

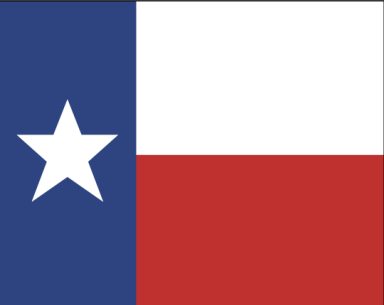
Chapter 4: Political Parties in Texas

Champagne & Harpham

State and Local Government

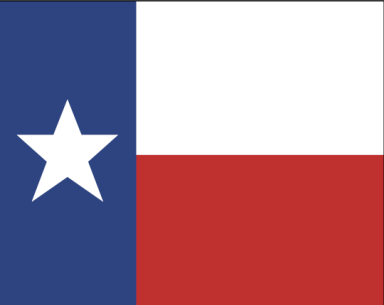
GOVT 2306

Professor Davis



Why Political Parties Matter

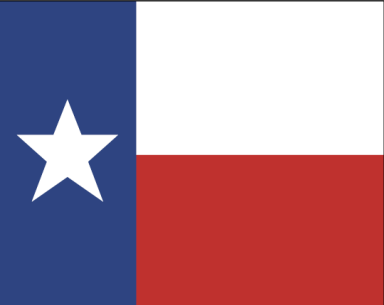
- Two parallel developments:
 - Domination of the Republican Party in Texas
 - The state's growing minority population, which is increasingly Latino
- Texas has largely been a one-party state—first Democrat, then Republican
- The future will be shaped by how parties are organized, how candidates are selected, and the role of partisanship



The Role of Political Parties

Political parties:

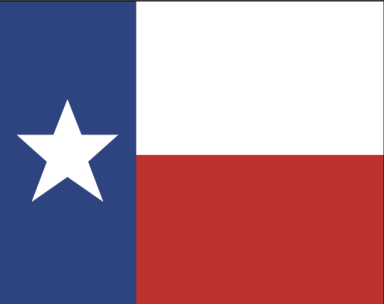
- Help candidates win elections
- Assist voters in making their choices
- Raise money and help “get out the vote”
- Organize the government if their party wins the election
- Provide a label under which candidates run and with which voters identify



Political Parties at the State Level

- Parties have less power at the state level than the national level
 - Local issues are not ideological in nature
- **Partisan Polarization:** the degree to which Republicans have become more conservative and Democrats have become more liberal
 - [“How US state legislatures are getting more polarized \(in 2 graphs\)”](#)

(A link to this article is available in eLearning under Course Homepage)



POLITICS FEBRUARY 7, 2014

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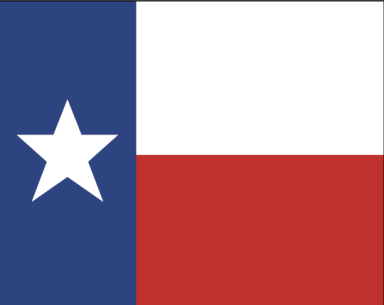
Texan Hispanics Tilt Democratic, but State Likely to Stay Red

by Andrew Dugan

Hispanics statewide are less likely to be Democratic than other U.S. Hispanics

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Texas Hispanics are decidedly Democratic in their political party preferences, 46% to 27%, but that 19-percentage-point Democratic advantage is much smaller in Texas than the average 30-point gap Democrats enjoy among the Hispanic population in the other 49 states. And white Texas residents are decidedly more

[Link to Gallup Article](#)
(Available on eLearning)

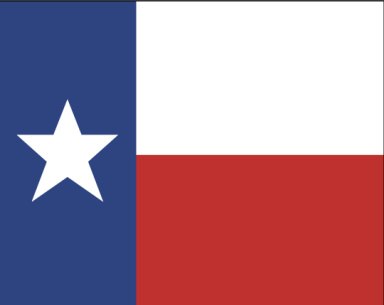


The Public and Political Parties

- Can an independent truly be independent?

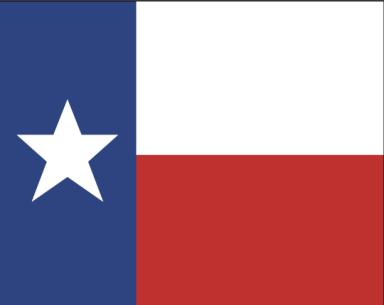
Political Socialization: the introduction of individuals into the political culture; learning the underlying beliefs and values on which the political system is based

We are politically socialized by: parents, teachers, religious leaders, etc.



