

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**  
**AND POLITICS TODAY** 2015-2016 EDITION



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# Chapter Eight

# Political Parties

# Learning Outcomes

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- 8.1 Define the role political parties play in the U.S. political system.
- 8.2 Identify the three major components of the political party and describe how each contributes to overall party coherence.
- 8.3 Explain why political parties formed in the United States and evaluate how their strength and importance has changed over time.
- 8.4 Compare and contrast the demographics of people who identify as Democrats and Republicans; explain how party positions differ on economic and social issues.
- 8.5 Summarize the factors that reinforce a two-party system and explain why third parties are rarely successful at winning national elections.
- 8.6 Discuss the rise of political independents and evaluate how this change might impact American politics.

# What Is a Political Party and What Do Parties Do?

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- Getting Organized: The Three Components of a Party
  - Party-in-the-electorate
  - Party organization
  - Party in government

# What Is a Political Party and What Do Parties Do?

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A California Tea Party supporter hold her sign at the annual tax day rally on April 15, 2012. *Why does the Tea party claim that it is not a political party although it endorses candidates and works for their election?*

# What Is a Political Party and What Do Parties Do?

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- Party Organization
  - The National Convention
    - Convention delegates
    - Party platform
    - National committee
  - The State Party Organization
  - Local Party Organizations

# What Is a Political Party and What Do Parties Do?

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ROBYN BECK/Getty Images The Washington Post/Getty Images

# What Is a Political Party and What Do Parties Do?

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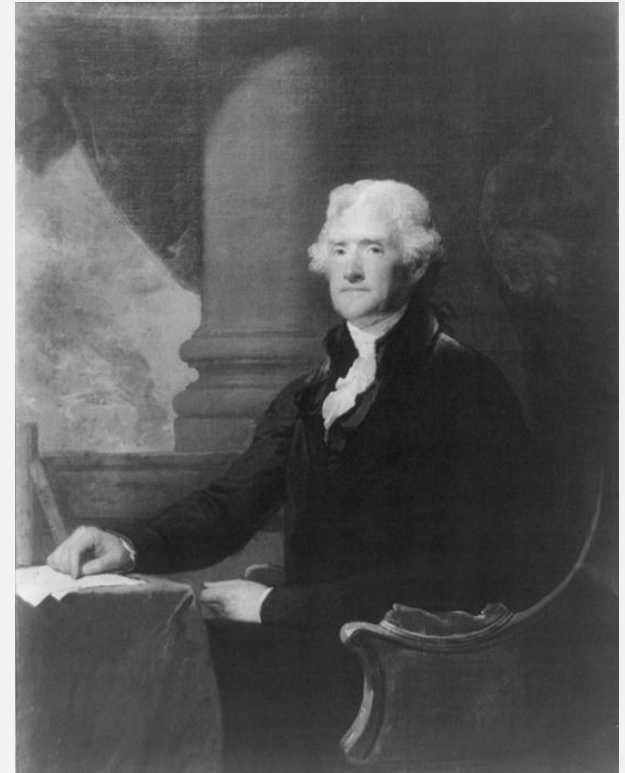
- The Party-in-Government
  - Divided Government
    - Ticket splitting
  - The Limits of Party Unity
  - Party Polarization
    - Safe seats

# A History of Political Parties in the United States

8

- *The First Party System:*  
The Development of  
Parties, 1789-1828
  - Two party system

Thomas Jefferson, founder of the first Republican Party. His election to the presidency in 1800 was one of the world's first transfers of power through a free election.





