

# MODERN U.S. POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM



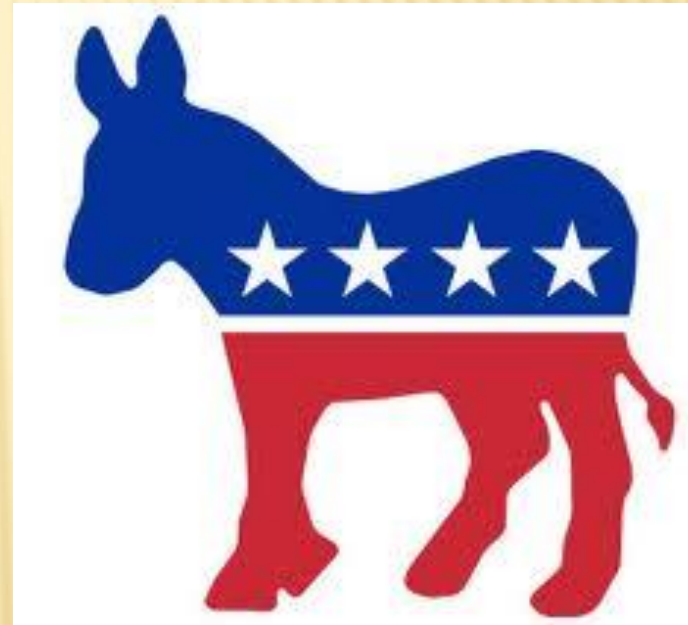
# MODERN U.S. POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM

- The modern political party system in the U.S. is a two-party system dominated by the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. These two parties have won every United States presidential election since 1852 and have controlled the United States Congress to some extent since at least 1856.



# DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- Democratic Party
- The Democratic Party is one of two major political parties in the U.S. It is the oldest political party in the world.
- The Democratic Party, since the division of the Republican Party in the election of 1912, has positioned itself as the party of labor on economic issues. The economic philosophy of Franklin D. Roosevelt, which has strongly influenced American liberalism, has shaped much of the party's agenda since 1932. Roosevelt's New Deal coalition had controlled the White House until 1968 with the exception of Eisenhower 1953-1961.



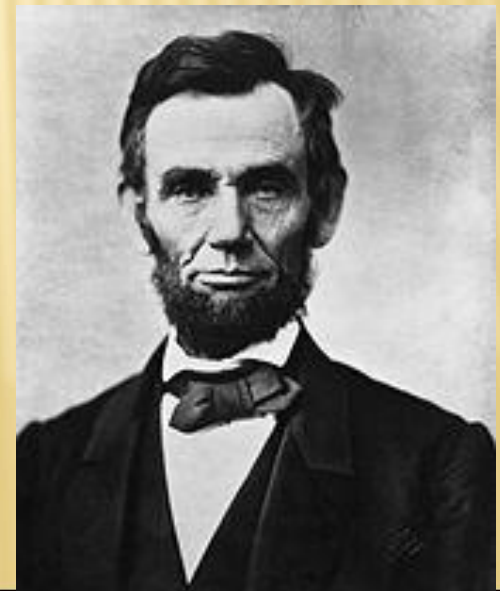
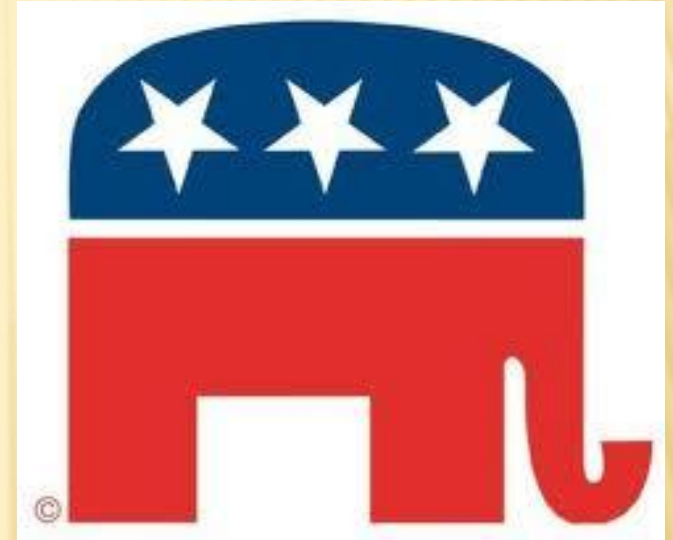
# DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- In 2004, it was the largest political party, with 72 million voters (42.6% of 169 million registered) claiming affiliation. The president of the United States, Barack Obama, is the 15th Democrat to hold the office, and since the 2006 midterm elections, the Democratic Party is the majority party for the United States Senate.
- A 2011 USA Today review of state voter rolls indicates that registered Democrats declined in 25 of 28 states (some states do not register voters by party). Democrats were still the largest political party with more than 42 million voters (compared with 30 million Republicans and 24 million independents). But in 2011 Democrats numbers shrank 800,000.