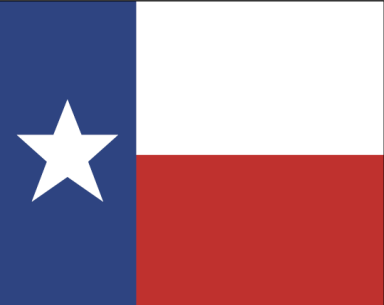
The Contemporary Republican Party in Texas

- Texas government is currently dominated by Republicans (see next slide)
- All major, partisan, executive offices in Texas are held by Republicans
- Republicans compete within the party to be more “republican” than each other
 - Lieutenant Governor Race 2013: Dan Patrick and incumbent David Dewherst
 - Current Lt. Governor Dan Patrick



Contemporary Democratic Party in Texas

- Typical Democrats in Texas: African Americans, Latinos, white/liberal transplants in urban areas
- Before 1994, Texas usually voted Democrat at the state level and Republican at the national level
- Currently, Democrats don't have enough votes to take back state government

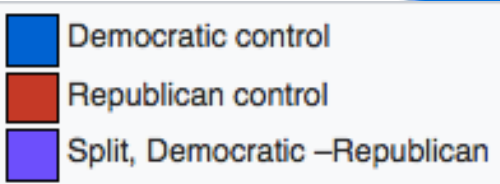


Texas House of Representatives

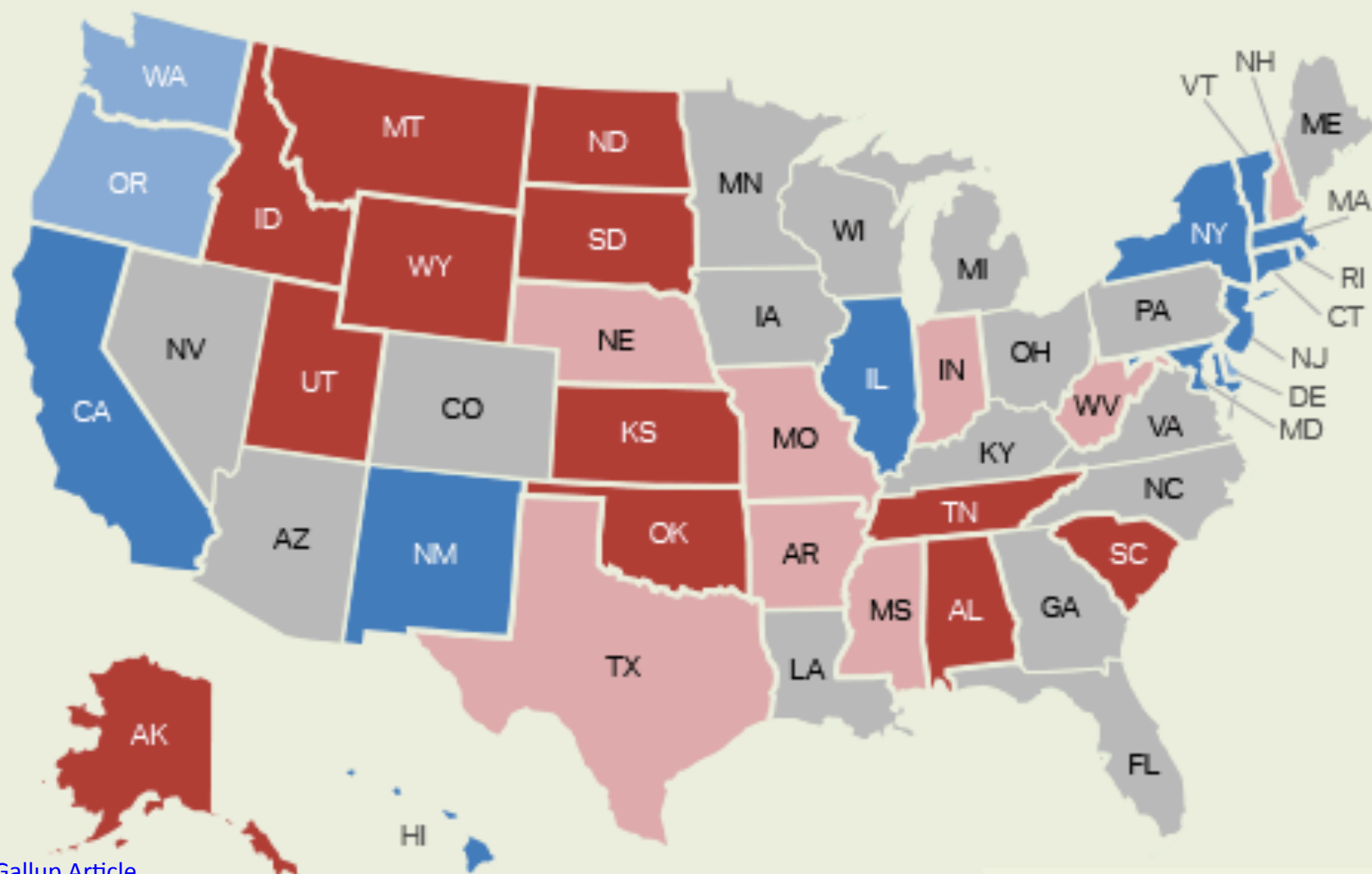
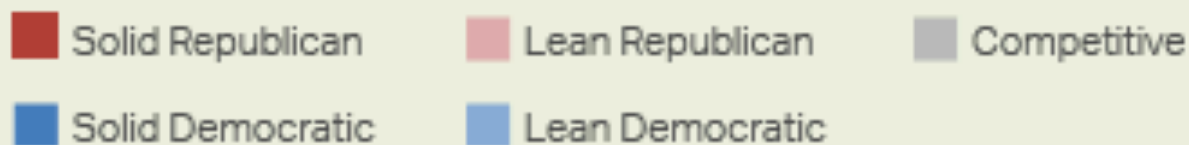
Affiliation		Members
	Republican Party	99
	Democratic Party	48
	Vacant	2
Total		150