# A History of Political Parties in the United States

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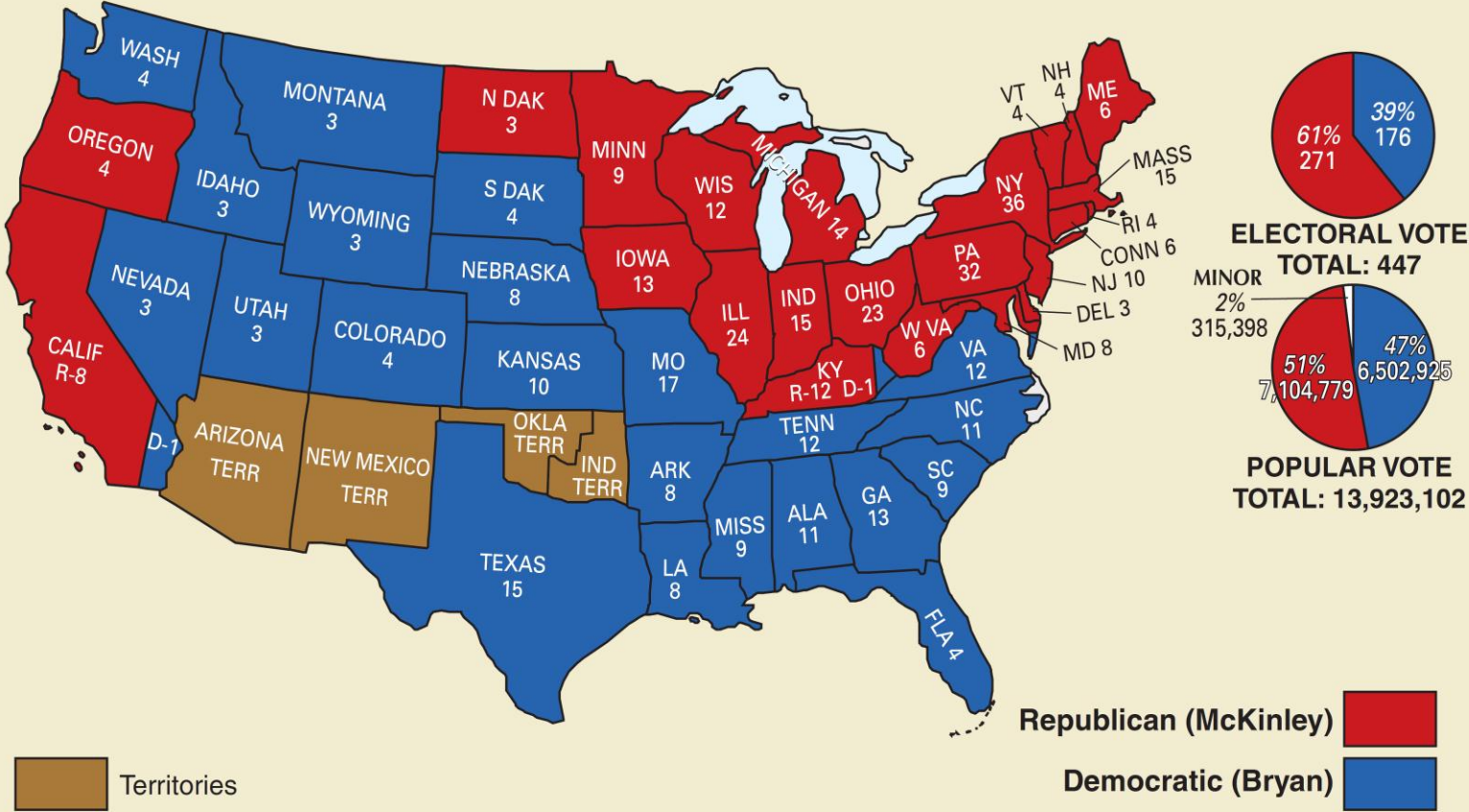
- *The Era of Good Feelings*
  - Era of personal politics
- *The Second Party System: Democrats and Whigs, 1828-1860*

# A History of Political Parties in the United States

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- *The Third Party System: Republican's Rise to Power and The Civil War, 1860-1896*
  - Republican Party (modern)
  - “Rum, Romanism, and Rebellion”
  - The Triumph of the Republicans

