

Political Parties

What is a political party?

- A group who seeks political office.
- They want to win elections to serve their ideas (ideologies).



The Minor Parties

I BELIEVE IN THE
USA AND THE
TWO PARTY SYSTEM



JUST NOT THESE
TWO PARTIES
ANYMORE.



OBAMA WINS

PRESIDENT-ELECT | 'Change has come to America'
CONGRESS | Democrats expand control of Senate and House. 4B-5B



"If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer," president-elect Barack Obama said during his acceptance speech in Chicago on Tuesday.

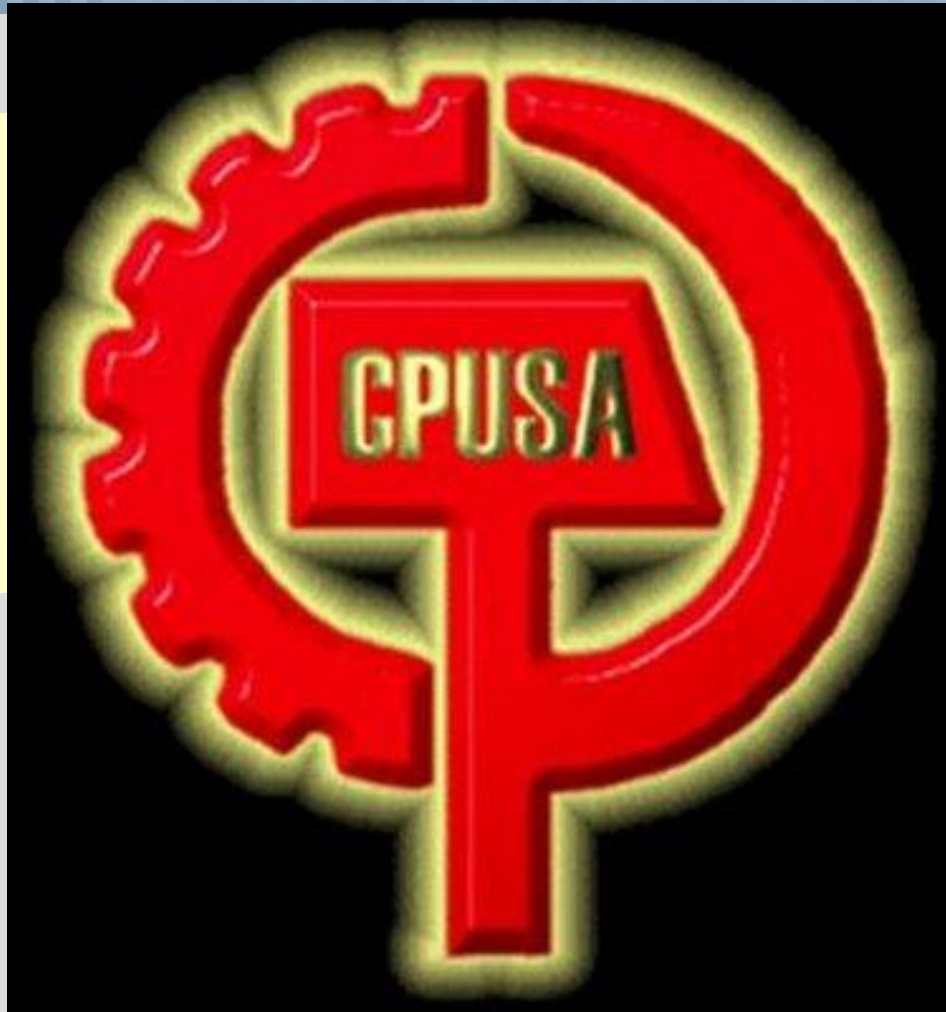
- A Political party is a group who seeks to win an election and control government
- They want to win elections to serve their needs

Minor Parties in the United States

- There are four distinct types of minor parties in the U.S.
 - Ideological parties
 - Single-Issue parties
 - Economic protest parties
 - Splinter parties

Ideological Parties

- Those parties are based on a particular set of beliefs
- Most have a comprehensive view of social, economic, and political matters.
 - Most have been built on some shade of Marxist thought: Ex. Socialist, Communist, Socialist Labor
 - However, the Libertarian party is also an ideological party based on individualism



Single Issue Parties

- These parties only concentrate on **one** particular issue.
- The name of the party usually indicates their main concern.
 - Ex. Right to Life Party
- Most of these parties have faded as the issue goes away.

vote marijuana party!



www.marijuanaparty.org

Economic Protest Parties

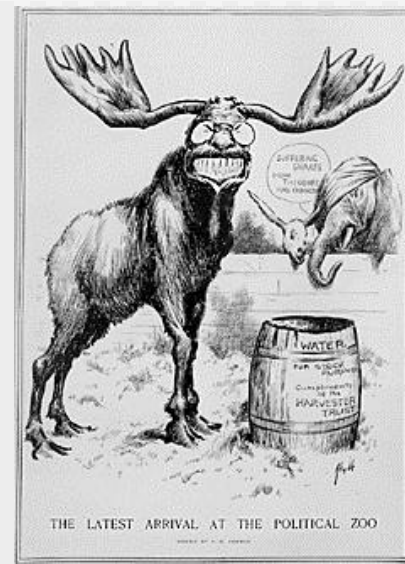
- These groups have no clear cut ideological base.
- They have proclaimed their disgust with the major parties and demanding better economic times.
- Each of these parties has disappeared as the nation has climbed out of a difficult economic period.
 - Ex. Greenback Party (late 1800s, pro paper \$, anti-monopoly, pro farmers)



The Greenback Party



Splinter Parties



- These parties have split away from one of the major parties.
- Most have formed around a strong personality-someone who has lost an election.
- Most important minor parties have been splinter parties.
 - Ex. Progressive Party (split from Republican party) Theodore Roosevelt

Problems with classifying minor parties?

