Political Dictionary

- political party (p. 116)
- pluralistic society (p. 121)
- ideological party (p. 132)
- multipartism (p. 122)
- single-issue party (p. 132)
- party in power (p. 118)
- coalition (p. 122)
- economic protest party (p. 133)
- minor party (p. 119)
- one-party system (p. 123)
- splinter party (p. 133)
- two-party system (p. 119)
- incumbent (p. 127)
- ward (p. 143)
- sectionalism (p. 129)
- faction (p. 127)
- precinct (p. 140)
- split-ticket voting (p. 141)
- majority (p. 120)
- bipartisan (p. 120)
- plurality (p. 120)

Practicing the Vocabulary

Using Words in Context: For each of the terms below, write a sentence that shows how it relates to this chapter.

1. multiparty
2. pluralistic society
3. party in power
4. minor party
5. split-ticket voting
6. one-party system
7. consensus
8. splinter party
9. single-member district
10. two-party system

Reviewing Main Ideas

Section 1
15. What is the major function of a political party?
16. Which term better describes political parties in American politics: traditional or pragmatic? Why?
17. Give two examples that show why American government may be described as government by party.

Section 2
18. In what two ways does the American electoral system tend to promote a two-party system?
19. How can the diversity of views represented in a multiparty system be seen as both a strength and a weakness?
20. How is the ideological consensus of the American electorate reflected in the membership of the major parties?

Section 3
21. (a) Which political party was the first to appear in the new United States? (b) Who was its leader and what type of government did it favor?

Critical Thinking

30. Face the Issue: Study the role of minor party candidates in the most recent presidential election. In your opinion, would including these candidates in the debates have changed the outcome of the election? Explain.
31. Determining Relevance: If there had not been a group opposed to the adoption of the Constitution in the 1780s, do you think a strong two-party system would have developed in the United States? Why or why not?
32. Distinguishing Fact from Opinion: Why do you agree or disagree with this statement: "A vote for a minor party candidate is a vote wasted."
33. Recognizing Cause and Effect: (a) How has television affected the size of two-party systems? (b) How has the Internet impacted the two-party system?

Analyzing Political Cartoons

Using your knowledge of American government and this cartoon, answer the questions below.

34. What does the cartoonist imply about the relationship between the two major parties? Explain how he conveys this idea.
35. Does the cartoonist regard the minor parties as a serious threat to the status quo? How do the major parties react to this threat?

You Can Make a Difference

Even if you are not yet eligible to vote, you can still find a place in party politics. Local party organizations welcome volunteers during a campaign. You may find yourself answering phones, handing out flyers, or stuffing envelopes—part of grassroots politics. To begin, ask the local headquarters of the two major parties and any minor parties that are currently active in your area. Choose a candidate whose positions on issues are similar to your own. Then offer your help.

Participation Activities

36. Current Events Watch: Look in newspapers or news magazines for a local or national issue on which there is public disagreement. See if the two major parties have taken stands on the issue. Note the positions taken by elected officials and other representatives of the major parties. Using the information you have found, prepare a report telling whether each party is united or divided in its response to the issue and whether the two major parties oppose each other on this issue. Support your conclusions with examples.
37. Time Line Activity: Using information from the chapter, create a time line showing the major political events of the current era of divided government. Include at least ten events in your time line. You might begin with Richard Nixon’s election to the presidency in 1968. For each event, which party has held the White House most frequently during this era?
38. If It’s Your Turn: Congress is often written to discourage minor party candidates. Draw a political cartoon in which you comment on this situation. Take either the pro or the con position in your cartoon. (Drawing a Cartoon)