

# Unit 5:

## Political Participation

### DC TRIPS

Room 2B

*Governing is achieved directly through citizen participation and indirectly through linkage institutions (e.g. political parties, interest groups, and mass media) that inform, organize, and mobilize support to influence government and politics, resulting in many venues for citizen influence on policy making.*

#### MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:

1. Factors associated with political ideology, efficacy, structural barriers, and demographics influence the nature and degree of political participation. (Methods of political analysis)
2. Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government. (Competing policy-making interests)
3. The impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules continues to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum. (Civic participation in a representative democracy)
4. The various forms of media provide citizens with political information and influence the ways in which they participate politically. (Civic participation in a representative democracy)



# Time to Assess How We are Doing.

After each DC TRIP assess how your voyage is going. Use the following guidelines.

Self-Assessment

**5 4 3 2 1 0**

How did I do today?

5 – Fully completed/observable collaboration  
 4 – Solid progress/collaborated well  
 3 – Solid progress/did not collaborate  
 2 – Little progress/collaborated well  
 1 – Little progress/did not collaborate  
 0 – Did not complete

5.1	Describe the voting rights protections in the Constitution and in legislation.	5	4	3	2	1
5.2	Describe different models of voting behavior.	5	4	3	2	1
5.3	Explain the roles that individual choice and state laws play in voter turnout in elections.	5	4	3	2	1
5.4	Describe linkage institutions.	5	4	3	2	1
5.5	Explain the function and impact of political parties on the electorate and the government.	5	4	3	2	1
5.6	Explain why and how political parties change and adapt.	5	4	3	2	1
5.7	Explain how structural barriers impact third party and independent candidate success.	5	4	3	2	1
5.8	Explain the benefits and potential problems of interest group influence on elections and policy making.	5	4	3	2	1
5.9	Explain how variation in types and resources of interest groups affects their ability to influence elections and policy making.	5	4	3	2	1
5.10	Explain how various political actors influence public policy outcomes.	5	4	3	2	1
5.11	Explain how the different processes work in a U.S. presidential election.	5	4	3	2	1
5.12	Explain how the Electoral College impacts democratic participation.	5	4	3	2	1
5.13	Explain how the different processes work in U.S. Congressional elections.	5	4	3	2	1
5.14	Explain how campaign organizations and strategies affect the election process.	5	4	3	2	1
5.15	Explain how the organization, finance, and strategies of national political campaigns affect the election process.	5	4	3	2	1
5.16	Explain the media's role as a linkage institution.	5	4	3	2	1
5.17	Explain how increasingly diverse choices of media and communication outlets influence political institutions and behavior.	5	4	3	2	1



**5.1 Describe the voting rights protections in the Constitution and in legislation.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

Legal protections found in federal legislation and the 15th, 17th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Amendments relate to the expansion of opportunities for political participation



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?

2. Are there any issues that might increase the youth vote? What role does *cognitive dissonance* play in explaining low voter turnout rates by young people?

Double Check

5.1 Describe the voting rights protections in the Constitution and in legislation.

*Legal protections found in federal legislation and the 15th, 17th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Amendments relate to the expansion of opportunities for political participation*

		Briefly describe the context in which this provision was passed.	Turnout rates of affected group today Find data over time
15 <sup>th</sup> Amendment	Define		
17 <sup>th</sup> Amendment	Define		
19 <sup>th</sup> Amendment	Define		
24 <sup>th</sup> Amendment	Define		
26 <sup>th</sup> Amendment	Define		
Voting Rights Act of 1965	Define		

**What additional voting rights protections would you like to see added to our democratic process?**

**Some scholars have discussed bringing back a literacy test to make one eligible to vote. Write a claim statement for and against.** [Remember claim must include a substantive argument]

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Factors associated with political ideology, efficacy, structural barriers, and demographics influence the nature and degree of political participation. (Methods of political analysis)*

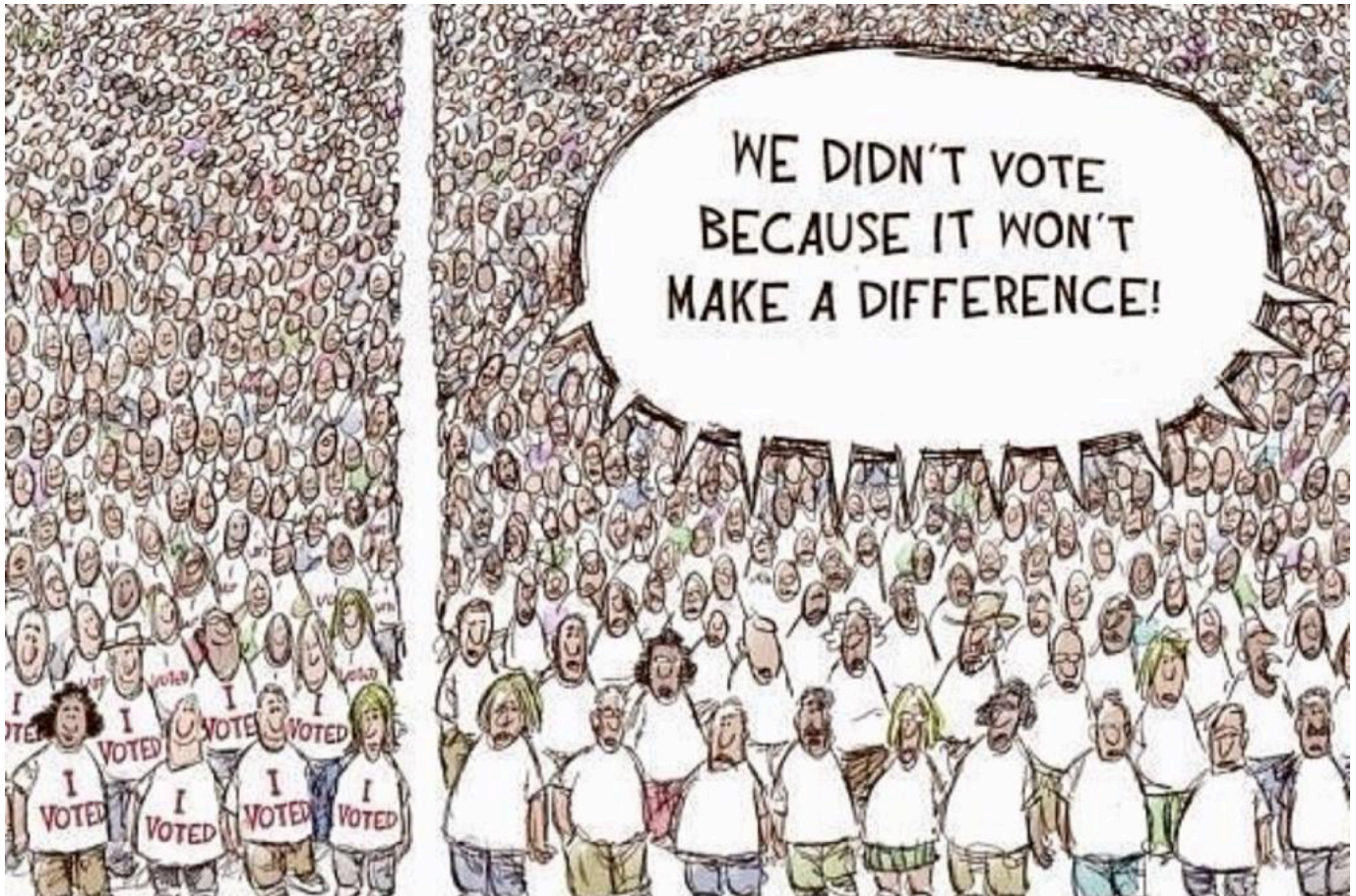
## 5.2 Describe different models of voting behavior.

