The Roles of Political Parties
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
Party Functions: Organizing Elections

• 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 (-10%)</td>
<td>Republicans oppose the initiative for a new state income tax (-10%) because we can’t afford another job-killing tax increase.</td>
<td>Democrats support the initiative for a new state income tax, despite a fleeting recession and high unemployment.</td>
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<td>30% Cut in Federal Taxes</td>
<td>Republicans support retaining the requirement of a two-thirds majority vote of the Legislature to raise our taxes (-10%).</td>
<td>Democrats abolished the voter-approved two-thirds requirement for tax increases and now oppose reinstating the tax.</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, legalize marijuana, and stop 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>Immigration</td>
<td>Republicans support a government run “single-payer national health care plan” with numerous mandates and no choices available to patients.</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>Health Care</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 that illegal immigration is a “crime against humanity” and oppose any and all forms of birthright citizenship.</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 national-level “Department of Peace and Nonviolence” and want to “make nonviolence the primary organizing principle of our foreign policy.”</td>
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<td>Taxes and Spending</td>
<td>Republicans oppose all new tax increases. We believe that “[t]axed government is the foundation of a free society,” and thus support fiscal responsibility in government.</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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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