# The 1896 President Election



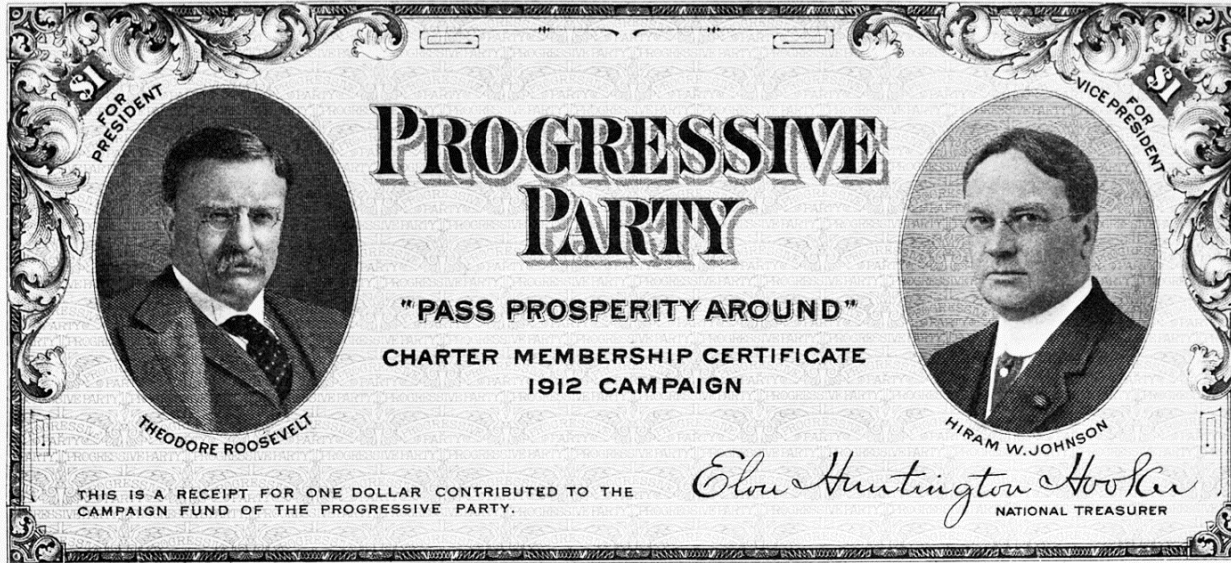
# A History of Political Parties in the United States

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- *The Fourth Party System: The Progressive Interlude and Republican Dominance, 1896-1932*
- *The Fifth Party System: The New Deal and Democratic Dominance, 1932-1968*

