

POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS

COMPLETION

7

Fill in the blank with the term being defined.

- _____ 1. A person seeking an office
- _____ 2. A meeting of party members called to set up a precinct organization
- _____ 3. An organization formed to elect people to office
- _____ 4. A series of statements putting forth the position of a party on the issues of the day
- _____ 5. First level of party organization in North Dakota
- _____ 6. Term for the recommendation of a candidate by a party convention in North Dakota
- _____ 7. An organization formed primarily to influence government decisions
- _____ 8. A body of party delegates that meets to endorse candidates and conduct party business
- _____ 9. Formed in corporations and other organizations to raise money for political candidates
- _____ 10. A period during which candidates “woo” the voters
- _____ 11. Second level of party organization in North Dakota
- _____ 12. Name for the political party that is “out of power”
- _____ 13. The year the Nonpartisan League joined the Democratic Party

POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS**7****VOCABULARY BUILDING**

Below are a number of terms used in Chapter 7. Look them up in a dictionary to discover their general meaning. Then explain in a few words why they are used in Chapter 7.

TERM	DICTIONARY DEFINITION	WHY USED IN CHAPTER 7?
1. political		
2. party		
3. caucus		
4. district		
5. convention		
6. endorse		
7. campaign		
8. poll		
9. delegate		
10. candidate		

IDENTIFYING ROLES

The discussion of political parties in Chapter 7 reveals a number of functions performed by political parties. Identify as many as you can, list them below, and decide their importance to society.

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

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ANALYSIS: AGREE - DISAGREE

Below are a number of statements about political parties and procedures. Do you agree or disagree with each? Check your position and then defend your decision.

	AGREE	DISAGREE
1. The United States would be better off without political parties. REASON:		
2. Nobody in the party should be allowed to run against the party's candidate endorsed by the convention. REASON:		
3. Only Republicans should be allowed to vote in a Republican primary; only Democrats should be allowed to vote in a Democrat primary, and independents have no business voting in primaries. REASON:		

Invite a local precinct committeeperson to visit the class for an interview.

1. How long were you active in your political party before becoming a committeeperson?
2. How difficult is it to become active in a political party?
3. Could you describe your political party's last precinct caucus?
4. Is there competition for the job of precinct committeeperson?
5. What does your party expect you to do as a precinct committeeperson?
6. How has legislative reapportionment and the changing district boundaries affected your political party and the people who participate?
7. Please give the advantages and disadvantages of the following:
 - a. Permitting people to run for office against a convention endorsee.
 - b. Limiting campaign spending.
 - c. Campaign funding by political action committees.
 - d. "Negative" campaigning—advertising against the other candidate.
8. What are the major problems facing political parties today?
9. Which of the following best describes how you look at the job of precinct committeeperson?
 - a. It is fun being involved in a political party.
 - b. It is an obligation that someone must assume.
 - c. It is an opportunity to put forth my convictions.

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OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE

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Person Being Interviewed

1. Male Female
2. Age: 18–25 26–45 46–65 66 or over
3. Occupation: Professional (Doctors, Lawyers, and Teachers)
 Salaried worker Farmer
 Business owner or manager Other

Questions

4. How important are political parties for making democracy work?
 Very Important Important
 Not Important No Opinion
5. Should there be a limit on campaign spending?
 Yes No No Opinion
6. Should the government give money to campaigns to replace the contributions of interest groups?
 Yes No No Opinion
7. Which one of the following do you think should contribute the most money to finance campaigns?
 Candidates Political Parties Interest Groups
 Citizens Other No Opinion