

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE UNITED STATES

A political party is a group of citizens that share common ideas about the way government should carry out or do its work. It's a group of citizens who agree on major issues facing the nation. These groups work to create public policies that reflect their views.

<p>1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parties often provide training for men and women who want to run for a political office. ▪ Nominations occur through primaries and during national elections, through state conventions 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FOUR MAIN LINKAGE INSTITUTIONS</u></p> <p>A "<u>linkage institution</u>" is anything that provides a link between the branches of government and connects the government with the people (the electorate). Examples include...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Political Parties</u>: the people have a readymade alternative group capable, ready, and informed enough for the country to move to when they disagree with the government previously elected. 2. <u>The Mass Media</u> 3. <u>Locally elected and accessible, members of government</u> (at all levels: local, state, and federal) 4. <u>Lobby Groups</u>: sets of non governmental bodies who can represent our specific interests during any period of government 	<p>2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize the party at grassroots (local) levels. ▪ Inform voters about the issues through advertisements (Television, newspapers, online, etc...) and conduct "get-out-the-vote" drives ▪ The party platform is a statement that lists programs, beliefs, and ideas of the party which voters can review when deciding which party they agree with.
<p>3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Groups, individuals, and organizations may donate money to campaigns. ▪ Contributions to campaigns have been the subject of much scrutiny. Many laws and regulations imposed on contributions- who, how much, etc... ▪ Campaigns are expensive and sufficient financial resources are needed to compete! 		<p>4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The party that loses the election watches the party in power for any mistakes or abuses of power they make. ▪ Provides accountability- almost like an informal system of checks and balances. ▪ The party in power helps to coordinate policy among the branches. Majority Party= control of Congress.