- The Socialist Party is an example of an **ideological type** of third party, but could also be an **economic protest** type of third party, since they also focus a lot on labor and workers...
- This makes classification tough with most minor parties!

The Green Party

Ralph Nader



Jill Stein



Importance

- Why should we care about minor parties?
 - Many minor parties have made an impact throughout history. The development of a national convention started with a minor party
 - **Spoiler role**- a minor party many times can pull votes away from a major party (For example: Ross Perot and Ralph Nader).
 - Unlike major parties, minor parties are ready to take a clean-cut stance on a controversial issue. Voters like this.

WAITER,
WHAT'S THIS
GADFLY
DOING IN
MY SOUP?

THAT'S
JUST OLD
RALPH
NADER, SIR.

SPLASH



NADER
★2004★

REPUBLICAN
HEADQUARTERS

THE ANNOUNCEMENT
OF MY CANDIDACY IS
SWEEPING ACROSS
AMERICA. I CAN FEEL
THE EXCITEMENT...



Importance Continued...

- There has been a big increase in **split-ticket voting**-voting for candidates of different parties for different offices in the same election.

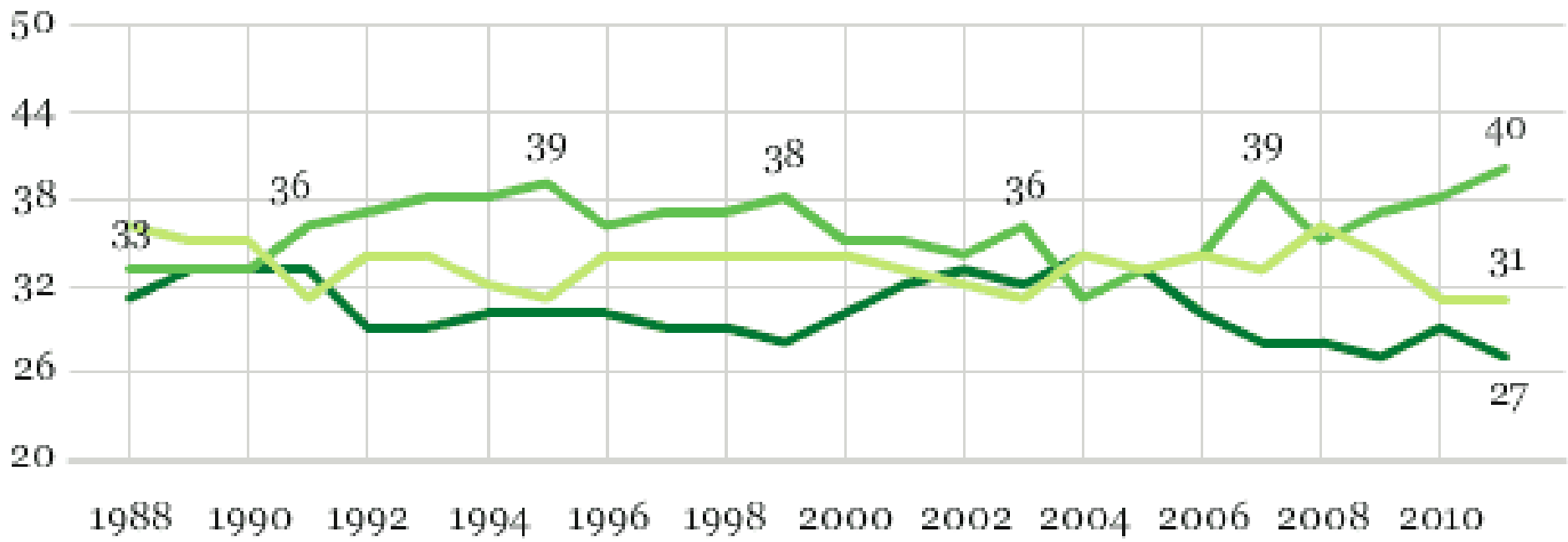


Times are changing...

- In recent years, voting patterns have changed. Increasingly, people are becoming “independent” voters. This means that they refuse to side with a major party (Dems, Reps).
- Implications?
 - More voters are becoming interested in minor parties and what they have to offer. (Libertarian party has increased its voter #s recently).

Party Identification, Yearly Averages, Gallup Polls, 1988-2011

■ % Republican ■ % Independent ■ % Democrat



Note: Trend is for Gallup polls conducted by telephone.

GALLUP