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

Examples of political models explaining voting behavior include:

- Rational choice—Voting based on what is perceived to be in the citizen's individual interest
- Retrospective voting—Voting to decide whether the party or candidate in power should be re-elected based on the recent past
- Prospective voting—Voting based on predictions of how a party or candidate will perform in the future
- Party-line voting—Supporting a party by voting for candidates from one political party for all public offices at the same level of government



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?

2. What does it mean to have *political efficacy*? Why does political efficacy seem to be in decline? What can we do to increase political efficacy?



## 5.2 Describe different models of voting behavior.

Examples of political models explaining voting behavior include:

- Rational choice—Voting based on what is perceived to be in the citizen's individual interest
- Retrospective voting—Voting to decide whether the party or candidate in power should be re-elected based on the recent past
- Prospective voting—Voting based on predictions of how a party or candidate will perform in the future
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		Find an authoritative political scientist who has studied this. Cite book/quote	Apply this model to a recent election and discover data about outcomes
<b>Rational choice</b>	<b>Define</b>		
<b>Retrospective voting</b>	<b>Define</b>		
<b>Prospective voting</b>	<b>Define</b>		
<b>Party-line voting</b>	<b>Define</b>		

**What model of voting behavior appears to be most salient, most popular, today?**

Write a claim statement. Claim statement here should use critical data.

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Factors associated with political ideology, efficacy, structural barriers, and demographics influence the nature and degree of political participation. (Methods of political analysis)*

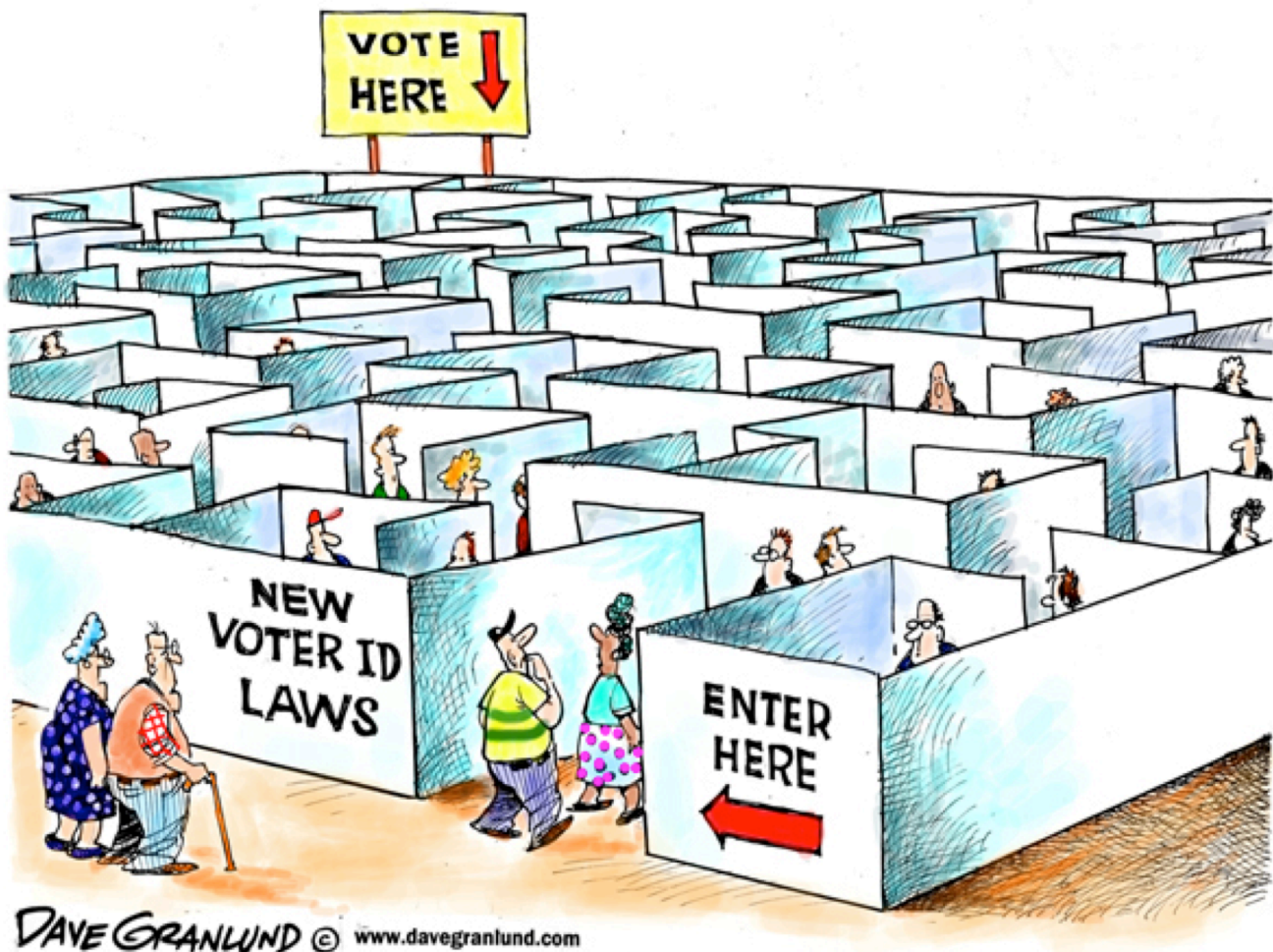


### 5.3 Explain the roles that individual choice and state laws play in voter turnout in elections.

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

1. Structural barriers, political efficacy, and demographics can predict differences in voter turnout in the U.S., and the following can influence voter turnout among democracies worldwide: National versus state controlled elections/Voter registration laws and procedures/Voting incentives or penalties or fines/Mid term or presidential election type
2. Demographic characteristics and political efficacy or engagement are used to predict the likelihood of whether an individual will vote.
3. Factors influencing voter choice include: Party identification and ideological orientation/Candidate characteristics/Contemporary political issues/Religious beliefs, gender, race and ethnicity, and other demographic characteristics



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. Should voting be easy? What political party thinks so? Explain.

