

# Political Parties/ Voting Rights

## Political Parties

George Washington first warned the country about political parties, he thought they would be harmful to the nation. The Federalists were the first political party and they believed we should have a strong, national government. The Constitution does not mention political parties.

Countries that have a one party system are China, North Korea, Iran and Venezuela.

A grassroots movement is a political movement that starts with the people.

A single issue party is a political party based around only one idea. An historical example we looked at was the Prohibition Party that was only interested in making liquor illegal.

Political parties have a national committee. That committee raises money for the party's candidate and organizes a convention. Candidates campaign before an election to convince voters to vote for them (we are in campaign season right now).

Political parties carry the message of the people to politicians. For instance, they hear what local people are complaining about and talk about it to politicians.

Democrats generally support more taxes, a bigger government and funding social programs to help the needy. Generally they are for gun control, less military spending/involvement, fewer death penalty sentences and support immigration. (these are generalizations). The Democratic Party saw great success for years after the Great Depression.

Republicans generally want less taxes and oppose government money being spent on many social programs. They want tougher punishments on criminals (including the death penalty) and want tougher laws on immigration. (these are generalizations) The Republican Party dominated politics from the Civil War to the Great Depression.

## Voting

Of course, the main requirement to be able to vote is you must be a citizen of the US. The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment gives women the right to vote and the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment is about voting and race.

Presidential elections are different than all other elections. Remember the Schoolhouse Rock Electoral College video. Presidents are not elected directly. A president must win a certain amount Of Electoral College votes to win.

Citizens unable to vote on Election Day can mail in an absentee ballot.