# A History of Political Parties in the United States

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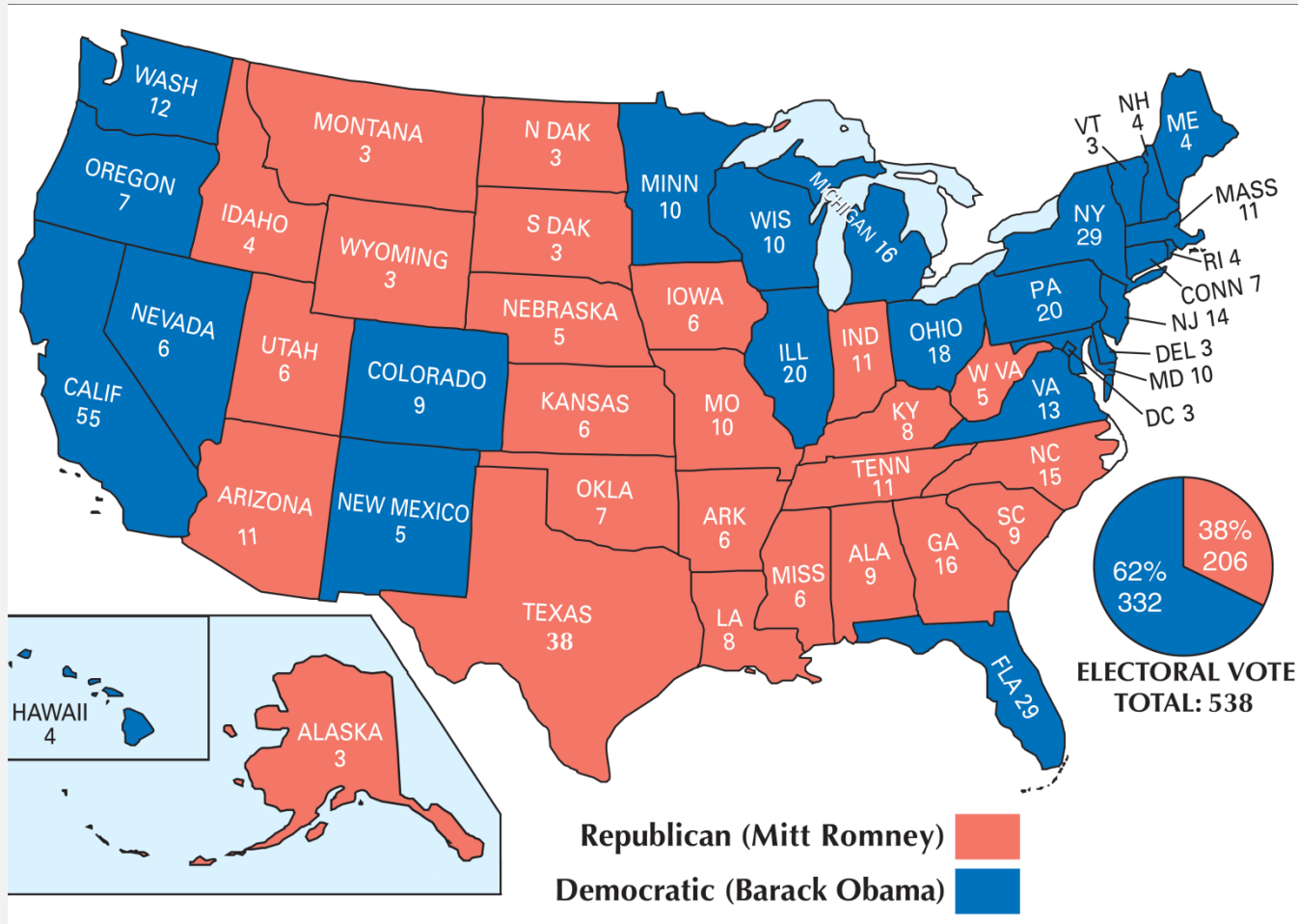
In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt campaigned for the presidency on a third-party Progressive, or Bull moose, ticket. Here, you see a charter membership certificate showing Roosevelt and his vice-presidential candidate Hiram W. Johnson. *What was the main result of Roosevelt's formation of this third party?*

# A History of Political Parties in the United States

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- A Post-Party System Era, 1968-Present?
  - Red State, Blue State
- Partisan Trends in the 2012 Elections

