

Question	A	B
When someone is accused of a crime, the type of case is		Criminal
If you appeal a case, you are going to	Appellate court	
The court that gets to decide what is constitutional	Supreme Court	
If the appellate court thinks a decision was wrong, it will		Reverse the decision
If a group of people gives the verdict after a trial, that trial was a	Jury trial	
A word that means —relating to the rights of citizens		Civil
The Supreme Court has		Nine justices
If an appellate court sends a case back to the trial court, it has		Remanded the case
If you go to the Court of Appeals, you will see	Three judges	
The decision in a case is called the		Verdict
If you break a law of the United States, your case will probably be in		State court
At trial, lawyers try to prove their case using		Evidence
State courts were created by		State constitutions

Unit 4 Review: The U.S. Political System

Only 4 review sessions left!!!

- Warm Up: TAKE PACKET OUT!
 - What is the purpose of a Primary Election?
 - What different elected bodies exist that you can vote for? Name as any as you can.
- **REVIEW PACKETS ARE LATE!!!!**
 - **DID I CHECK YOURS OFF YESTERDAY?**
- Today's Plan:
 - Bill of Rights Review & Kahoot
 - Independent / Small group packet work:
 - Unit 4: American Politics
 - Quiz / Kahoot: American Politics
- Review Groups (sit as assigned please):
 1. Christian, Brandon, Tyrik
 2. Daniel, Reggie, Mariah
 3. Juan, Nashanda, Tim
 4. Aaron, J. Scarborough, Tahj
 5. Best, J. Smith, Jeaven
 6. Jess, Keem, Guillermo
 7. Adella, Shamod, Mali
 8. Devin, Salenceo, Tahjir
 9. Skyler H., Isaiah
 10. Kelsha, Simone

Independent Work Time - Packets

1. Use website, notes, and other resources to complete Unit 3 review packet
2. www.mrggcivics.weebly.com; exam review
 - Then move on to Unit 3
3. Kahoot Quiz on bill of rights & legal system to end class

Regarding Review Packets & Grades

1. Thursday at 11:16am – you will earn a zero if I haven't seen your packet.
 - COULD RAISE A (depends on each student's situation though):
 - 54 to a 68
 - 68 to a 73
 - 80 to an 83
 - could drop a:
 - 96% to a 73%
 - 81% to a 64%
- **Late work deadline was before the break.**
 - **If you have a zero on an essay or major project, turn it in and I'll provide 3/5 credit.**

STUDY RESOURCES:

- The packets I gave with info filled in
- **My website**
www.mrggcivics.weebly.com
 - **Notes and materials for each unit**
 - "Exam prep" tab has materials (packets) and jeopardy review games

Upcoming Schedule

- Friday – 2nd Period B Day Exams
 - 2nd period 7:30-9:30am
 - 4th period: 9:36-10:36
 - 3rd period & lunch
 - 1st period: 1:00-2:30
- **Mon June 1: 1st Period Exam 7:30-11:30am**
 - Lunch with 2nd period
 - **3rd period review: 1:36-2:30**
- Tues 6/2– 3rd period B Day exam
 - **7:30-9:30 – 3rd period review (for us)**
 - 9:36-10:36 – 1st period
 - LUNCH with 4th period
 - 2nd period: 1:00-2:30
- **Wed 6/3: 2nd period Exams: 7:30-11:30am**
 - Lunch with 3rd period
 - 4th period review: 1:36-2:30
- Thurs 6/4: 4th period B day exam
 - **7:30-9:30 – 4th period review**
 - 9:36-10:36 – 2nd period
 - LUNCH with 1st period
 - **3rd period: 1:00-2:30 (our FINAL REVIEW SESSION!)**
- **Fri 6/5: CIVICS & ECONOMICS FINAL EXAM**
 - 7:30-11:30am
- Mon 6/8 – 1st period B day Exams
- **Tue 6/9 – 4th period Final Exam**
- **Make Ups:**
 - Miss Friday, make it up Monday
 - Miss Monday, make it up Tuesday,
 - Etc.
- **NO RETAKES**
- **No exemptions**
- **EXAM GUIDELINES**
 - **No electronics – either don't bring them or be ready to place them in zip locks with your phones OFF.**
 - **You will be permitted to take an exam without proving to me that your phone is off and stowed.**
- **C&E Exam Format**
 - 120 minute testing period
 - 41 multiple choice
 - 2 Constructed Response (written) questions
- **Exam Content:**
 - **About 50% Economics & 50% civics**
 - **All testing is ONLINE, including written section**

Unit 4: American Politics

Lesson 1: Political Ideology & Party Platforms

LESSON ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- How does ideology influence the decisions of each major political party?

Essential vocabulary:

- Political Spectrum
- Liberal
- Conservative
- Moderate
- laissez faire
- public sector
- private sector
- private property
- Regulations
- strict vs. loose interpretation of the constitution
- political platform
- Political Party
- Faction
- Republican Party
- Democratic Party
- 3rd Party

• WARM UP

- Give examples of things that are **PUBLIC** and things that are **PRIVATE**.
- What is the difference between something public and something private?



Public or Private?



Public Sector vs. Private Sector

- **Private Sector**

- Owned by an individual or group of people
- (usually) for profit

- **Public Sector**

- owned or controlled by the government (local, state, or national)
- Not for profit
- Provides a public service

Public or Private?



Public or Private?



Private Sector Businesses

- Grocery store
- Taxi company
- Starbucks
- Music labels
- Google.com
- Many private companies are open to the public; but they are still privately owned and operated

