Political Parties and Lobbyists
The Iron Triangle
Interest Groups

• Political Interest groups are collective groups that allow like-minded individuals to have their voices heard
  • Interest groups seek positive benefits to promote the group’s interests
    • Ex. Environmental Interests work to gain favor in the government and protect the planet
Purpose of Interest Groups

- Interest groups seek to pass legislation and influence the political process to protect their interests, or further their political aims.
  - Ex. Pro-Abortion Interests groups work to protect the right to abortions working against the Anti-Abortion Interest Groups.
Lobbyists

• Lobbyists are individuals who represent interest groups
  • Many Lobbyists are former legislatures
  • Lobbyists are normally very well paid to influence legislation

• Lobbyists work directly for groups or as needed
Role of Lobbyists

- Lobbyists have become integral parts of the political process due to their knowledge and expertise
  - Sources of information, ideas and innovations.
    - Ex. How a particular group would react to a particular law
  - Can help politicians strategize how to pass or block legislation
  - They can help create a campaign strategy and get interest groups to support the candidate
Lobbyists in Washington D.C.

• Direct Lobbying – Where interest groups meet directly with an officeholder to get them to support or change policy

• Drafting Legislation – Lobbyists will draft bills for congressmen to introduce to the House or Senate

• Research – Lobbyists repair reports about legislation to attempt to sway opinion and votes, as well as inform politicians about issues

• Hearings – Staff can testify before congress to support or attack pieces of legislation
Lobbying outside Washington D.C.

• Grassroots Lobbying – Coordinate Interest group members to aid lobbyists by contacting politicians, recruiting members, or protesting

• Electioneering – Raising funds within interest groups to aid candidates
  • Funding PACs to raise campaign funds
Political Parties

- Political Parties are broad organizations of like-minded individuals
- Similar values and idea of role of government
  - Conservatives favor limited federal government, and traditional values
  - Liberals favor progressive social values, and social programs
Party Functions: Candidate Recruitment

• In order to have more say in the government political parties work hard to help representatives from their party get elected.
  • Work at the Federal, State, and local levels

• Difficult to get good candidates
  • Needs to meet party ideologies, have the proper background, and have the commitment and finances to support an election
Elections take a lot of time, money, resources, and experience

- Too much for any one person to handle, especially if they have never done it before
- Parties help with resources, support, and ideas for running effective campaigns.
Party Functions: Establishing Platforms

• Party leadership helps direct party members to form platforms
  • Part positions on certain topics such as foreign policy, the economy, public policy, etc...
  • Helps clearly state what voters are getting if they elect a member of the party
  • Candidate Platforms formulated with help from the party

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSUE</th>
<th>REPUBLICANS</th>
<th>DEMOCRATS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New State Income Tax (H-109)</td>
<td>Republicans oppose the initiative for a new state income tax (H-109) because we can’t afford another job-killing tax increase.</td>
<td>Democrats support the initiative for a new state income tax, despite a tepid recession and high unemployment.</td>
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<td>Sales Taxes (H-109)</td>
<td>Republicans support the requirement of a two-thirds majority vote of the Legislature to raise our taxes (H-109).</td>
<td>Democrats believe the need for additional revenue and support raising taxes.</td>
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<td>Crime &amp; Public Safety</td>
<td>Republicans support “Three Strikes, You’re Out” sentences for career criminals, and the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms to defend themselves.</td>
<td>Democrats would eliminate “Three Strikes, You’re Out” sentence for career criminals, support gun control, and push for further restrictions on private gun ownership.</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Republicans believe that parental choice through vouchers, tax credits and charter schools will result in “wider choices, higher quality, more innovation and lower costs.”</td>
<td>Democrats resist parental choice. They oppose all charter schools and voucher programs. They also oppose requiring military recruiters access to public schools.</td>
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<td>Elections</td>
<td>Republicans oppose the automatic restoration of a felon’s ability to vote, and we support the Electoral College as an important protection for every state.</td>
<td>Democrats believe voters should vote, even if they have not completed all the conditions of their sentence, and they support the abolition of the Electoral College.</td>
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<td>Energy &amp; Environment</td>
<td>Republicans are committed to American energy independence. We oppose Cap &amp; Trade as a massive job-killing energy tax that will do nothing to help the environment.</td>
<td>Democrats are committed to the implementation of a new Cap &amp; Trade energy tax, even in the middle of the current economic recession.</td>
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<td>Family</td>
<td>Republicans support marriage as the union of one man and one woman, and believe the family is the first and most important institution which preserves a free society.</td>
<td>Democrats support the follow-up definition of marriage. “Marriage, as a legal union of consenting adults, should not be restricted by sexual orientation or gender identity.”</td>
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<td>Health Care</td>
<td>Republicans support a government takeover of health care. We support competition among health care providers and giving patients more choices.</td>
<td>Democrats call for a government-run “single-payer national health care plan” with numerous mandates and no choices available to patients.</td>
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<td>Immigration</td>
<td>Republicans are committed to securing our national borders and implementing an enforceable guest worker program, but oppose amnesty for illegal immigrants.</td>
<td>Democrats believe illegal immigrants should receive amnesty and free access to tax-funded services such as health care and public education.</td>
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<td>National Defense</td>
<td>Republicans believe that “a strong America is a free America.” We support policies which defend our national security and ensure peace through strength.</td>
<td>Democrats support a cabinet-level “Department of Peace and Nonviolence” and want to “make nonviolence the primary organizing principle of our foreign policy.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxes and Spending</td>
<td>Republicans oppose all new tax increases. We believe that “limited government is the foundation of a free society,” and thus support local, responsible government spending.</td>
<td>Democrats support a new state income tax, higher Social Security taxes, and more government spending in every category except for national defense.</td>
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</tbody>
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Party Functions: Operate the Government

- Party leadership helps make decisions and suggestions to other party members
  - Can make suggestions on appointment
  - Selects legislative leaders
- Party members rely on the knowledge of experienced part members to help further their causes
Party Functions: Strengthen the Party

- Parties help organize members in government under the direction of party leaders
  - Endorse candidates
  - Provide organized resistance to other parties
  - Help raise funds for electing more party members
  - Supporting bills that help party