

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly angled view of the United States flag. The blue canton with white stars is visible in the upper left corner, while the red and white stripes dominate the rest of the frame. The flag appears to be waving, with soft folds and highlights.

THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF THE USA

Government

- Presidential Republic
- 50 states, centralized government in Washington
- Separation of powers

Separation of powers

Executive

leading the affairs
of the state

Cabinet

- President
- Vice President
- 15 ministers

Legislative

enacting and
discussing laws

Congress

- House of
Representatives
(435)
- Senate (100)

Judiciary

Pushing through the
laws

Supreme Court
(=highest judicial
body)



State Government

Each State has its own separate government

There are 3 branches

- State governor
- State legislative
- State court

Responsibilities

- Police
- Education
- Transport
- Social Welfare
- Health



Congress:

Power of the purse

Can override presidential veto

(2/3 majority)

Power of impeachment

Senate approves treaties and

the president's appointments

Supreme Court:

Power to declare laws and presidential actions unconstitutional

The President:

Power to veto

Issues executive orders

Commander-in-chief

Appoints Federal Judges

Grants Pardons for offenses against the US



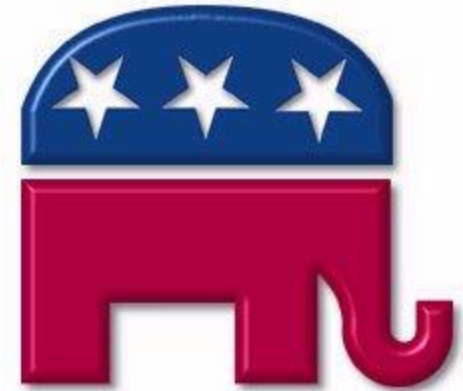
The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the United States of America. It is the framework for the organization of the United States government and for the relationship of the federal government with the states, citizens, and all people within the United States. The United States Constitution is the oldest written constitution (when defined as a single document) still in use by any nation in the world.

Political Parties

Republican Party

They believe in low taxation
And little interference from the
Federal Government. They
encourage individuals to work
hard and do not like welfare.

A party for the rich and Middle
Class.



Republican Presidents



Dwight Eisenhower
1953-61

Richard Nixon
1969-74



Gerald Ford
1974-77

Political Parties

Democratic Party



Believe it is the governments duty to distribute wealth
Evenly. They introduce higher taxation and welfare
benefits.

Their support comes from urban areas and minorities.

Democrat Presidents

John F Kennedy 1961-63



Lyndon B Johnson
1963-68



The President of the USA
Harry Truman 1945-53



Jimmy Carter 1977-81

Democrats and Republicans And Their Voters

- Democrats supported by majority of black voters (Clinton 83%)
- Urban ethnics
- Blue collar workers
- Catholics
- More women voters
- Northeast, upper midwest, northwest, Hawaii
- Protestant voters
- Business community
- White collar workers
- Religious fundamentalists

Democrats and Republicans and Their Policies

- Democrats
 - Support welfare programs
 - Keynesian economics and job creating programs
 - Social security, Medicare and Medicaid
 - Civil Rights legislation
 - Women's right to abortion
- Republicans
 - Limiting federal regulation of business
 - Reduction in welfare spending
 - Anti-abortion

Presidential elections

- Plurality voting system: „The winner takes all!“
- Election of a party in form of electors
- Elected electors represent the opinion of their state in the „Electoral College“
- The party with the most votes gets all the electoral votes of this state -> The parties have to look that they win in the states with a high amount of electors.

Problem

- Parties and candidates try to get as many as possible votes in states with a high amount of electors and ignore the others
- The party with more than 270 electoral votes wins, though an other one has more votes of the people in fact (f.e. Bush vs. Gore)

Barack Obama



- was elected the 44th President of the United States on Tuesday, November 4, 2008
- Democratic Party
- is the first Black Man ever elected to the highest office in the United States

Obama's policy



The political system of the
USA

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Abortion	<i>Supports</i>	Strong supporter of Women's Rights, and is pro-choice. Voted against banning partial birth abortion.
Gay Rights	<i>Supports</i>	Voted against the constitutional banning of gay marriage, believes each state should decide whether to ban gay marriage or not.
Iraq War	<i>Opposes</i>	Has opposed going into Iraq the entire time. Wants to immediately pull troops out of Iraq.
	The political system of the USA	Repeal President Bush's tax cuts to

Universal Health Care	<i>Supports</i>	Believe's every american deserves quality and affordable healthcare.
Immigration		States that immigrants that have been in America long should get a path to citizenship. Stronger border controls.
Gun Control	<i>Opposes</i>	Supports stricter gun control, and ban on semi-automatic guns.
Free Trade		Wants to keep NAFTA and other free trade agreements intact, but revise by raising environmental and labor standards to protect American jobs and workers. Somewhat vague on the details of what specifically these revisions would call for

Thanks for paying attention!