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3. Factors influencing voter choice include:
  - Party identification and ideological orientation
  - Candidate characteristics
  - Contemporary political issues
  - Religious beliefs or affiliation, gender, race and ethnicity, and other demographic characteristics

**Find three (3) different states that use different voter registration procedures. Explain how their procedures are different.**

**Assess voter turnout in the last three (3) presidential elections.**

**Assess voter turnout in the last three (3) midterm elections.**

**What states use voter ID laws? Investigate what the Supreme Court had to say about these laws.**

Complete the following chart: WHO VOTES FOR WHO?

Demographic characteristic	Democrats (liberals)	Republicans (conservatives)
Gender		
Race		
Religion		
Income		
Region		
Education		

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Factors associated with political ideology, efficacy, structural barriers, and demographics influence the nature and degree of political participation. (Methods of political analysis)*

**5.4 Describe linkage institutions.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

Linkage institutions are channels that allow individuals to communicate their preferences to policy-makers:

- Parties
- Interest Groups
- Elections
- Media



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?

2. Political parties nominate candidates. What best explains why unpopular candidates are chosen? Are they really unpopular?

*Double Check*

#### 5.4 Describe linkage institutions.

Linkage institutions are channels that allow individuals to communicate their preferences to policy-makers:

- Parties
- Interest Groups
- Elections
- Media

Draw a political cartoon depicting each of the linkage institutions above.


**Which linkage institution above is most important to a healthy democracy?**

Write a claim statement. Claim statement here should use critical data.

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government. (Competing policy-making interests)*



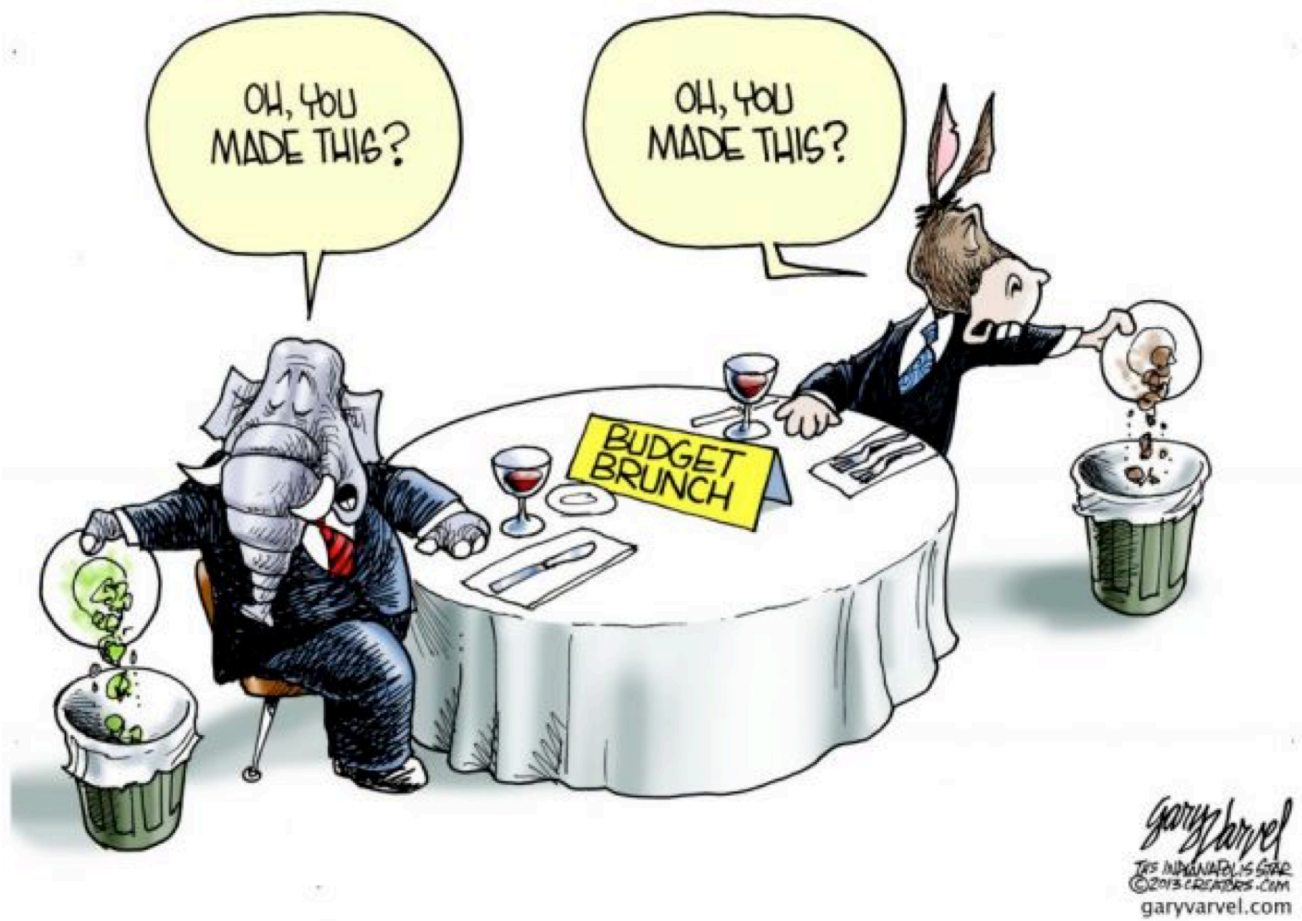
## 5.5 Explain the function and impact of political parties on the electorate and the government.

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

The functions and impact of political parties on the electorate and government are represented by:

- Mobilization and education of voters
- Party platforms
- Candidate recruitment
- Campaign management, including fundraising and media strategy
- The committee and party leadership systems in legislatures influence the ability of political parties to carry out citizen preferences in government decision-making.



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. What is the primary function of political parties? How does this function help to explain this cartoon?

### 5.5 Explain the function and impact of political parties on the electorate and the government.

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Complete the chart below by providing examples.