# The Presidential Election of 2012



# The Two Major U.S. Parties Today

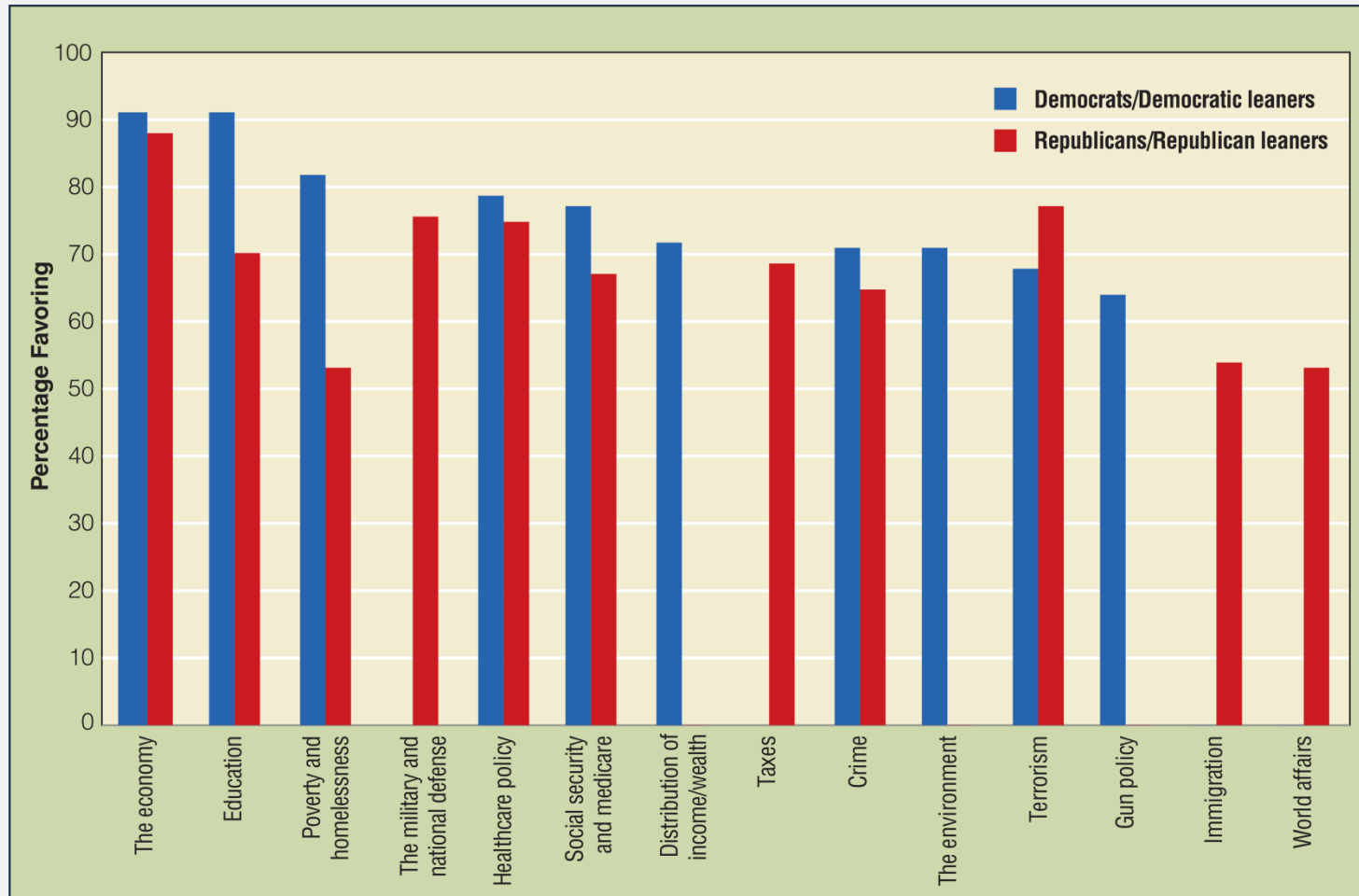
16

- Who Belongs to Each Political Party?
- Differences in Party Policy Priorities
- The 2012 Elections—Shaping the Parties for 2014 and 2016
  - Social issues: reproductive rights, health-care initiatives and abortion issues
  - International threats
  - Immigration



# Top 10 Priority Issues, by Party Identification

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# Why Has the Two-Party System Endured?

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- The Historical Foundations of the Two-Party System
- Political Socialization and Practical Considerations

# Why Has the Two-Party System Endured?

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- The Winner-Take-All Electoral System
  - Proportional representation
  - Plurality
  - Electoral College
- State and Federal Laws Favoring the Two Parties

# The Role of Minor Parties in U.S. Politics

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- Ideological Third Parties
- Splinter Parties
- The Impact of Minor Parties
  - Influencing the Major Parties
  - Affecting the Outcome of an Election

# The Role of Minor Parties in U.S. Politics

Molly Riley/Reuters/Landov



Ralph Nader, a leader of the consumer protection movement, has run for president six times, once for the New Party, three times as the Green Party candidate, and twice as an independent.



Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

H. Ross Perot, third-party candidate for president in 1992 and 1996, speaks before a California Senate committee in 2002.