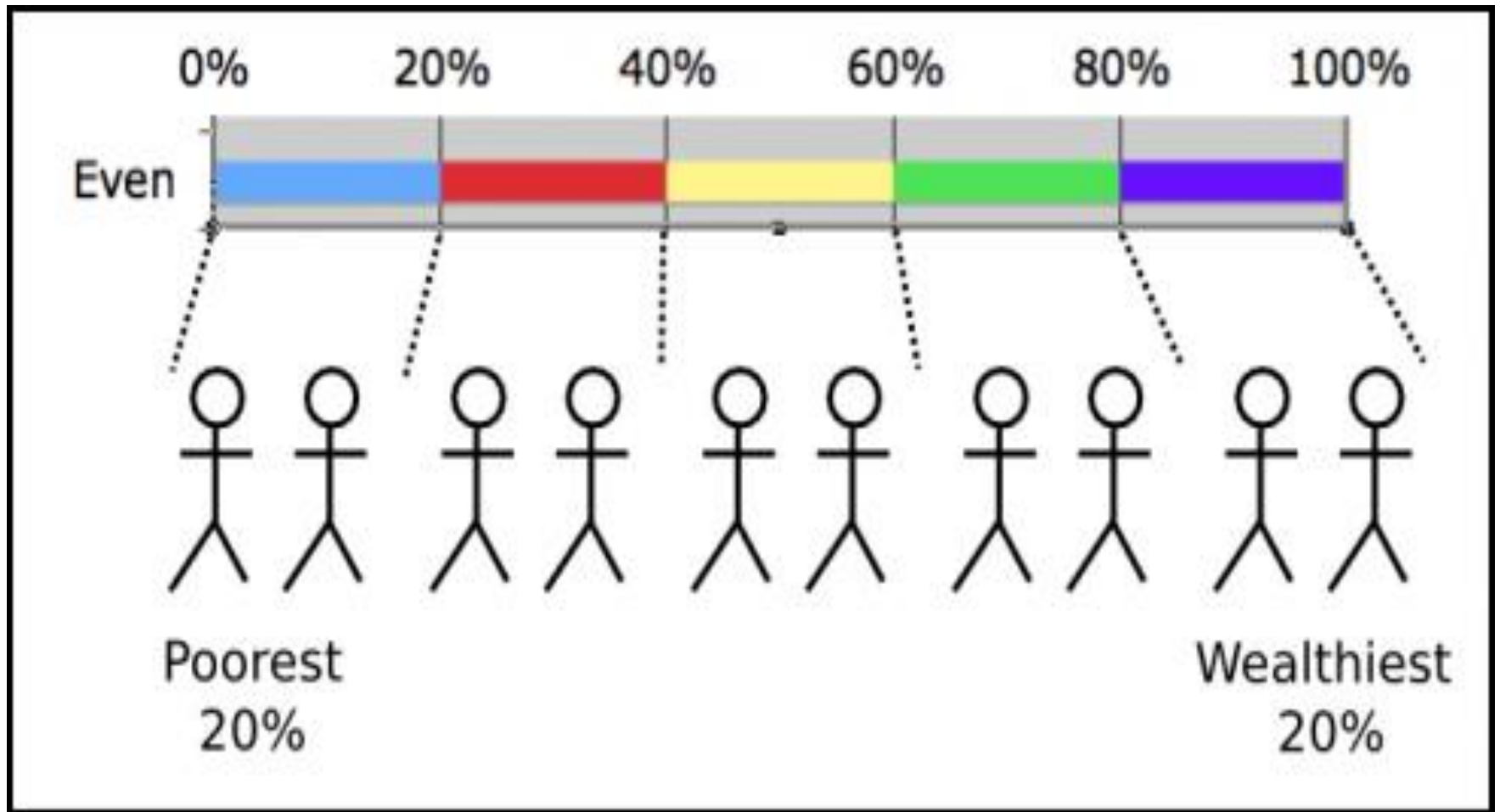
Public Sector includes

- Local, state, and federal budget items
- Tax incentives
- Federal grants

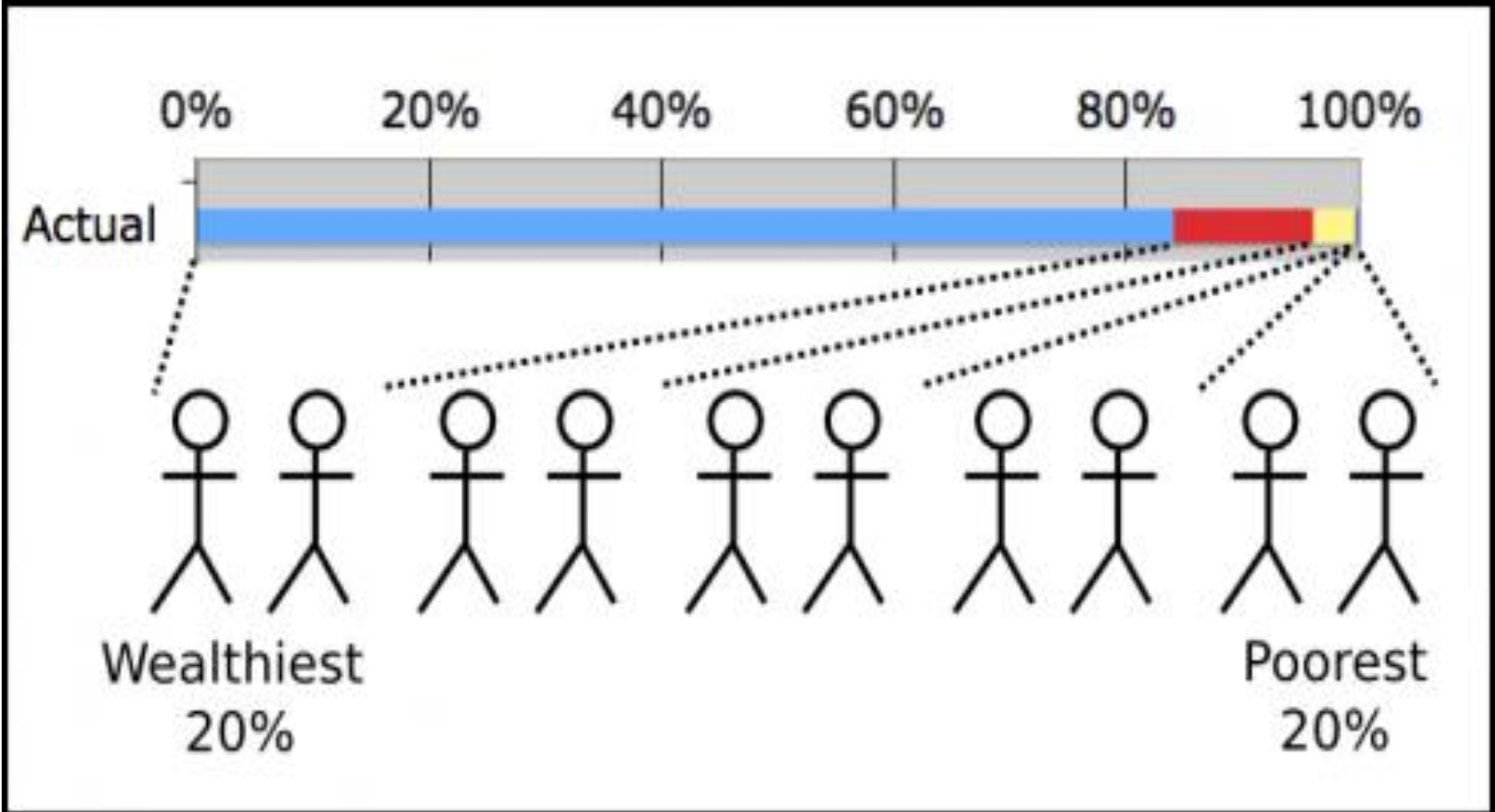
Wealth Distribution in a “free” market

- The U.S. economy is based on protecting and helping people gain private property
- We have a “capitalist” system, which basically means the government tries to stay out of the way and let individuals try to earn money in whatever ways they can
- What is wealth?
 - In a capitalist system, what determines who gets wealth?

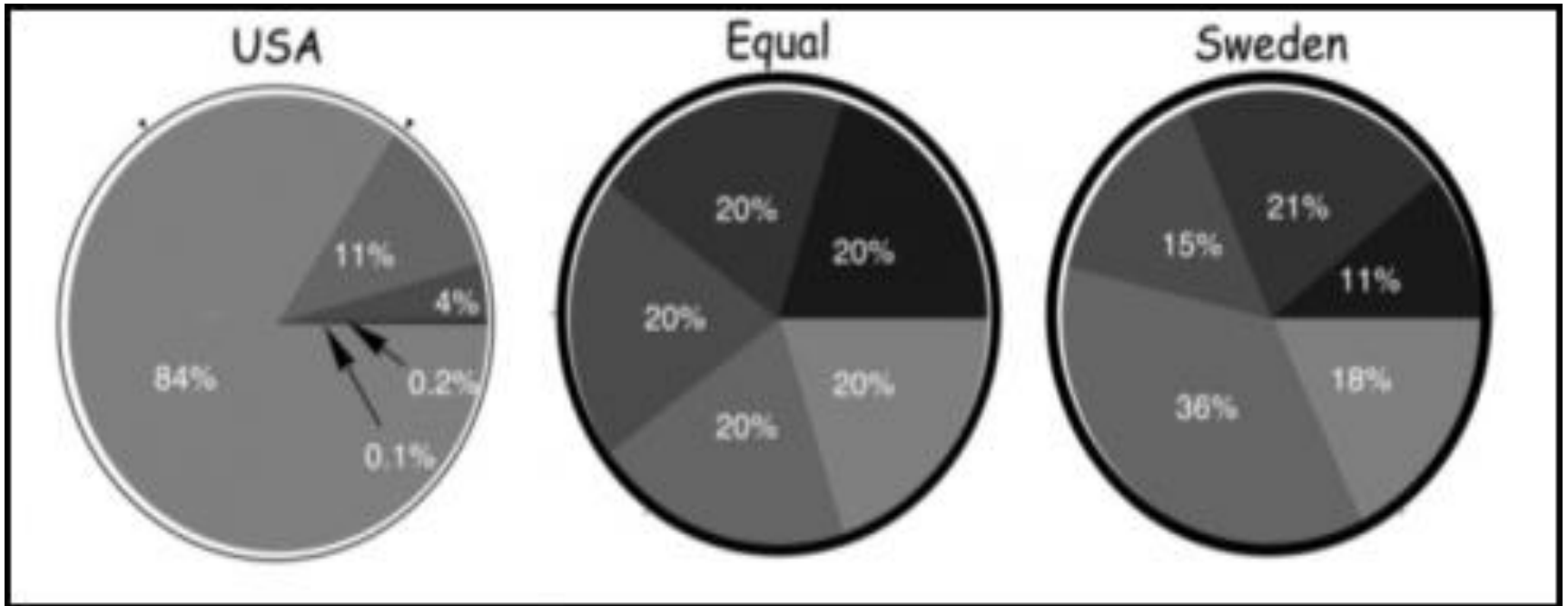
What an Equal wealth distribution would look like