Function	Democratic Party	Republican Party
Mobilization/Education of voters		
Party Platforms	1. 2. 3. 4.	1. 2. 3. 4.
Candidate recruitment	Characteristics of recent presidential candidates: 1. 2.	Characteristics of recent presidential candidates: 1. 2.
Campaign fundraising	Collect data on this parties ability to fundraise for presidential and midterm elections – assess at both national and state levels:	Collect data on this parties ability to fundraise for presidential and midterm elections – assess at both national and state levels:
Party leaders in Congress	Highlight Congressional leadership and their duties:	Highlight Congressional leadership and their duties:

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government. (Competing policy-making interests)*

**5.6 Explain why and how political parties change and adapt.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

1. Parties have adapted to candidate-centered campaigns, and their role in nominating candidates has been weakened.
2. Parties modify their policies and messaging to appeal to various demographic coalitions.
3. The structure of parties has been influenced by: Regional realignments/Campaign finance law/Changes in communication and data-management technology
4. Parties use communication technology and voter-data management to disseminate, control, and clarify political messages and enhance outreach and mobilization efforts.



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?

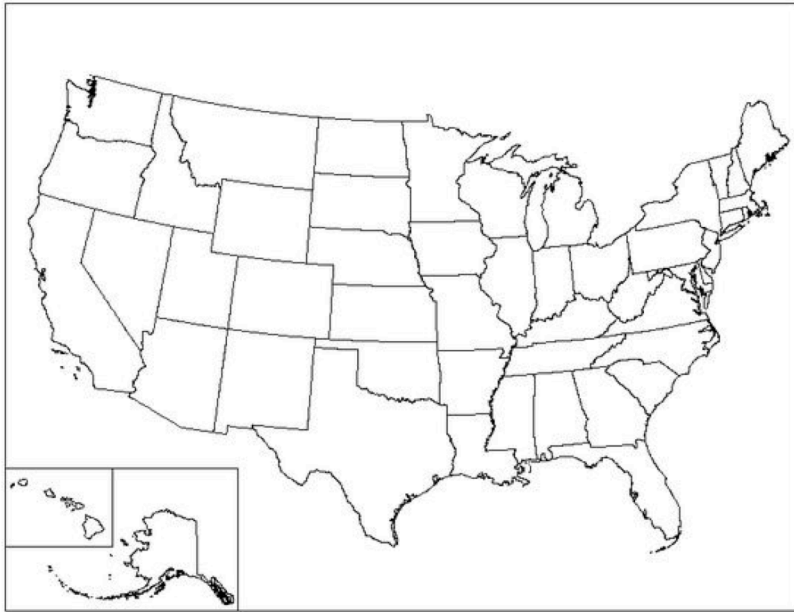
2. How has social media changed news coverage? Is Trump's use of Twitter a positive or a negative for his presidency?

## 5.6 Explain why and how political parties change and adapt.

1. Parties have adapted to candidate-centered campaigns, and their role in nominating candidates has been weakened.
2. Parties modify their policies and messaging to appeal to various demographic coalitions.
3. The structure of parties has been influenced by:
  - Regional realignments
  - Campaign finance law
  - Changes in communication and data-management technology
4. Parties use communication technology and voter-data management to disseminate, control, and clarify political messages and enhance outreach and mobilization efforts.

**ARGUMENT:** Find evidence from authoritative sources that assess the role candidate-centered campaigns has had on weakening political parties. Or how weakened political parties have resulted in candidate-centered campaigns. **Write a claim statement that includes substantive arguments.** Cite at least three (3) arguments including at least two (2) authoritative quotes from the experts.

Mark on the map below regions that are strong for Democrats and strong for Republicans:



In the last presidential election how many counties voted for:

Democrats

Republicans

In the last presidential election how many people voted for:

Democrats

Republicans

**How much money can individuals give to national political parties? What impact did the Supreme Court case *McCutcheon v. FEC* (2014) have on political parties?**

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government. (Competing policy-making interests)



## 5.7 Explain how structural barriers impact third party and independent candidate success.

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

- In comparison to proportional systems, winner-take-all voting districts serve as a structural barrier to third party and independent candidate success.
- The incorporation of third-party agendas into platforms of major political parties serves as a barrier to third party and independent candidate success.



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. How has social media changed news coverage? Is Trump's use of Twitter a positive or a negative for his presidency?

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**What is Duverger's Law? Explain.**

**Define PLURALITY elections. Why do plurality rules increase our efficacy? Compare this to national systems that use proportional voting. What are efficacy rates in England? Explain.**

Third Party + Candidate	Impact on Democratic Party	Impact on Republican Party
1992 – Explain details		
2000 – Explain details		

**In your lifetime do you think a third party candidate could win a national election? Explain using concrete evidence.**

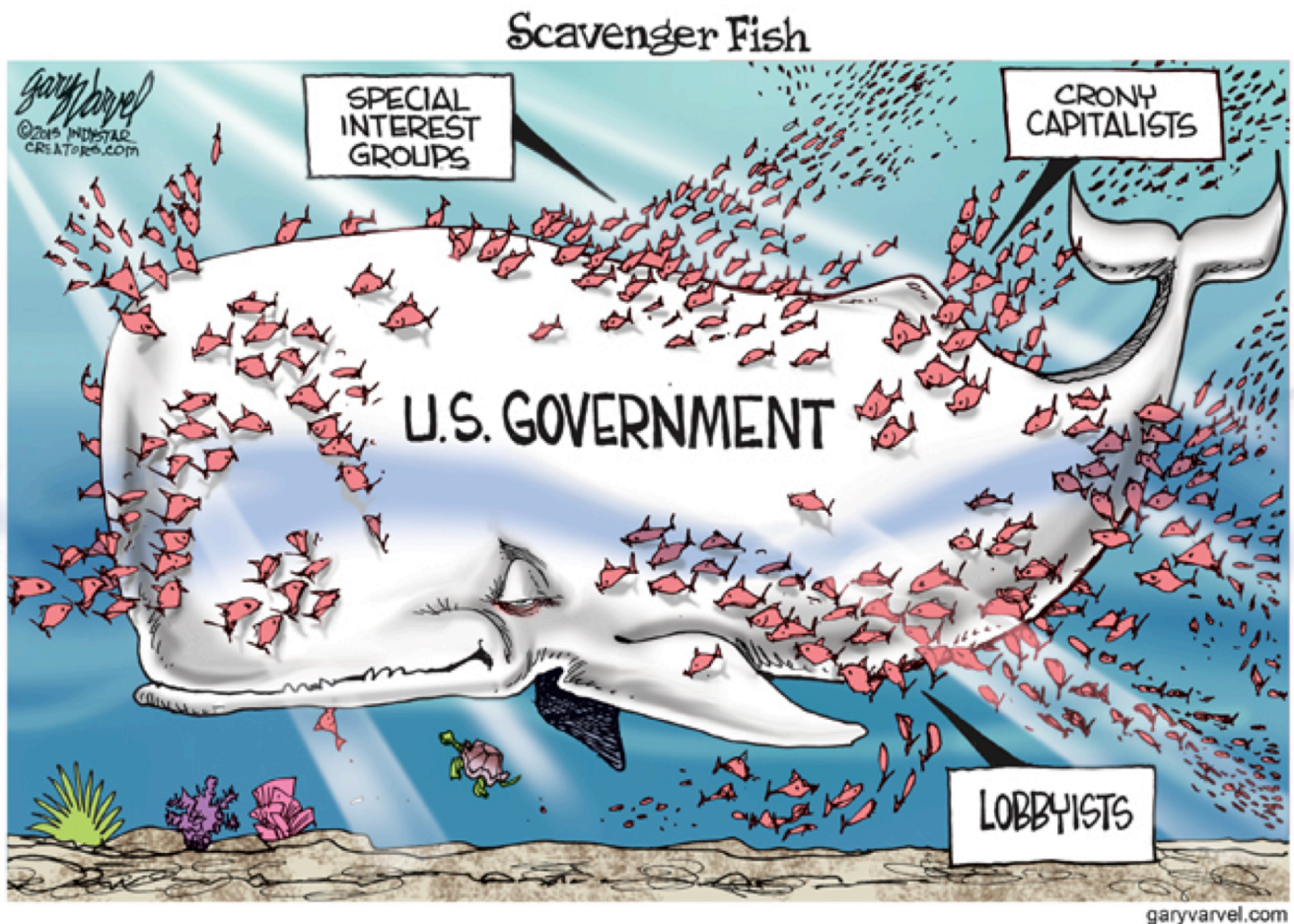
**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government. (Competing policy-making interests)*