# Mechanisms of Political Change

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- Realignment
  - Realignment: The Myth of Dominance
  - Realignment: The Myth of Predictability
  - Is Realignment Still Possible?

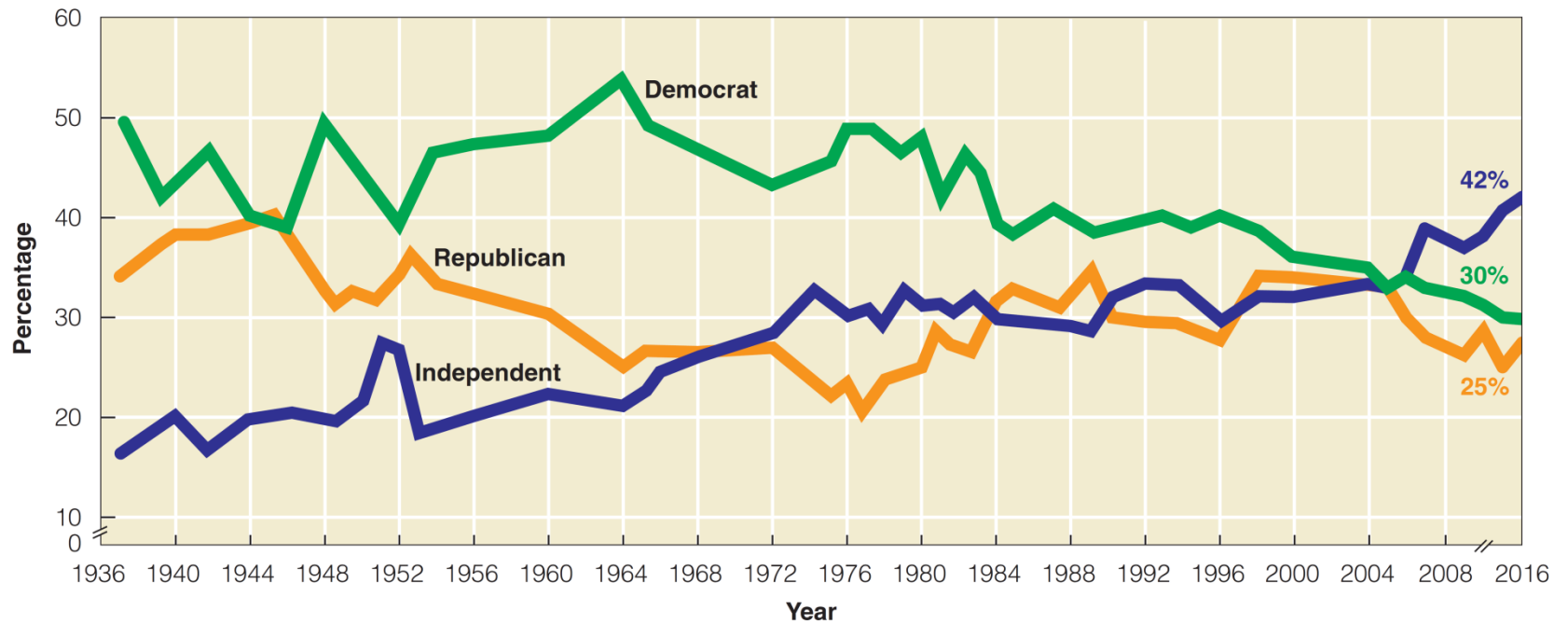
# Mechanisms of Political Change

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- Dealignment
  - Independent Voters
  - Not-So-Independent Voters
- Tipping
  - Tipping in Massachusetts
  - Tipping in California
- Political Parties of the Future

# Party Identification from 1938 to Present

Independent: 42% Democrat: 30% Republican: 25%





# The Tea Party: Background Report

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**Click picture to view video**

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# Video Discussion Questions

1. Could the Tea Party become a viable third party?
2. Would Federalists or Antifederalists be more likely to support the Tea Party philosophy? Why?
3. Overall, has the Tea Party movement helped or hurt the Republican Party?