Wealth Distribution in America - ACTUAL



Comparing Wealth Distribution



Command/Planned Economy

- Economic decisions are made by the government



Command/Planned Economy

- Fewer economic choices for consumer
- No/less private ownership of property
 - If we have 500 people we will need 500 pairs of shoes
- Smaller gap between rich and poor



Free Market Economy

- Economic decisions are made by individual producers and consumers
- Laissez faire – government stays out of the economy



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Free Market Economy

- Lots of different kinds of products
- Property is privately owned
- Economic trends change quickly



Socialism v. Capitalism

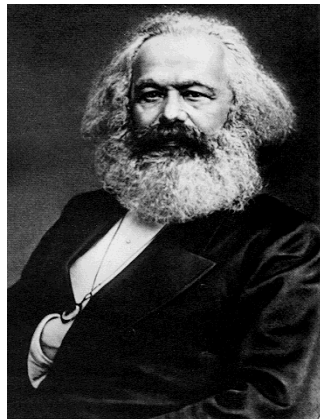
- Socialism

- Goal: distribute wealth in society as fairly and equally as possible

- Basic idea is that workers produce wealth, & so wealth should belong to workers

- Karl Marx

- Wrote Communist Manifesto



- Capitalism

- Goal: produce wealth through competition

- Basic idea: people are self-interested and will do their best/hardest work when they get to keep what they make

- Adam Smith wrote wealth of nations



Unit 4: American Politics

Lesson 1: Political Ideology & Party Platforms

LESSON ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- How does ideology influence the decisions of each major political party?

Essential vocabulary:

- Political Spectrum
- Liberal
- Conservative
- Moderate
- laissez faire
- public sector
- private sector
- private property
- Regulations
- strict vs. loose interpretation of the constitution
- political platform
- Political Party
- Faction
- Republican Party
- Democratic Party
- 3rd Party

• WARM UP

- Why do people join groups?



TODAYS VOCAB

- Ideology – set of beliefs held by a person or group of people that guides their decisions and actions
- Faction – a smaller group within a larger group; factions usually have specific goals that are a bit different from the goals of the full group
- Political Party – organization of people who share a common ideology and work together to help elect people they agree with

Roots of the Political Party

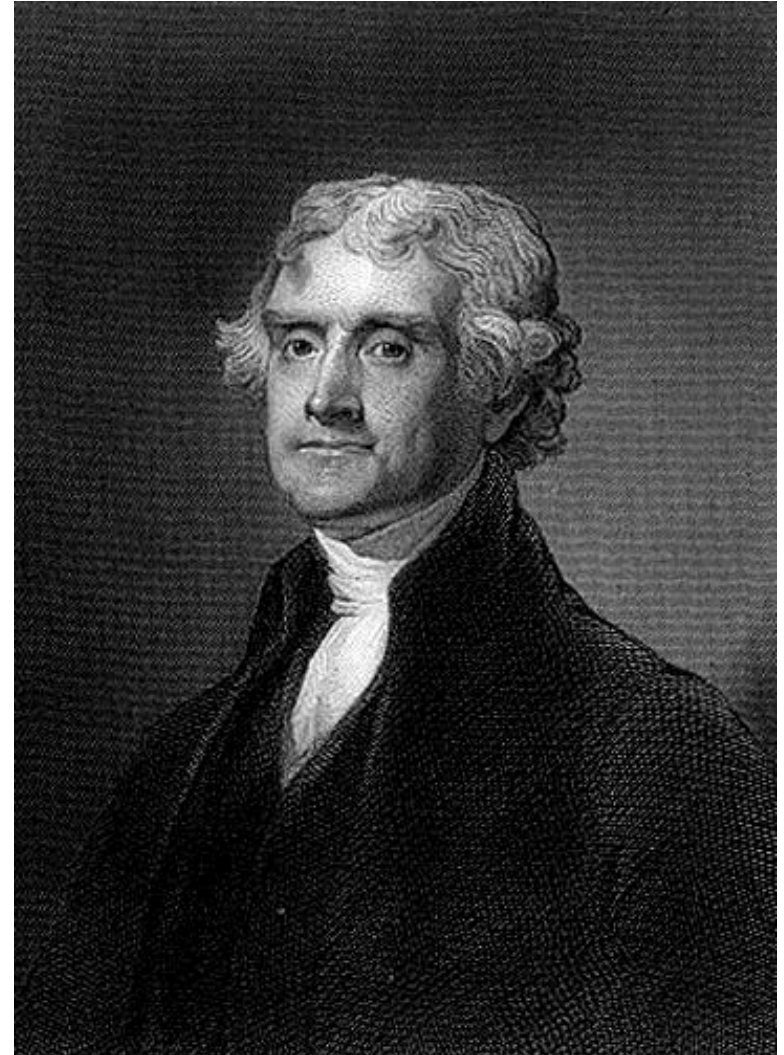


Alexander Hamilton



V
E
R
S
U
S

Thomas Jefferson



Hamilton vs. Jefferson feud causes two political parties to emerge

Hamiltonian ideas
=

Federalists

- Strong federal government
- Loose construction of constitution

Jeffersonian ideas
=

Democratic Republicans

- Strong state governments
- Strict construction of constitution

Making Connections to Today

- “Modern” Democrats
- “Modern” Republicans

The American **Two-Party Political System**

- **Winner take all system** is based on competition between TWO major political parties
 - major parties have advantages because they:
 - Have access to more funders
 - Are familiar to voters
 - Are automatically placed on the ballot in each election
- **DIFFERENT THAN EUROPEAN Parliamentary systems**
 - Voters vote for their party preference
 - **NOT WINNER TAKE ALL:**
 - Parties are represented based on how many votes they got
 - 25% of the vote = 25% of the seats in the legislature

Third Parties

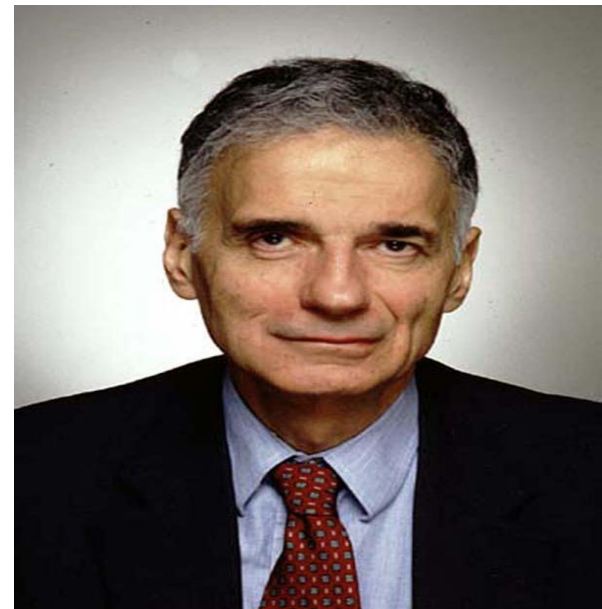
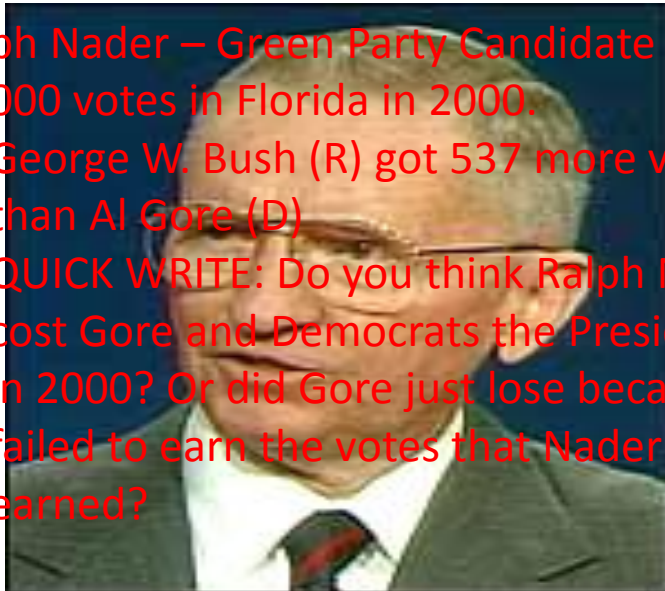
Defined ~ Parties that are NOT Democratic or Republican that run candidates for office

– often lose elections

– But can influence elections and government policy

Ralph Nader – Green Party Candidate won 97,000 votes in Florida in 2000.