## 5.8 Explain the benefits and potential problems of interest group influence on elections and policy making.

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

- Interest groups may represent very specific or more general interests, and can educate voters and office holders, draft legislation, and mobilize membership to apply pressure on and work with legislators and government agencies.
- In addition to working within party coalitions, interest groups exert influence through long standing relationships with bureaucratic agencies, Congressional committees, and other interest groups; such relationships are described as “iron triangles” and issue networks and they help interest groups exert influence across political party coalitions.



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?

2. Make an argument FOR and AGAINST lobbyists and special interest groups. What would our democracy be like without them?

## 5.8 Explain the benefits and potential problems of interest group influence on elections and policy making.

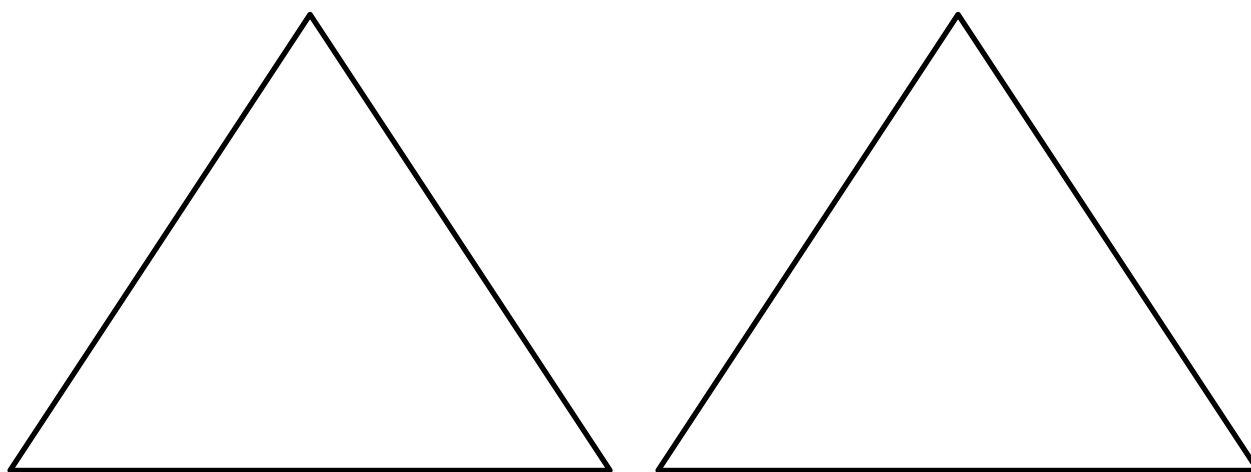
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Name of Interest Group	Examples of functions/techniques used
Example from business groups	
Example from single-issue groups	
Another example...	

### IRON TRIANGLES

Research two iron triangles that operate in our current policy-making machine. Plug in the details.

*Should include: Congressional committee; Executive agency; Interest Group ...Issue*



**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government. (Competing policy-making interests)*



**5.9 Explain how variation in types and resources of interest groups affects their ability to influence elections and policy making.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

Interest group influence may be impacted by:

- Inequality of resources
- Unequal access to decision makers
- “Free rider” problem



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?

2. How do interest groups gain access to our elected officials? Provide evidence. How should it work?

Double Check

**5.9 Explain how variation in types and resources of interest groups affects their ability to influence elections and policy making.**

Interest group influence may be impacted by:

- Inequality of resources
- Unequal access to decision makers
- “Free rider” problem

Name of Interest Group	Examples of budget/resources/access points
Example from business groups (different from 5.8)	
Example from single-issue groups (different from 5.8)	
Another example... (different from 5.8)	

**DEFINE** “Free rider.” Find an authoritative source that has researched the issue of “free riders.” What does this mean to our democracy?

Make a list of the top ten (10) interest groups by total expenditures:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government. (Competing policy-making interests)*

**5.10 Explain how various political actors influence public policy outcomes.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

1. Single-issue groups, ideological/social movements, and protest movements form with the goal of impacting society and policy-making.
2. Competing actors such as interest groups, professional organizations, social movements, the military, and bureaucratic agencies influence policy-making, such as the federal budget process, at key stages and to varying degrees.
3. Elections and political parties are related to major policy shifts or initiatives, occasionally leading to political realignments of voting constituencies.



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?

2. Write a claim statement (including substantive support) for a large defense budget. Write a claim statement (including substantive support) for a smaller defense budget.

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**Getting to know various political actors:**

Research each of the following actors. Tell their story. How do they best impact the policy-making process?

**Green Peace**

**NAACP**

**Tea Party**

**Becoming a SCHOLAR:** Using an online source review C. Wright Mills iconic essay entitled “The Power Elite” and complete the questions below:

1. Provide a brief biographical sketch of C. Wright Mills. When was this essay written?
2. Who makes up Mills’ “power elite”? Explain.
3. What does C. Wright Mills say? Is his warning still relevant? Explain.
4. Find a contemporary critic of Mills. Cite source and record a criticism.

