
THE POLITICAL SYSTEM
OF THE USA
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Government

- Presidential Republic
- 50 states, centralized government in Washington
- Separation of powers

Separation of powers

Executive

leading the affairs of the state

Cabinet
- President
- Vice President
- 15 ministers

Legislative

enacting and discussing laws

Congress
- House of Representatives (435)
- Senate (100)

Judiciary

Pushing through the laws

Supreme Court (=highest judicial body)



State Government

Each State has its own separate government

There are 3 branches

- State governor
- State legislative
- State court

Responsibilities

- Police
- Education
- Transport
- Social Welfare
- Health







Congress:
Power of the purse
Can override presidential veto
(2/3 majority)
Power of impeachment
Senate approves treaties and
the president's appointments

Supreme Court:
Power to declare laws and presidential actions unconstitutional

The President:
Power to veto
Issues executive orders
Commander-in-chief
Appoints Federal Judges
Grants Pardons for offenses
against the US

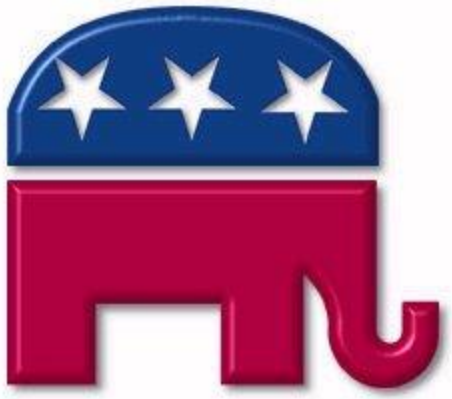


The Constitution of the United States **is the supreme law of the United States of America. It is the framework for the organization of the United States government and for the relationship of the federal government with the states, citizens, and all people within the United States. The United States Constitution is the oldest written constitution (when defined as a single document) still in use by any nation in the world.**

Political Parties

Republican Party

They believe in low taxation And little interference from the Federal Government. The encourage individuals to work hard and do not like welfare. A party for the rich and Middle Class.



Republican Presidents



Dwight Eisenhower
1953-61

Richard Nixon
1969-74





Gerard Ford
1974-77

Political Parties

Democratic Party

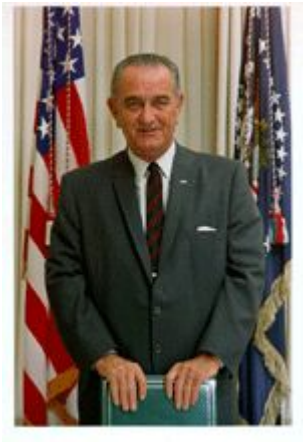


Believe it is the governments duty to distribute wealth Evenly. They introduce higher taxation and welfare benefits.
Their support comes from urban areas and minorities.

Democrat Presidents

John F Kennedy 1961-63





Lyndon B Johnson
1963-68



Jimmy Carter 1977-81



Th[illegible]n of the USA

Harry Truman 1945-53

Democrats and Republicans And Their Voters

- Democrats supported by majority of black voters (Clinton 83%)
- Urban ethnics
- Blue collar workers
- Catholics
- More women voters
- Northeast, upper midwest, northwest, Hawaii

- Protestant voters
- Business community
- White collar workers
- Religious fundamentalists

Democrats and Republicans and Their Policies

- Democrats
  - Support welfare programs
  - Keynesian economics and job creating programs
  - Social security, Medicare and Medicaid
  - Civil Rights legislation
  - Women's right to abortion
- Rebublicans
  - Limiting federal regulation of business
  - Reduction in welfare spending
  - Anti-abortion

Presidential elections

- Plurality voting system: „The winner takes all!“
- Election of a party in form of electors
- Elected electors represent the opinion of their state in the „Electoral College“
- The party with the most votes gets all the electoral votes of this state -> The parties have to look that they win in the states with a high amount of electors.

Problem

- Parties and candidates try to get as many as possible votes in states with a high amount of electors and ignore the others

- The party with more than 270 electoral votes wins, though an other one has more votes of the people in fact (f.e. Bush vs. Gore)

Barack Obama



- was elected the 44th President of the United States on Tuesday, November 4, 2008
- Democratic Party
- is the first Black Man ever elected to the highest office in the United States

Obama‘s policy



Abortion	*Supports*	Strong supporter of Women's Rights, and is pro-choice. Voted against banning partial birth abortion.
Gay Rights	*Supports*	Voted against the constitutional banning of gay marriage, believes each state should decide whether to ban gay marriage or not.
Iraq War	*Opposes*	Has opposed going into Iraq the entire time. Wants to immediatley pull troops out of Iraq.
		Repeal President Bush's tax cuts to

Universal Health Care	*Supports*	Believe's every american deserves quality and affordable healthcare.
Immigration		States that immigrants that have been in America long should get a path to citizenship. Stronger border controls.
Gun Control	*Opposes*	Supports stricter gun control, and ban on semi-automatic guns.
Free Trade		Wants to keep NAFTA and other free trade agreements intact, but revise by raising environmental and labor standards to protect American jobs and workers. Somewhat vague on the details of what specifically these revisions would call for

Thanks for paying attention !