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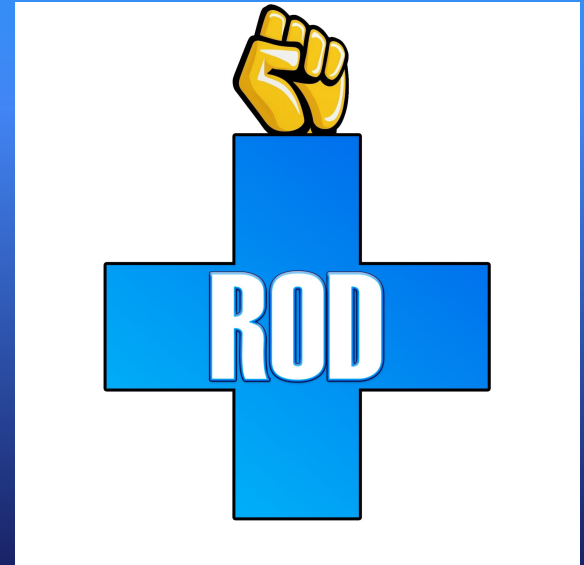
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Presents

What Are Political Parties and What Do They Represent?

Understanding the Role of Parties in U.S. Democracy

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Created on 06.10.2025



What Is a Political Party?

- A group of people with shared ideas about government
- Tries to win elections and shape public policy
- Helps organize voters, lawmakers, and candidates



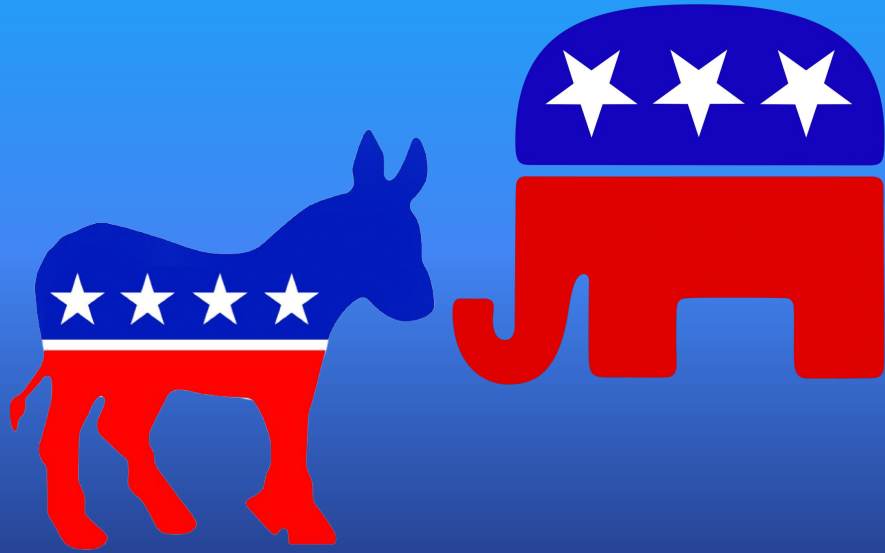
What Do Parties Do?



- Nominate candidates for office
- Create platforms (official stances on issues)
- Help voters understand choices
- Try to pass laws that match their beliefs



The Two Major Parties in the U.S.



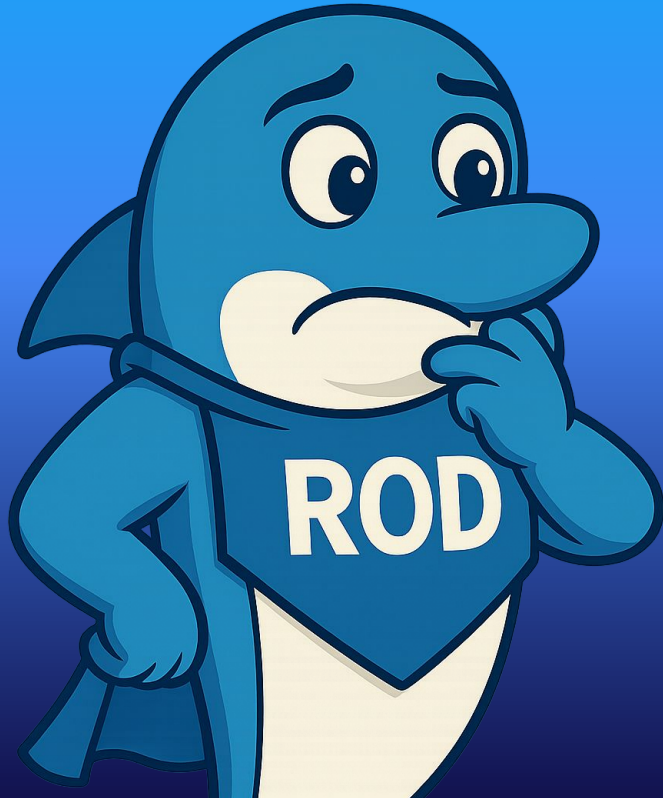
- **Democratic Party:** Generally supports stronger federal government, social programs, environmental protection, and equality policies
- **Republican Party:** Generally supports smaller government, lower taxes, traditional values, and strong national defense
- Other parties exist but don't win as many elections

What Do They Represent?