Texas Senate

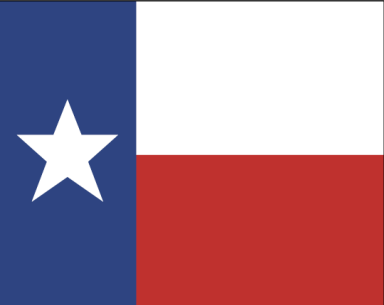
Affiliation		Members
	Republican Party	20
	Democratic Party	11
Total		31



Party Affiliation by State, 2015

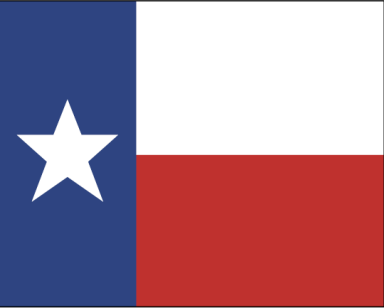


SOURCE: GALLUP DAILY TRACKING



Party Organization in Texas

- Different types of primaries can emphasize or deemphasize political parties
- Texas has open primaries (page 139), a primary election in which any registered voter can participate in the contest, regardless of political affiliation.
 - Provides voters more influence in the political system
 - And provides voters privacy while being able to vote for either party(Texas does not have voter registration)