- George W. Bush (R) got 537 more votes than Al Gore (D)
- QUICK WRITE: Do you think Ralph Nader cost Gore and Democrats the Presidency in 2000? Or did Gore just lose because he failed to earn the votes that Nader earned?



TODAYS VOCAB

- ~~• Federalists – group of people who supported ratification of the constitution and a strong central government; became one of our 1st two political parties~~
- ~~• Anti-Federalists – group that demanded a Bill of Rights and protection of state rights; many later became known as Democratic Republicans – one of our 1st two political parties~~
- Partisanship – tendency to base actions on what is good for your political party; often makes compromise difficult or impossible

Political Parties

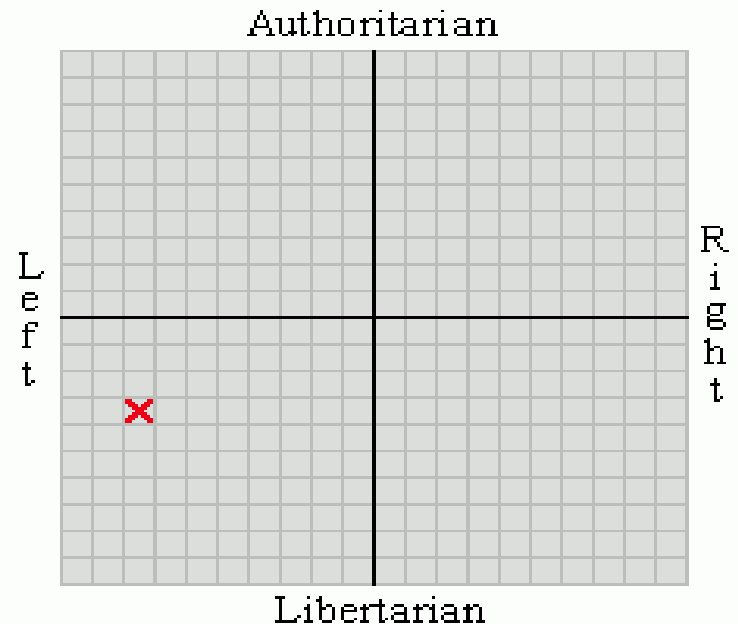
What are they?

Why do people join them?

The Political Spectrum

- LEFT V RIGHT
 - Reflects beliefs about ECONOMICS
- AUTHORITARIAN V. LIBERTARIAN
 - Reflects views on social issues

- Follow the link from my website: Unit 4, Day 4:
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2012/quiz/>



More definitions

- Consumers – individuals who participate in the economy by purchasing (consuming) goods and services
- Regulations – restrictions on businesses that protect consumers, the environment, and other public interests
- Laissez faire – idea that government should stay out of the economy & that all regulations are bad

& more definitions

- Libertarian – ideology that places individual freedom above all other political goals
- Authoritarian – ideology that places order and security above all other political goals
- **PARTY PLATFORM – SET OF POLICY GOALS A POLITICAL PARTY WANTS TO IMPLEMENT**
 - REPRESENTS THE CORE BELIEFS OF THAT POLITICAL PARTY, AND SHOWS WHAT THEY WOULD DO IF THEY HAD THE POWER TO DO IT

Party Platform

- Set of issues & proposals that the party supports



Platform Planks

--specific parts of a party platform



Democratic Examples

- Universal health care
- End wars in Iraq & Afghanistan
- Raise taxes on millionaires to pay for infrastructure plan

Republican Examples

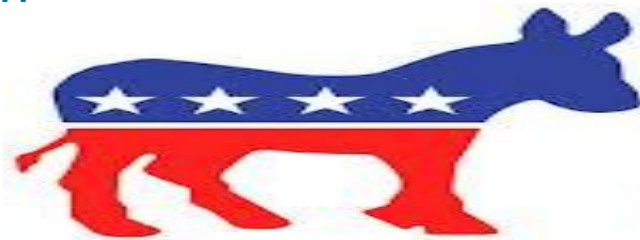
- Tax cuts
- Flat Tax
- Repeal Obama's health care bill

The Two Party System

Unlike other countries, American politics are dominated by two major political parties.

Democratic

- Supports social programs
- Supports environmental and labor regulations
- Believes those who make more money should pay higher taxes
- Generally support a woman's right to choose, gay rights and immigration reform



Republican

- Want fewer government programs
- Believe individuals should be left to succeed/fail on their own
- Believe that higher taxes on the wealthy hurt job creation
- Generally oppose abortion, same sex marriage, and immigration reform



I'm going to move fast.

- Get this powerpoint, and today's assignment, by **downloading them from the class website**
- 1. download ppt from website; complete note organizer
 - www.mrggcivics.weebly.com Unit 4, Day 1

Economic Policy

Left Leaning (Liberal)

- government should regulate the economy to protect consumers from abuse by corporations

Right Leaning (Conservative)

- Laissez faire – government should stay out of the economy

Economic Policy: **Tax Policy**

Liberals support:

- **progressive income tax rates**
 - Higher incomes are taxed at higher rates
 - Income above \$250,000 is taxed at a higher percentage
- The Buffett Rule
 - Special tax on people earning \$1 million or more
 - named after billionaire Warren Buffett who supports the idea
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOyDR2b71ag>

Conservatives support:

- **The Flat Tax**
 - All incomes are taxed equally at 15%
- **National sales tax**
 - Some conservatives would completely eliminate income taxes & only collect taxes when consumers purchase products or services

Economic Policy: **Business Regulation**

Liberals

- Support laws designed to protect workers, consumers, & the environment
 - Minimum wage laws
 - Clean Air Act
 - Fuel efficiency standards
 - Fair lending laws to limit interest rates on credit cards and homeloans
- Without regulations, big businesses will run over consumers & workers

Conservatives believe

- businesses should be free from government rules that make it harder to make money
 - Let the free market set wages and prices without a minimum wage requirement
- Regulations cost businesses money and make it harder to create jobs

Economic Policy: **School Funding**

Liberals support

- **Full funding for public schools**
 - More money to reduce class size, hire and retain teachers, purchase supplies, etc.
- **Free universal pre-K**

Conservatives believe in

- **“school choice”**
 - Idea that parents should have the option of receiving **vouchers (\$\$\$)** that they can use to help pay for private school if they want
 - Vouchers remove \$\$ from public schools but are usually not enough to cover full tuition for private school
- **Charter schools**
 - set up by private companies or non-profits; must be approved by the State

Economic Policy: **Health Care**

Liberals support

- **National healthcare system** that guarantees insurance is affordable for everyone
 - Everyone needs health care at some point, so everyone must buy insurance
 - Use tax \$\$ to make sure that poor families can afford coverage
- Expanding Medicare eligibility to cover more families

Conservatives believe

- It is not the government's job to guarantee healthcare
 - If you don't want insurance, you should not be forced to buy it
 - it's too bad people are poor, but that's just how it is

Social Policy:

Abortion / Reproductive Rights

Liberals

- Support a woman's right to choose
- Support public funding for contraception and sex education

Conservatives

- Want to outlaw abortion and/or make it more difficult:
 - parental notification laws
 - Required ultrasounds
 - Ultimately want to overturn the *Roe v. Wade* decision; do not believe that the constitution protects a right to privacy
- Support abstinence only education programs

Social Policy: Gay Rights

Liberals believe

- Gays and lesbians should have all the same rights and privileges as heterosexuals
 - Gay marriage
 - Adoption rights
 - Military service
 - Tax benefits for marriage/domestic partnership
- Gay rights are human rights and this is a civil rights issue

Conservatives believe

- Homosexuality is wrong and should not be rewarded by society
 - Ban gay marriage
 - Prohibit adoption by same-sex parents
 - Restore Don't Ask Don't Tell
 - limit domestic partnership benefits to married, heterosexual couples