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for participation and influence how people relate to government. (Competing policy-making interests)*



**5.11 Explain how the different processes work in a U.S. presidential election.**

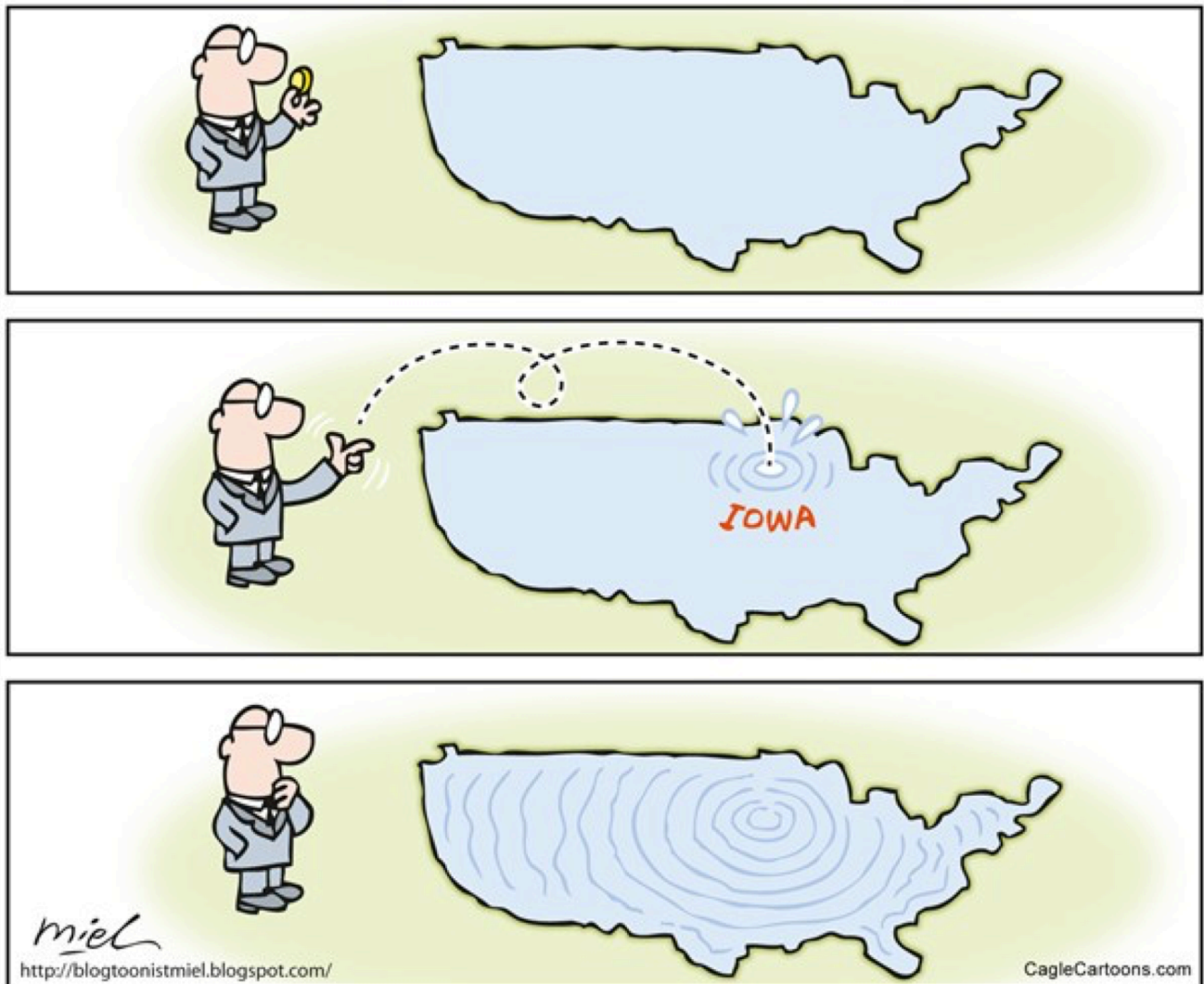
Questions/Current Event

Essentials



The process and outcomes in U.S. presidential elections are impacted by:

- Open and closed primaries
- Caucuses
- Party Conventions
- General (presidential) Elections
- The Electoral College



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?

2. Why Iowa?

### 5.11 Explain how the different processes work in a U.S. presidential election.

The process and outcomes in U.S. presidential elections are impacted by:

- Open and closed primaries
- Caucuses
- Party Conventions
- General (presidential) Elections
- The Electoral College

#### **DEFINE: Caucus**

Investigate: What states still use the CAUCUS method to nominate presidential candidates? What is their rationale to do so? What are the rules of a caucus? For one of the states mentioned above, what turnout can be expected in a state caucus?

#### **DEFINE: Party Convention**

Investigate: What is the purpose of a STATE party Convention? What is the purpose of a NATIONAL party Convention? What is the rationale for a party convention? What are the rules of a national convention? What are “super delegates”?

#### **DEFINE: Primary**

Investigate: What states use the PRIMARY method to nominate presidential candidates? What is their rationale to do so? What are the rules of a primary? Differentiate between open and closed primaries. For one of the states mentioned above, what turnout can be expected in a state caucus?

**Presidential Election** (general elections) outcomes are determined by bellwether states (swing states). What is a bellwether state? Using data from the last two presidential elections find five (5) bellwether states and record who they voted for (including political party), turnout %, money spent by both candidates in that state.

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *The impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules continues to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum. (Civic participation in a representative democracy)*

**5.12 Explain how the Electoral College impacts democratic participation.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

The winner-take-all allocation of votes per state (except Maine and Nebraska) under the setup of the Electoral College compared with the national popular vote for president raises questions about whether the Electoral College facilitates or impedes democracy.



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. Is being old and archaic necessarily bad? What are the advantages of holding on to “old ways”?

## 5.12 Explain how the Electoral College impacts democratic participation.

The winner-take-all allocation of votes per state (except Maine and Nebraska) under the setup of the Electoral College compared with the national popular vote for president raises questions about whether the Electoral College facilitates or impedes democracy.