Temporary Organization

Permanent Organization

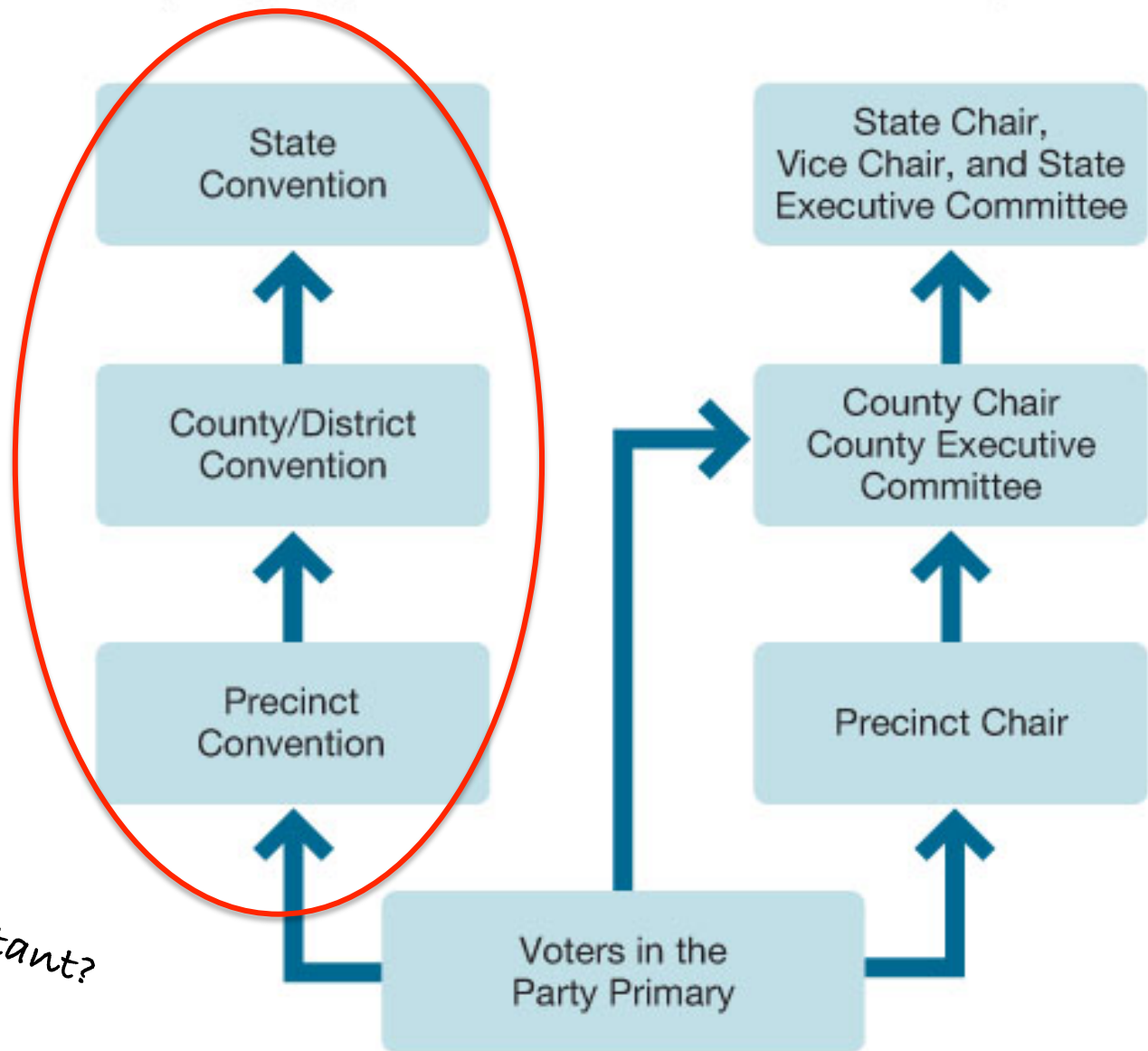
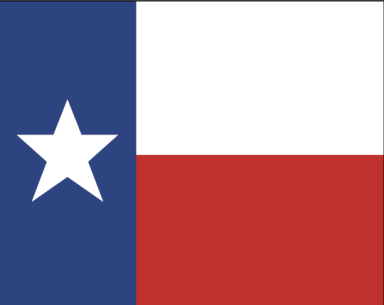


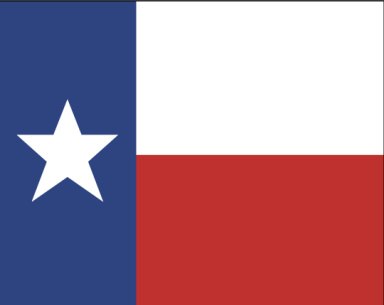
FIGURE 4.1

Party Organization in Texas



Temporary Party Organizations

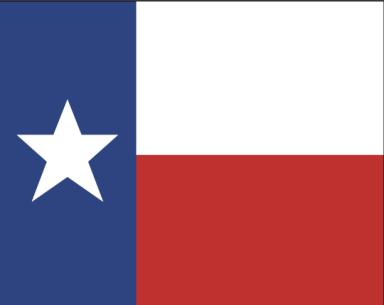
- **Precinct convention** select delegates to county convention and possibly submit resolutions that may eventually become apart of the party platform
- **County/District convention** select delegates for the state convention
- **State convention** certify nominees for statewide office, adopt platform, select state officers, elect delegates for the national party convention



Third Parties in Texas

Dixiecrats: conservative Democrats who abandoned the national Democratic Party in the 1948 presidential election, also known as a States' Rights Party

La Raza Unida Party: political party formed in Texas in order to bring attention to the concerns of Mexican Americans



Why only Two Parties in Texas?