Social Policy: The Environment

Liberals believe

- Human activity has damaged the environment and we must take actions to protect the planet
 - Clean Air & Clean water laws
 - Fuel standards
 - Deal with global warming

Conservatives believe

- Growing the economy is more important than protecting the environment
 - Environmental laws cost jobs
 - Environmental laws hurt American companies compared to countries with weaker environmental laws
 - Global warming is not real

Social Policy: Immigration

Liberals believe

- We are a nation of immigrants
 - Deporting 11.5 million people is impossible
 - Current immigration law breaks up families and is inhumane
 - Undocumented immigrants do important work that Americans will not do
- Deport those who commit crimes; leave the rest alone
- We should pass the Dream Act

Conservatives believe

- Immigration is a threat to the U.S. economy
 - Immigrants take American jobs
 - Immigrants drain the budget by receiving services (like school) without paying taxes
 - (This is not quite true)
- The U.S. should secure the border and deport all undocumented immigrants

Social Policy: Criminal Justice

Liberals believe

- Most crime is caused by poverty
 - Convicts should be educated and rehabilitated
 - Job programs are needed to help freed prisoners re-enter society
- Current drug policy does not work
 - Decriminalizing drug use would reduce violent crime
- Death penalty is racially biased

Conservatives believe

- Prisons should focus on punishment
- Use 3 strikes laws to punish repeat offenders
- Inmates should have limited rights of appeal
- The death penalty is justified

Foreign Policy: Military Funding

Liberals believe

- Budget cuts should include cuts to the military;
 - we currently spend about \$741 BILLION
 - twice what China spends
 - 1/3 of global military spending is spent by the U.S.
- We can spend a lot less and still have the best military in the world

Conservatives support

- Maintaining or increasing military spending
 - The war on terror and the growing power of China require the U.S. to maintain its military dominance

Foreign Policy: Foreign Intervention

Liberals believe **the U.S. should**

- work with other nations to protect human rights around the world
- Provide foreign aid to assist developing nations with infrastructure and education projects
- Rely on diplomacy as much as possible

Conservatives believe:

- We are not the world's police force
 - We should not intervene militarily to protect human rights in other countries
- We should
 - use any means necessary in the war on terror
 - use force to protect economic interests such as oil

From George Washington

...I have already intimated to you the danger
of parties in the State... Let me now...warn you
in the most solemn manner against the baneful
effects of the spirit of party generally.

Continue

...The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension...is itself a frightful despotism.

Quick Write

- Are Political parties a good idea or a bad idea?
Would you join one or not, and why?

Unit 4: American Politics

Lesson 2: Political Districts & Elected Bodies

LESSON ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- *What is the difference between partisan and non-partisan elections?*
- *How are citizens represented at the local and state level?*

Essential vocabulary:

- Partisan Elections
- Nonpartisan Elections
- At-large election
- Single Member District
- Constituent
- City Council
- County Commission
- Board of Education
- State Judge Elections
- Voter registration process
- Voter turnout
- Voter apathy
- Early voting
- Absentee ballot

• WARM UP

- Study the sample ballot I've given you and imagine that you are about to vote on it. What questions do you have?



We live in a REPUBLIC...what's that again?

- Republic = representative democracy
 - the people ELECT leaders to make decisions about how to run the government
- Constituents – all the people that an elected leader represents
 - Example: our class elects _____ to represent us in the Hillside Congress. Every student in the class is a constituent of _____

Political Districts

- every person in the country has people who are elected to REPRESENT them in Congress and their State Legislature.
- **Everyone who lives in the SAME DISTRICT has the SAME REPRESENTATIVE**
 - Representatives must live in their own district
 - districting clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8r7qJvprHXw>

**NC has 13 seats
in Congress, & 13
Congressional
districts**



Types of Political Districts

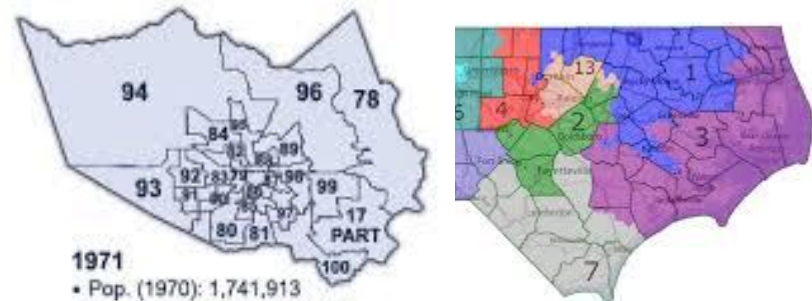
At Large Districts

- Every voter in the entire city/county votes for an office
 - Elected official represents ALL voters; EVERYONE is a constituent
- Example:
 - 5 seats on county commission
 - Each voter votes for 5 people.
 - Top five vote earners win the seats



Single Member Districts

- City/county is divided into separate areas (called districts)
 - Each district picks its own representative
 - Elected officials represent ONLY their own district
- EXAMPLE:
 - 5 seats on county commission
 - 5 districts within the county
 - Each voter votes for ONE person from their district.
 - Winner in each district gets seat on commission



- 1971
- Pop. (1970): 1,741,913
- 23 single-member districts + part of another

North Carolina General Assembly

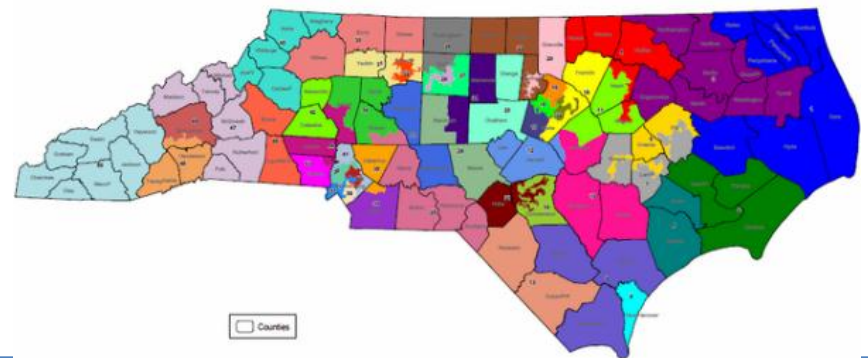
State House

- 120 NC State House Districts
 - At large or single member districts?

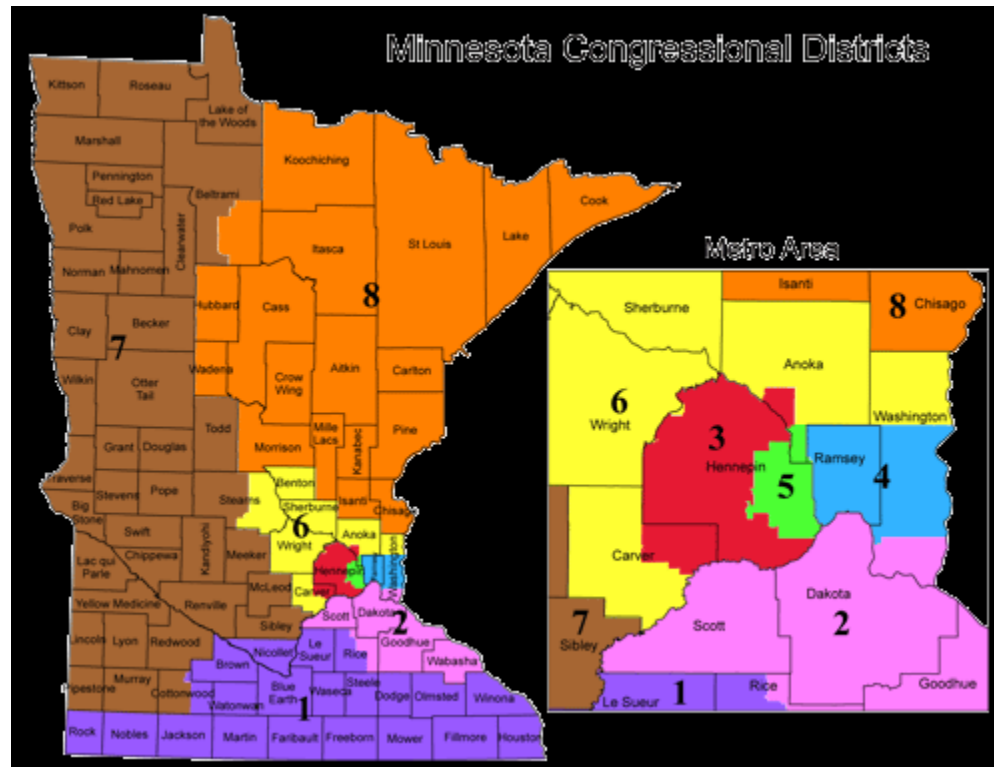


State Senate

- 50 NC State Senate Districts
 - At large or single member districts?