- Ideas about how government should work
- Different solutions to big issues: healthcare, education, economy, immigration, etc.
- Represent coalitions of voters with shared priorities



Why Do People Join a Party?



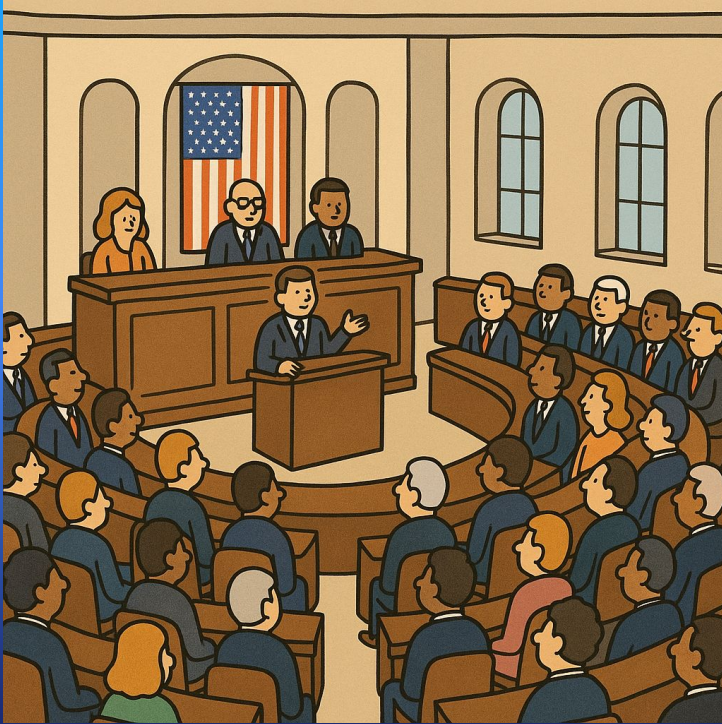
- *They agree with the party's values and policies*
- *They want a say in primaries (early voting for candidates)*
- *They want to be part of a political movement or community*

What About Independents?

- Many Americans don't join a party
- They're called "independents" or "nonpartisan" voters
- May vote for candidates from any party
- Some states let independents vote in primaries, others don't



How Do Parties Shape Government?



- *Control of Congress or the White House affects laws and policies*
- *Majority party sets the agenda in Congress*
- *Presidents often pick judges and officials who match party values*

Are Parties Good or Bad?

Good:

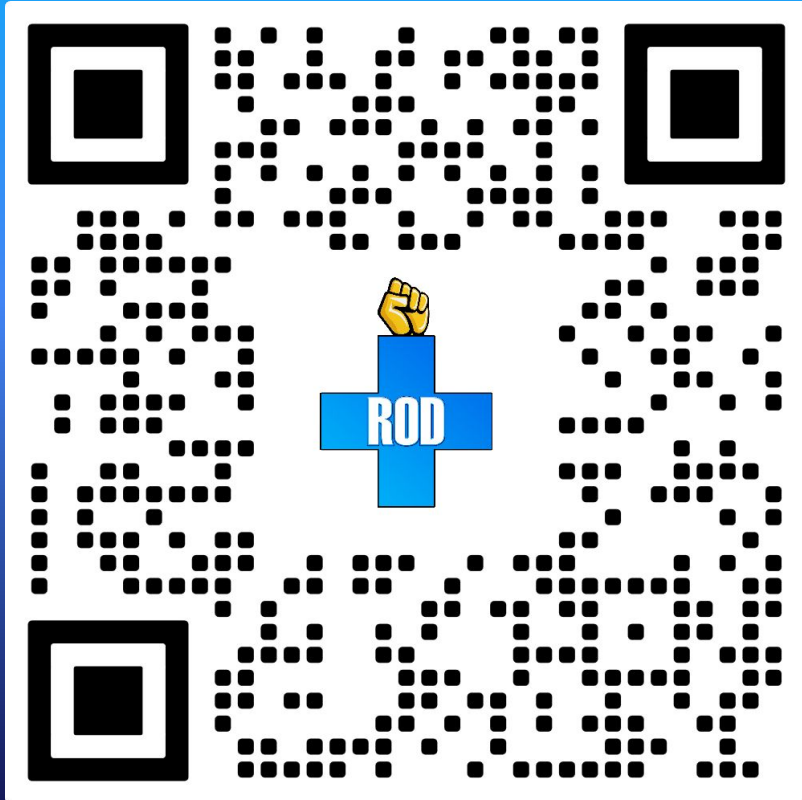
- Help organize ideas and policies
- Make voting easier to understand

Concerns:

- Can increase division and gridlock
- May focus more on winning than solving problems



Thank you!



"Thank you for your time and passion — we hope you'll be the heroes who come to our rescue and join the mission!"

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