# REPUBLICAN PARTY

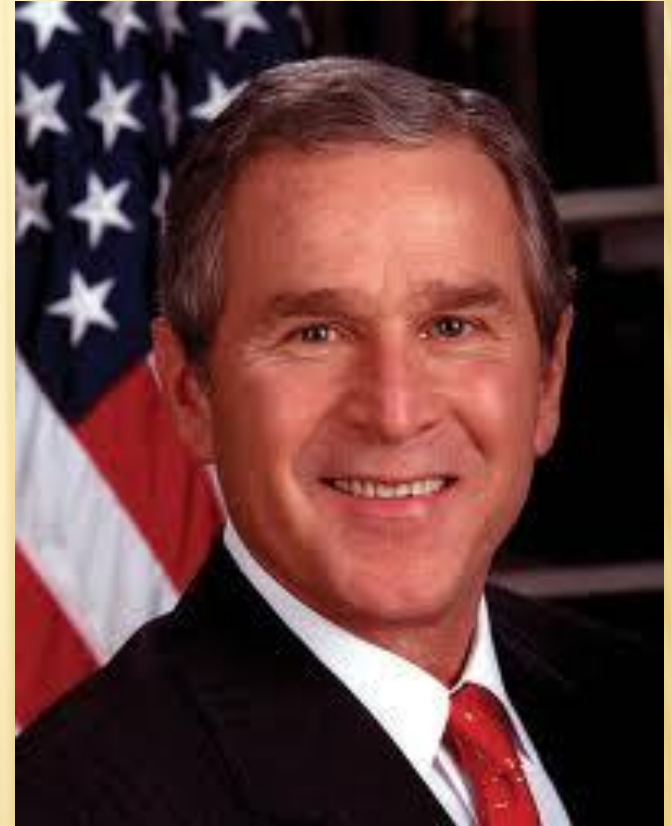
- The Republican Party is one of the two major contemporary political parties in the United States of America. Since the 1880s it has been nicknamed (by the media) the "Grand Old Party" or GOP.
- Founded in 1854 by Northern anti-slavery activists and modernizers, the Republican Party rose to prominence in 1860 with the election of Abraham Lincoln, who used the party machinery to support victory in the American Civil War. The GOP dominated national politics during the Third Party System, from 1854 to 1896, and the Fourth Party System from 1896 to 1932. Today, the Republican Party supports an American conservative platform, with further foundations in economic liberalism, fiscal conservatism, and social conservatism.



# REPUBLICAN PARTY

Former President George W. Bush is the 19th Republican to hold that office. The party's nominee for President of the United States in the 2012 presidential election was Mitt Romney, former Governor of Massachusetts. Since the 2010 midterm elections, the Republicans have held a majority in the United States House of Representatives.

USA Today's review of state voter rolls indicates that registered Republicans declined in 21 of 28 states (not all states register voters by party) and that Republican registrations were down 350,000 in 2011. The number of independents rose in 18 states, increasing by 325,000 in 2011, and was up more than 400,000 from 2008, or 1.7%.



# MAJOR THIRD PARTIES

□ Constitution Party



□ Green Party



□ Libertarian Party



# CONSTITUTION PARTY

□ The Constitution Party is a conservative United States political party. It was founded as the U.S. Taxpayers Party in 1992. The party's official name was changed to the Constitution Party in 1999; however, some state affiliate parties are known under different names.

□ According to ballot access expert Richard Winger, the editor of Ballot Access News, who periodically compiles and analyzes voter registration statistics as reported by state voter agencies, it ranks third nationally amongst all United States political parties in registered voters, with 438,222 registered members as of October 2008. This makes it currently the largest third party





# CONSTITUTION PARTY

- The Constitution Party advocates a platform that they believe reflects the Founding Fathers' original intent of the U.S. Constitution, principles found in the U.S. Declaration of Independence, and morals taken from the Bible.
- In 2006, Rick Jore of Montana became the first Constitution Party candidate elected to a state-level office, though the Constitution Party of Montana had disaffiliated itself from the national party a short time before the election.
- The Constitution Party's 2012 presidential nominee was Virgil Goode



# GREEN PARTY

- In the United States, the Green Party has been active as a third party since the 1980s. The party first gained widespread public attention during Ralph Nader's second presidential run in 2000. Currently, the primary national Green Party organization in the U.S. is the Green Party of the United States, which has eclipsed the earlier Greens/Green Party USA.