At Large or Single Member district?



Review: Redistricting

- Redistricting – every 10 years after the census, the State Legislature redraws the lines for all the State and Federal election districts
 - This determines what neighborhoods are represented by which politicians at the state and federal levels

Gerrymandering

- What was that again???
 - DRAWING ELECTION DISTRICTS TO FAVOR ONE POLITICAL PARTY
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJCaWCgbASI>



Elected Bodies

- Group of people elected to serve a specific purpose
 - Examples:
 - Durham **County Commission** makes policy for a **County**
 - Durham **City Council** makes policy for the **CITY** of Durham
 - **NC General Assembly** – makes policy for North Carolina
 - Is BICAMERAL:
 - » State Senate
 - » State House
 - **Durham County School Board** – sets policy for schools

Partisan v. Nonpartisan Elections

Partisan Election

- Ballot shows what political party each candidate represents
- Parties decide what candidate it wants on the ballot
 - Independent candidates can gather signatures

Nonpartisan election

- No mention of political party
- Candidates gather signatures to get on the ballot
- EXAMPLES:
 - Judges
 - School Board

Fewer voters participate in non-partisan elections because:

- They haven't researched the candidates
- Don't have party labels to rely on (can't just pick whatever D or R is there)
- They may think these elections are less important

The Voting Process

- People must REGISTER to Vote before election day
 - To register, you must be:
 - A U.S. Citizen
 - Resident of the state for at least 30 days before the election
 - 18+ years old
 - Not currently serving a felony sentence
 - Mentally competent
- Other Voting Requirements:
 - Must have photo-ID when voting
 - Must update voter registration if you change addresses
- Ways to vote:
 - On election day: at your precinct (local voting place)
 - **Early Voting**
 - Relatively new option
 - Allows people more flexibility
 - **Absentee Ballots** (request by mail if you will be out of town for the election)

___ minutes: Write two of your paragraphs

1. What are the core values and beliefs of the Democratic Party? Identify specific social and economic policy planks of their party platform.
 2. What are the core values and beliefs of the Republican Party? Identify specific social and economic policy planks of their party platform.
 3. Describe your own political beliefs / ideology. What Democratic or Republican policy proposals do you agree with and why?
- If you didn't finish yesterday:
 - Download notes and finish graphic organizer:
 - www.mrggcivics.weebly.com Unit 4 Materials, Day 1

Unit 4: American Politics

Lesson 3: Campaigns & the Electoral Process

LESSON ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- *How do political parties select candidates?*
- *How do candidates run campaigns?*
- *How do politicians balance their obligation to voters with the demands of special interests?*

• WARM UP

- **What must candidates do in order to get elected?**

Essential Lesson Vocabulary:

- Major Party
- Factions (eg: Tea Party)
- Candidate
- Incumbent / Challenger
- Nominee / Nomination
- “Open” Seat
- “Safe” Seat
- Open Primary
- Closed Primary
- Iowa Caucus
- New Hampshire Primary
- National Political Convention
- Electoral College
- Red States / Blue States
- Swing States
- Likely Voters
- Unlikely Voters
- Voter apathy
- Voter File
- Canvassing
- Propaganda types (bandwagon; endorsement; glittering generalities; card stacking; common man; transfer)
- Campaign Manager
- Federal Elections Commission
- Campaign Contribution
- McCutcheon v. FEC
- Political Action Committees
- Super PACs
- Citizens United v. FEC



The Two Party System

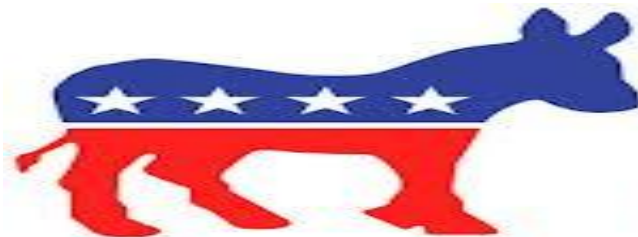
Two types of elections

Primary Elections

- The election before the election
 - Used by each party to pick their candidates
 - Winner GETS ONTO THE BALLOT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER
 - Usually between May and August

General Elections

- Tuesday after 1st Monday in November
- Democrat vs. Republican
 - Winner takes office



People from each party decide to run



Primaries and Caucuses

- Primaries are like the election BEFORE the election – each party picks their candidate

PAGE

1

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

VOTERS REGISTERED WITH DEMOCRATIC PARTY
SKIP TO PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE'S CONTEST BELOW

TO VOTE FOR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES, NONPARTISAN VOTERS
MUST FIRST SELECT PARTY IN THE BOX BELOW.

THIS BOX FOR NONPARTISAN VOTERS ONLY Vote for One	AMERICAN INDEPENDENT	
	DEMOCRATIC	6 → <input type="radio"/>

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE Vote for One	MIKE GRAVEL	Democratic	8 → <input type="radio"/>
	JOHN EDWARDS	Democratic	9 → <input type="radio"/>
	CHRIS DODD	Democratic	10 → <input type="radio"/>
	HILLARY CLINTON	Democratic	11 → <input type="radio"/>
	JOE BIDEN	Democratic	12 → <input type="radio"/>
	BARACK OBAMA	Democratic	13 → <input type="radio"/>
	BILL RICHARDSON	Democratic	14 → <input type="radio"/>
	DENNIS KUCINICH	Democratic	15 → <input type="radio"/>

PLEASE NOTE: The order in which candidates' names appear on the ballot is determined by a random drawing of the 26 letters of the alphabet. Additionally, candidates for federal, most state and some local offices change positions, or "rotate." This prevents a specific candidate's name from always appearing first, or last, on all ballots.

CONTINUE VOTING ON NEXT PAGE





Important Primaries

Iowa Caucuses

- 1st state to vote
- Winning candidate gets big boost, lots of press, and is viewed as a contender

New Hampshire Primary

- 1st primary & second state to vote
- Open primary
- **Very personal**
 - candidates spend lots of time in New Hampshire meeting voters



Political Trends

Blue States

- **Urban areas** usually vote democratic
 - Large numbers of minority voters who usually support Democrats
- **Northeast**
 - New England states usually vote democratic in Presidential Elections
- **California, New York, Illinois,**

Red States

- **Rural areas** usually vote Republican
 - Mostly white voters
 - Large concentration of conservative Christian voters
- **Southern States**
 - Southeastern states generally vote republican in presidential races
- **Texas, & great plains**

Picking a Nominee

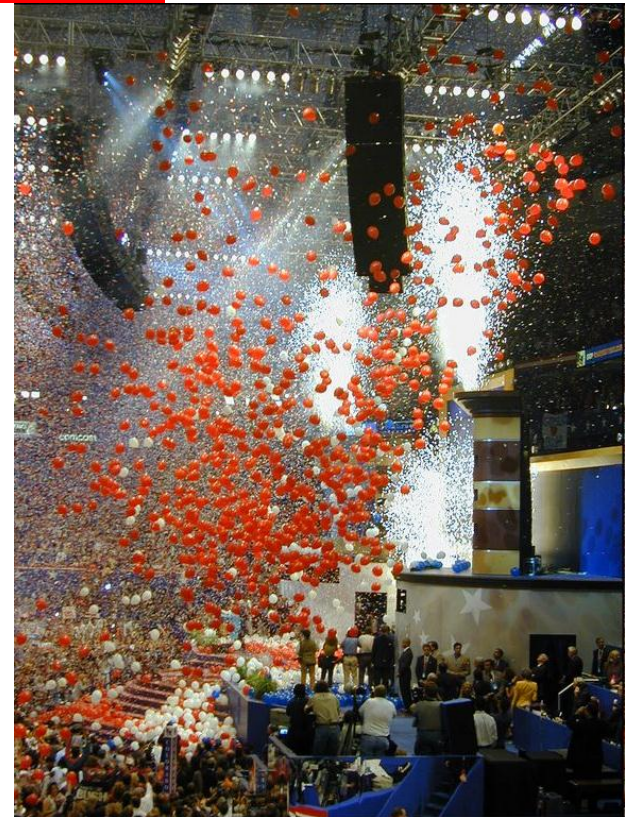
- Nomination

- Candidates that win the most states earn delegates who help them win the nomination
- Hillary Clinton is widely expected to win the 2016 Democratic Nomination for president



