitalists exploit workers; revolution needed to achieve change
2. Impact of Parties
  - a. Positive
    - i. Encourage citizens to participate in politics
    - ii. Help government leaders organize support
    - iii. Act as watchdogs over opposing party
  - b. Negative
    - i. Divides Americans
    - ii. Places pressure on legislators
3. Voting
  - a. Regulated by states
  - b. Votes must register before voting
4. Elections
  - a. Campaign for general elections
    - i. Nominees raise funds from campaign contributions, PACs, personal savings to purchase...
    - ii. Political advertising, canvas voters, hold rallies, and debate on television
    - iii. Voters go to polls to vote on Election Day
  - b. Factors in Evaluating Candidates
    - i. Education
    - ii. Experience
    - iii. Views on issues
    - iv. Capability in debates
    - v. Truthfulness