# GREEN PARTY

- The Green Party in the United States has won elected office mostly at the local level; most winners of public office in the United States who are considered Greens have won nonpartisan-ballot elections (that is, elections in which the candidates' party affiliations were not printed on the ballot). In 2005, the Party had 305,000 registered members in the District of Columbia and 20 states that allow party registration. During the 2006 elections the party had ballot access in 31 states
- Greens emphasize environmentalism, non-hierarchical participatory democracy, social justice, respect for diversity, peace and nonviolence.
- The 2012 Green Party presidential nominee was Jill Stein.



# LIBERTARIAN PARTY

□ The Libertarian Party was founded on December 11, 1971. It is one of the largest continuing third parties in the United States, claiming more than 200,000 registered voters and more than 600 people in public office, including mayors, county executives, county-council members, school-board members, and other local officials. It has more people in office than all other minor parties combined.

□ The 2012 Libertarian Party nominee for United States President was former New



# OTHER PARTIES

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- ▣ Besides the Constitution, Green and Libertarian parties, there are many other political parties that receive only minimal support and only appear on the ballot in one or a few states.

**Political Affiliation:**



**Independent**

# INDEPENDENTS

- Some political candidates, and many voters, choose not to identify with a particular political party. In some states, independents are not allowed to vote in primary elections, but in others, they can vote in any primary election of their choice. Independents can be of any political persuasion, but the term most commonly refers to politicians or voters who hold centrist views that incorporate facets of both Democratic and Republican ideology



# PARTY COMPARISONS

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- The following table lists some political ideologies most often associated with the five U.S. political parties with the most members, as well the official party positions on a number of reformist issues where positions diverge. Nuances may be found in the parties' respective platforms. Not all members of a party subscribe to all of its officially held positions, the usual degree of variation generally being higher for the larger parties. Note that party members may hold different views on legislation to be enacted at the state or federal levels.

### Modern political party comparisons

Issues	Green Party	Democratic Party	Libertarian Party	Republican Party
<b>related subjects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green politics</li> <li>• Social democracy</li> <li>• Civil libertarianism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Liberalism</li> <li>• Modern liberalism</li> <li>• Progressivism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Libertarianism</li> <li>• Classical liberalism</li> <li>• Minarchism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservatism</li> <li>• Fiscal conservatism</li> <li>• Social conservatism</li> </ul>
Abortion restrictions	No <sup>[19]</sup>	No <sup>[20]</sup>	No <sup>[21]</sup>	Yes <sup>[22]</sup>
Ending private financing of campaigns	Yes <sup>[19]</sup>	Yes <sup>[20]</sup>	No <sup>[21]</sup>	No <sup>[24]</sup>
Recognition of same-sex marriages	Yes <sup>[19]</sup>	Yes <sup>[20]</sup>	Yes <sup>[26]</sup>	No <sup>[27]</sup>
Universal government health care	Yes <sup>[19]</sup>	Yes <sup>[20]</sup>	No <sup>[21]</sup>	No <sup>[29]</sup>
Progressive taxation	Yes <sup>[19]</sup>	Yes <sup>[20]</sup>	No <sup>[21]</sup>	No <sup>[31]</sup>
Immigration restrictions	No <sup>[19]</sup>	No <sup>[20]</sup>	No <sup>[33]</sup>	Yes <sup>[34]</sup>
Capital punishment	No <sup>[19]</sup>	No <sup>[20]</sup>	No <sup>[21]</sup>	Yes <sup>[36]</sup>
Drug liberalization	Yes <sup>[38]</sup>	No <sup>[20]</sup>	Yes <sup>[39]</sup>	No
Civilian gun control	Yes <sup>[41]</sup>	Yes <sup>[20]</sup>	No <sup>[21]</sup>	No <sup>[27]</sup>
Interventionist foreign policy	Yes <sup>[19]</sup>	No <sup>[20]</sup>	Yes <sup>[21]</sup>	No <sup>[27]</sup>

# PARTY C