**Complete these two U.S. maps using Presidential election data from the last two elections:**



**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *The impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules continues to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum. (Civic participation in a representative democracy)*



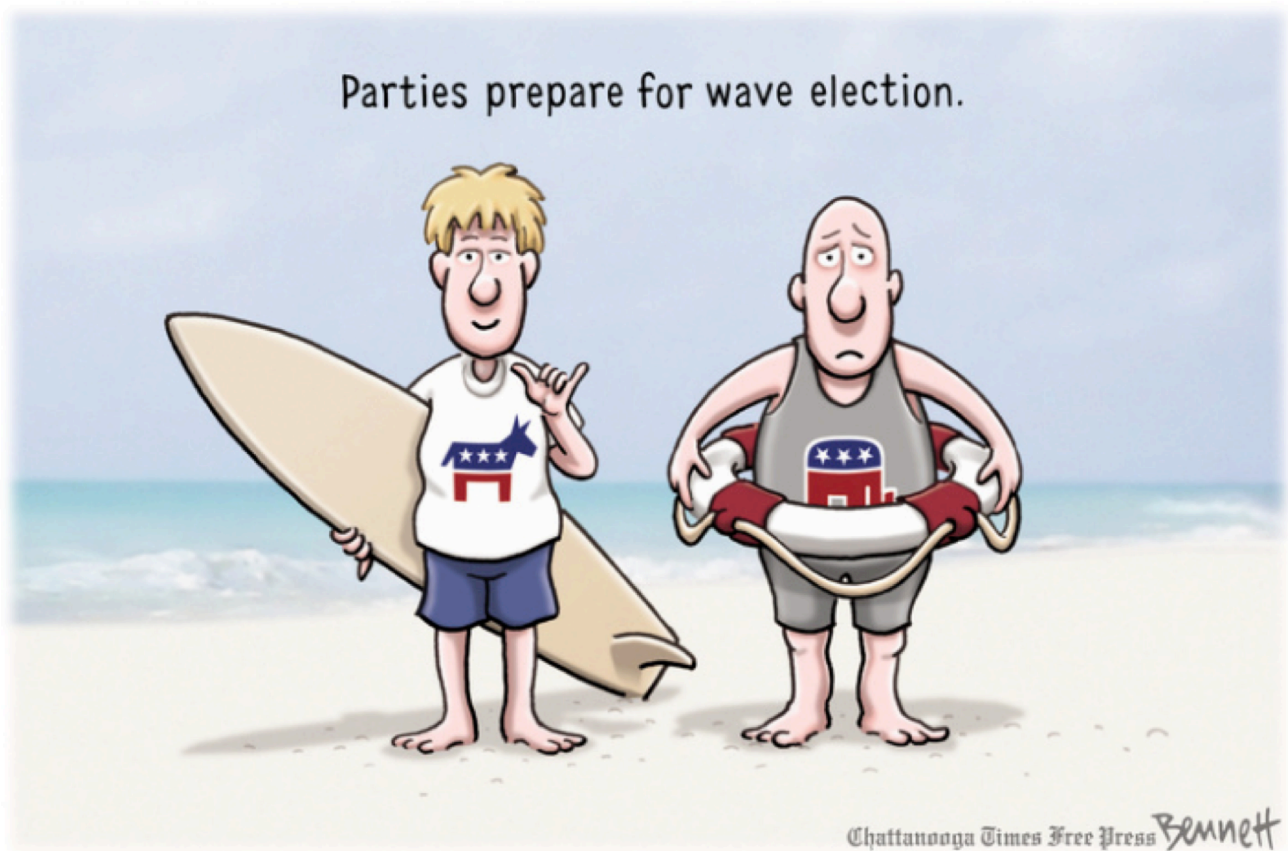
**5.13 Explain how the different processes work in U.S. Congressional elections.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

The process and outcomes in U.S. Congressional elections are impacted by:

- Open and closed primaries
- Caucuses
- Party Conventions
- General (presidential and mid-term) Elections



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. What is a “wave” election? When was the last “wave” election? Explain.

### 5.13 Explain how the different processes work in U.S. Congressional elections.

The process and outcomes in U.S. Congressional elections are impacted by:

- Open and closed primaries
- Caucuses
- Party Conventions
- General (presidential and mid-term) Elections

Complete the following chart:

Year	HOUSE		SENATE		President Party
	(D)	(R)	(D)	(R)	
<b>2018</b> Turnout %					
<b>2016</b> Turnout %					
<b>2014</b> Turnout %					
<b>2012</b> Turnout %					
<b>2010</b> Turnout %					
<b>2008</b> Turnout %					

#### Analysis:

1. Write a claim statement about voter turnout in presidential v. midterm elections.
2. What years resulted in DIVIDED GOVERNMENT? UNIFIED GOVERNMENT?
3. Write a claim statement about political parties and presidential elections?
4. Write a claim statement about political parties and midterm elections?

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *The impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules continues to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum. (Civic participation in a representative democracy)*

**5.14 Explain how campaign organizations and strategies affect the election process.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

The benefits and drawbacks of modern campaigns are represented by:

- Dependence on professional consultants
- Rising campaign costs and intensive fundraising efforts
- Duration of election cycles
- Impact of and reliance on social media for campaign communication and fundraising



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?

2. How important do you think professional campaign consultants are? Explain.

5.14 **Explain how campaign organizations and strategies affect the election process.**

The benefits and drawbacks of modern campaigns are represented by:

- Dependence on professional consultants
- Rising campaign costs and intensive fundraising efforts
- Duration of election cycles
- Impact of and reliance on social media for campaign communication and fundraising

1. Tell a story about a leading Democratic Party campaign consultant from the last presidential election. Who are they? How did they gain their reputations? Describe their demographics. What did they do after the election?
2. Tell a story about a leading Republican Party campaign consultant from the last presidential election. Who are they? How did they gain their reputations? Describe their demographics. What did they do after the election?
3. How much money did the Democrats spend in the last three (3) presidential elections? How much money did the Republicans spend in the last three (3) presidential elections?
4. If you wanted to run for president...when should you begin campaigning? When should you announce? How much money do you need to begin a serious campaign? Write a five (5) step action plan:

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *The impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules continues to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum. (Civic participation in a representative democracy)*



## 5.15 Explain how the organization, finance, and strategies of national political campaigns affect the election process.

Questions/Current Event

Essentials



1. Federal legislation and case law pertaining to campaign finance demonstrate the ongoing debate over the role of money in political and free speech, as set forth in: (see laws and cases on the next page)
2. Debates have increased over free speech and competitive and fair elections related to money and campaign funding (including contributions from individuals, PACs and political parties).
3. Different types of political action committees (PACs) influence elections and policy making through fundraising and spending.



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. What is the likelihood of reforming our campaign finance laws? Explain.

**5.15 Explain how the organization, finance, and strategies of national political campaigns affect the election process.**

1. Federal legislation and case law pertaining to campaign finance demonstrate the ongoing debate over the role of money in political and free speech, as set forth in:
  - *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976) – which rules that campaign spending is a form of protected speech under the First Amendment, but upheld restrictions on political campaign contributions by individuals
  - Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (2002) – which was an effort to ban soft money and reduce attack ads with “Stand by Your Ad” provision, “I’m [candidate name] and I approve this message
  - *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC)* (2010)—which ruled that political spending by corporations, associations, and labor unions is a form of protected speech under the First Amendment
2. Debates have increased over free speech and competitive and fair elections related to money and campaign funding (including contributions from individuals, PACs and political parties).
3. Different types of political action committees (PACs) influence elections and policy making through fundraising and spending.