National Convention

- Each Party holds a convention to:
 - Party formally announces its nomination
 - Delegates vote on their platform



Party Platform

- Set of issues & proposals that the party supports



General Election

- After candidates have been selected through the primary process...
 - Democrat vs. Republican
 - WINNER TAKE ALL
- Popular vote – total votes a candidate wins across the whole country



Counting the Votes

- Popular vote – adds up the votes of every voter in the country
- Electoral Votes
 - States with big populations have more electoral votes
 - Must win 270 Electoral Votes to become President

Electoral College

- Candidate must win 270 “electoral college votes” to become president
 - Framers of Constitution were concerned that most people didn’t have enough information to make a good choice
 - www.270towin.com



Winner take all system



Chronicle Illustration / John Blanchard

- Electoral College – candidate must win 270 electoral votes to become president
- Candidates that win a state get ALL electoral votes for that state

2008 & 2012 Electoral Maps

- Blue States
 - Democratic
- Red States
 - Republican
- “Purple” states
 - Swing states



Swing States / Battleground States

- Each year, some states are up for grabs
 - Both Republicans and Democrats have chance to win them
- Typical swing states:
 - Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, North Carolina, Virginia, Indiana, New Mexico, Colorado

Congressional Elections

House of Representatives

- EVERY member faces re-election every 2 years

Senate

- Terms are 6 years long
 - 33 senators face re-election in 2016
 - 34 senators face re-election in 2018
 - 33 senators face re-election in 2020
 - just got elected/re-elected in 2014

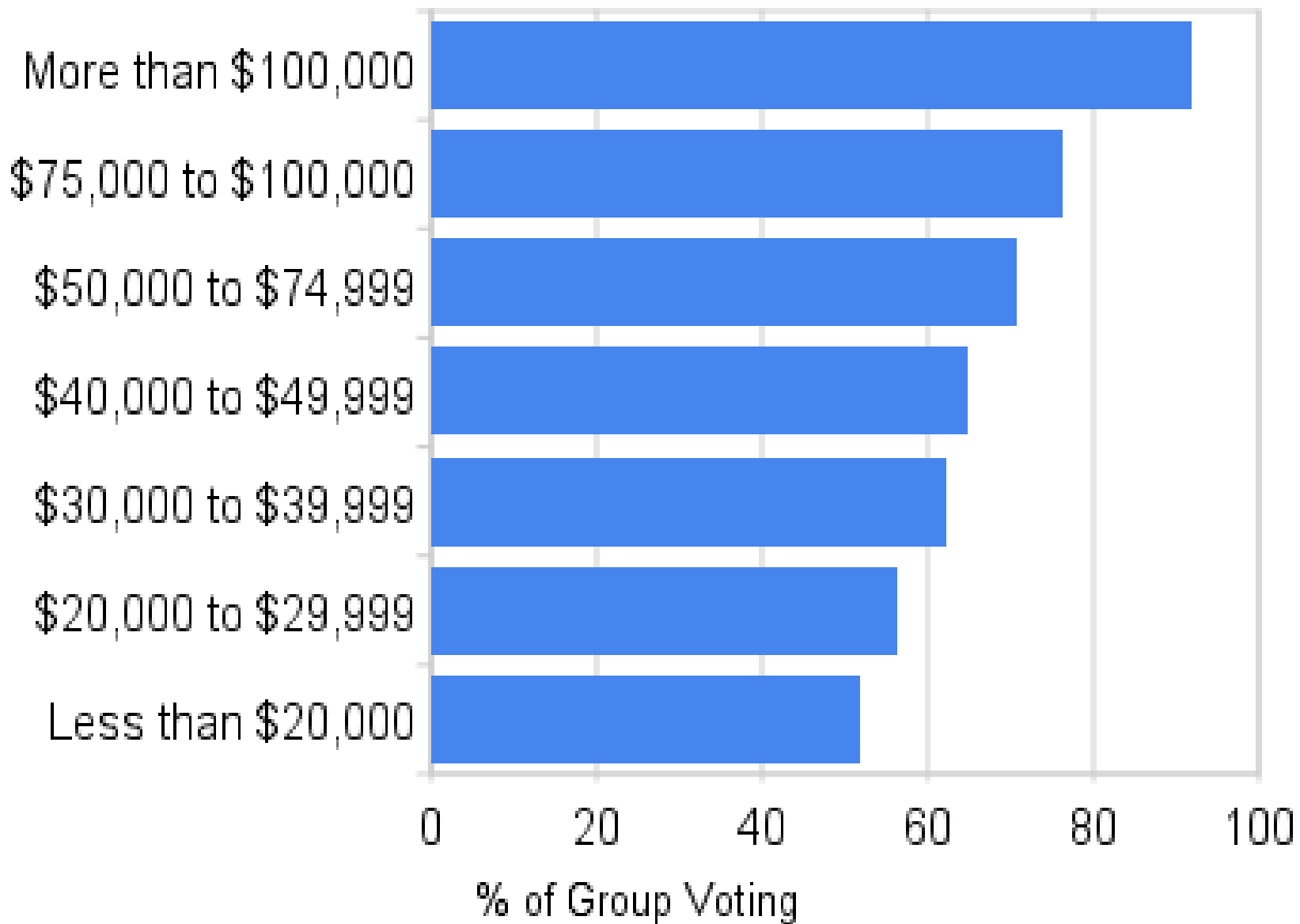
Voter Apathy

- Many people don't care about voting at all



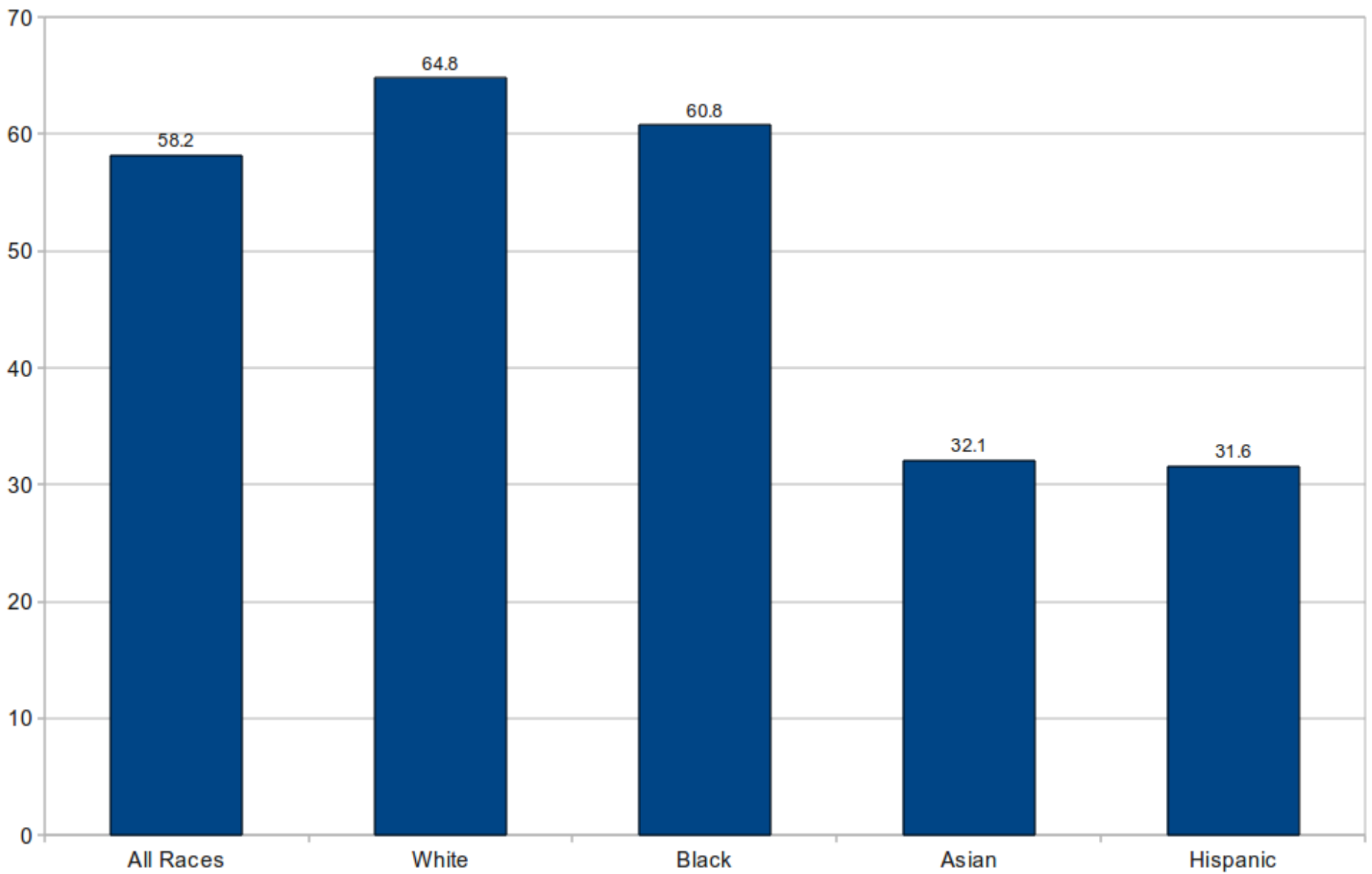
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Voter Turnout by Income Level, 2008 Election