**DEFINE:** Hard money

**DEFINE:** Soft money

**DEFINE:** *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976)

**DEFINE:** *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010)

*Make a list of the most significant CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS throughout history:*

**For next upcoming federal election summarize the HARD money and SOFT money limits:**

**Write a short paragraph where you argue the proper role of money in our politics. Include a claim statement along with substantiating evidence. Pretend you are an expert testifying before a Congressional committee. What are the chances of your ideas becoming law? Explain.**

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *The impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules continues to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum. (Civic participation in a representative democracy)*

**5.16 Explain the media's role as a linkage institution.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

1. Traditional news media, new communication technologies and advances in social media have profoundly influenced how citizens routinely acquire political information, including news events, investigative journalism, election coverage, and political commentary.
2. The media's use of polling results to convey popular levels of trust and confidence in government can impact elections by turning such events into "horse races" based more on popularity and factors other than qualifications and platforms of candidates



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. Why does the media act like this? Does the media have any responsibility to be objective?

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2. The media's use of polling results to convey popular levels of trust and confidence in government can impact elections by turning such events into "horse races" based more on popularity and factors other than qualifications and platforms of candidates

Complete the CHART below:

TOP FIVE SOURCES OF NEWS	Traditional or New Sources	TOP Story TODAY

1. Assess our top sources of news. Any surprises? Can traditional sources still compete? Explain.
2. How similar is the coverage across news sources? Do any carry the same story? How is that story covered differently?

**DEFINE:** Horserace Journalism

Find data and/or an authoritative voice from the last election cycle regarding the accuracy of polling to predict outcomes. What is the lesson?

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *The various forms of media provide citizens with political information and influence the ways in which they participate politically. (Civic participation in a representative democracy)*

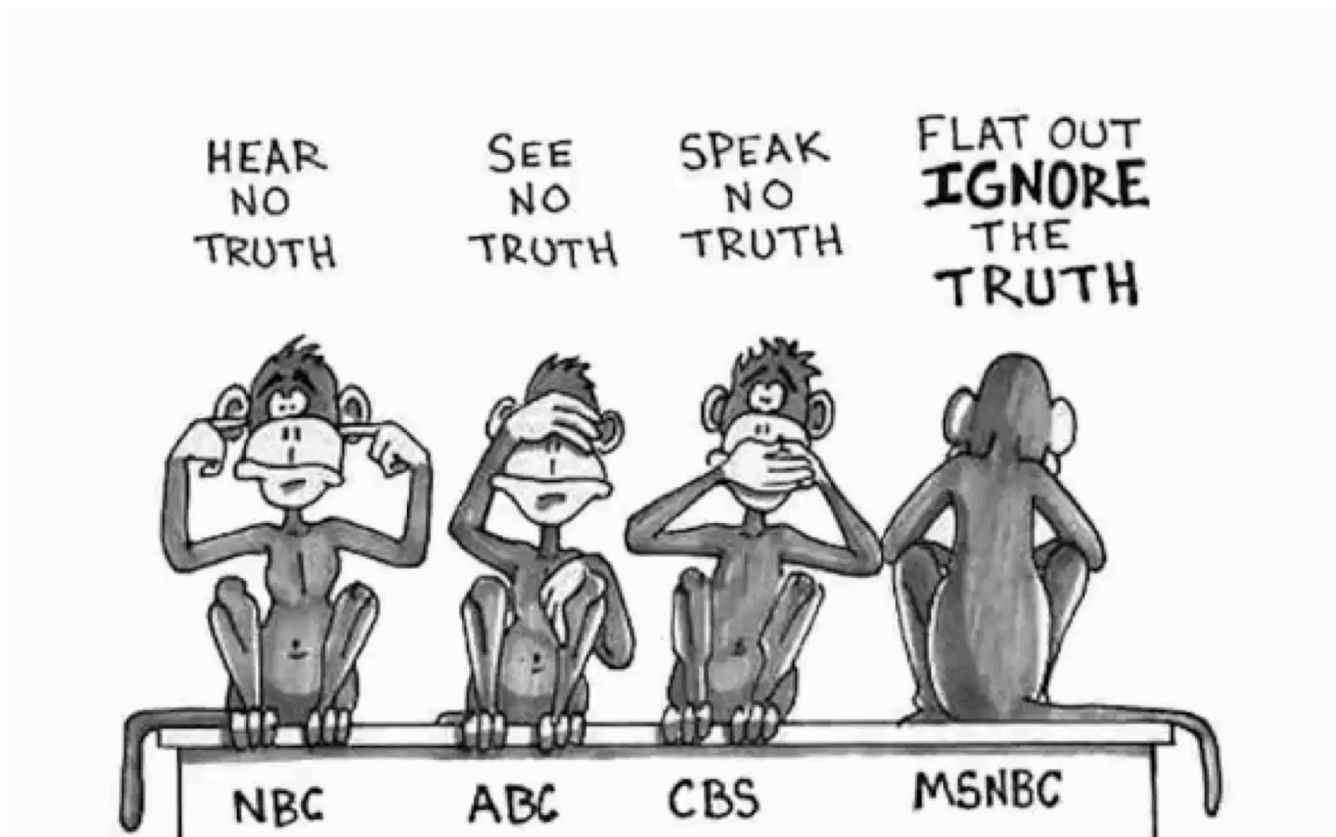


**5.17 Explain how increasingly diverse choices of media and communication outlets influence political institutions and behavior.**

Questions/Current Event

Essentials

1. Political participation is influenced by a variety of media coverage, analysis, and commentary on political events.
2. The rapidly increasing demand for media and political communications outlets from an ideologically diverse audience have led to debates over media bias and the impact of media ownership and partisan news sites.
3. The nature of democratic debate and the level of political knowledge among citizens is impacted by: Increased media choices/Ideologically oriented programming /Consumer-driven media outlets and emerging technologies that reinforce existing beliefs/Uncertainty over the credibility of news sources and information



1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon?
2. Where do you find trustworthy information? What strategies can we use to be well informed?

### 5.17 Explain how increasingly diverse choices of media and communication outlets influence political institutions and behavior.

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3. The nature of democratic debate and the level of political knowledge among citizens is impacted by:
  - Increased media choices
  - Ideologically oriented programming
  - Consumer-driven media outlets and emerging technologies that reinforce existing beliefs
  - Uncertainty over the credibility of news sources and information

Media Source	Bias Liberal or Conservative	Example	Ratings Demographic
ABC			
CBS			
NBC			
FOX			
CNN			
NYTIMES			
WALL ST. JOURNAL			

How do we know when “news” is credible?

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND:** *The various forms of media provide citizens with political information and influence the ways in which they participate politically. (Civic participation in a representative democracy)*