Voter Turnout by Race/Ethnicity, 2008 US Presidential Election.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.



Polling

- Polling –
- Opinion polls
 - Can help politicians understand what voters want
 - Provide information about how well each candidate is doing
- Exit polls
 - After they vote, people get asked who they voted for
 - Used to analyze voting demographics and trends
 - What candidates did women prefer? Latinos? Young people? Etc.

Voter Targeting & Strategy

- The Voter File

- The state keeps a record of who votes in each election

- Information includes:

- Voters age, address, (& phone # if listed on voter registration form)

- Date of each election the person voted in

- Indicates whether the person is a reliable voter likely to vote in every election, or an unreliable voter that only participates in presidential elections, etc.

- Party affiliation (Democrat, Republican, Unaffiliated, etc.)

- Voter file is a public record: anyone can buy it from the state

Voter Targeting & Strategy

- How do campaigns identify voters?
 - Phone banking – calling voters to ask if they can be counted on to support a candidate
 - Canvassing – knocking on doors to talk with voters about issues and convince them to support a candidate
 - Direct Mail – sending campaign propaganda to voter's addresses (to be effective, this usually requires at least 3-4 pieces of mail per election cycle)
- Voters are ranked on a 1-5 scale:
 - 1 definite support; 2 – likely support; 3 – undecided; 4 – likely oppose; 5 – definite oppose
 - Results of phone calls and canvass are data-entered in the voter file & saved for future use

\$

- **Candidates with more money usually win.**
 - Where do they get the money from?
 - VOTERS & CORPORATIONS



Political Action Committees (PACs)

- Can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money on elections
- Cannot talk with or coordinate with candidates
- Much more common and powerful since Citizens United

Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission

- 2010 Supreme Court rules that money equals speech;
 - Corporations are defined as people, and can give unlimited amounts of money to Super PACs
 - No limits on the amount of money PACs can spend in on elections
 - Argues that restricting money in politics is like restricting a person's right to speak out about their beliefs



Special Interest Groups

- Organizations that focus on getting the government to support the interests of a particular group of people or a particular issue

– EXAMPLES

- Restaurant Association
- Chamber of Commerce
- League of Women Voters
- NAACP
- Unions

Lobbyists

- Paid by interest groups to convince politicians to vote a certain way
 - Have good relationship with politicians and their staff
 - Sometimes are very powerful
 - Usually paid a lot of money

What is the purpose of political advertisements?

- PROPAGANDA – information designed to convince you of something
- To sell the candidate
 - Add makers want you to “buy” or support their candidate and then to vote for him/her

Elements of Propaganda

- Read handout & highlight, summarize the following tactics
 - Bandwagon
 - Namecalling
 - Endorsement
 - Card stacking
 - Glittering generalities
 - Just plain folks
 - transfer

Role of the Media

- Watchdog – traditionally the media worked to hold politicians accountable
 - Fact checking (are elected officials telling the truth)
- Pundits – media officials often watch politics closely and offer analysis and predictions of what is likely to happen

Election Too Close to Call?

- **Runoff Elections**

- Some places require candidates to get 50%+1 of the vote to win.
 - If 3 or more candidates split the vote and no one reaches 50%, a RUNOFF election is held between just the top two vote getters
 - Happened in Wake County school board election

- **Recounts**

- If the popular vote is super close (less than 1%), there is an automatic recount of the votes to make sure no mistakes were made

Unit 4: American Politics

Lesson 4: Role of Citizens & Grassroots Politics

LESSON ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- *How do individuals influence politics?*

Essential vocabulary:

- Civil Rights Act
- Voting Rights Act
- Suffrage
- Constituent
- Canvassing
- Public hearing
- Referendum
- Ballot initiative
- Recall election
- Lobbyists
- Grassroots organization

• WARM UP

– Take the test I handed you as you walked in.

- YOU HAVE 10 MINUTES!



Voting Rights

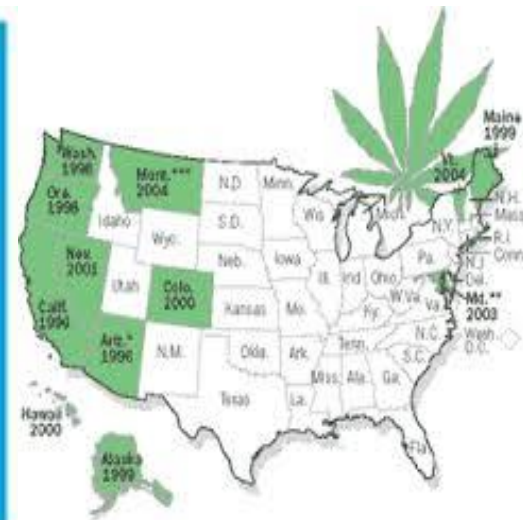
- **Suffrage** – the right to vote
 - 15th amendment – gave male freed slaves the right to vote after the Civil War
 - 19th Amendment – gave women the right to vote (1920)
- **Grandfather Clause** -- you have to take the test to vote...UNLESS your grandfather was eligible to vote.
 - In the 1880s, the only grandfathers that were eligible to vote were WHITE

Vocabulary

- 1964 Civil Rights Act – ended segregation and required equal treatment of all races in all situations. Signed by President Johnson
- 1965 Voting Right Act – ended poll tests and poll taxes; required states with history of racism to let the Federal government control local elections

Let the People be Heard

- **REFERENDUM** – citizens vote directly for/against a law
 - Bypasses the legislature and governor
 - A rare example of DIRECT DEMOCRACY
 - North Carolina DOES NOT ALLOW ballot initiatives



Citizen Engagement



- How can you get elected officials to do what you want them to do?
 - Public comment – you can sign up to speak before city council, county commission, or school board meetings
 - Public hearings – governments (local and state) hold public hearings on bills before they vote on them. This gives everyone a chance to sign up to testify for or against the bill

More Civic Engagement Vocabulary...



- Civil disobedience – intentionally and publically breaking a law that you believe is wrong in order to make a point about justice & injustice in society
- Strikes – workers leave the job and refuse to work in protest of bad wages, poor working conditions, poor benefits, etc.
 - North Carolina Wal-Mart Strike:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuCNH7dqZxg>

How people influence government

- Community organizing
- Petitions
- Voting
- Letters to the editor
- Calling / write to electeds
- Protests
- Civil disobedience
- Etc.