“first past the post” an election rule that states that the winner is the candidate who receives a plurality of votes

Plurality vs. Majority

Willie Nelson - 23%

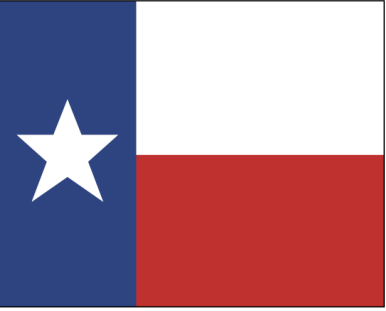
Clark Kent - 18%

Socrates - 25%

Charles Darwin – 4%

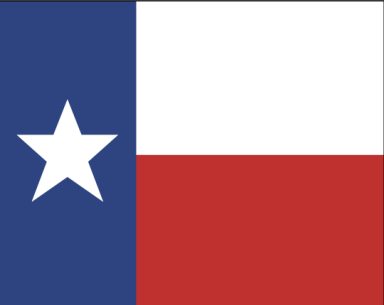
Tupac Shakur – 11%

Chuck Norris – 19%



Presidents that won with less than a majority popular vote

- John Q Adams
- Abraham Lincoln
- Woodrow Wilson
- Bill Clinton
- Richard Nixon
- James Buchanan
- Donald Trump
- Grover Cleveland
- Zachary Taylor
- George W. Bush
- James Garfield
- James Polk
- Harry Truman
- John Kennedy



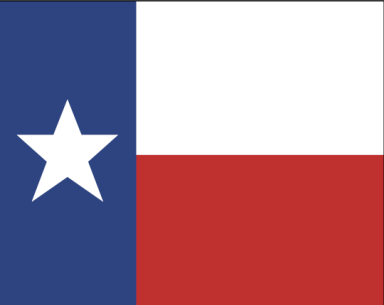
Why only Two Parties in Texas?

Single-member district: an electorate that is allowed to elect only one representative for each district

Duverger's Law: in single-member system, a two-party system will emerge

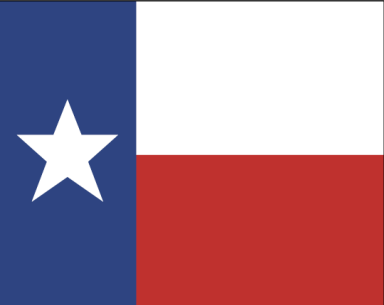
[The Atlantic: Why Can't Third Parties Take Off?](#) (This link is available on eLearning)

Proportional Representation: a multimember district system that allows each political party representation in proportion to its percentage of the total vote



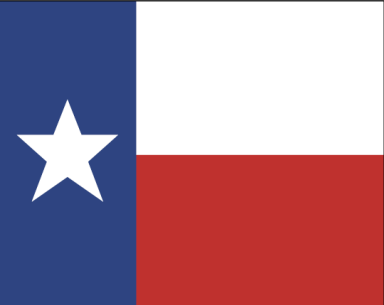
Texas History as One-Party State

- After Governor Edmund Davis (1873),
Democratic dominance
- Shivercrat movement, 1950's
 - Gov. Allan Shivers, Eisenhower, and the Tidelands
 - Rise of conservative Democrats
 - **Presidential Republicans:** voting for Republican presidents but Democrats for state office



Texas History as One-Party State, *continued...*

- New Deal Democrats vs. conservative Democrats
- Texas becomes strongly Republican in the 1990's
- **Blue Dog Democrats** name for conservative Democrats in the South
 - Slowly disappeared in politics



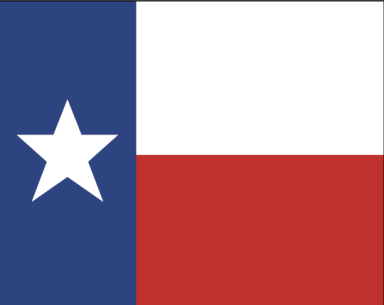
Growth of the Republican Party

TABLE 4.1

Growth of the Republican Party in Texas

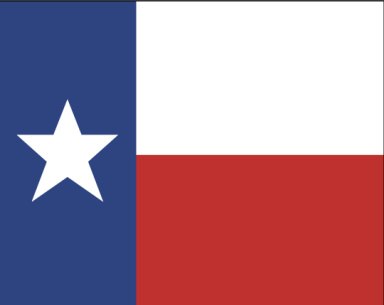
YEAR	U.S. SENATE	OTHER STATEWIDE	U.S. HOUSE	TEXAS SENATE	TEXAS HOUSE	COUNTY OFFICE	DISTRICT OFFICE	SCHOOL BOARD	TOTAL
1974	1	0	2	3	16	53	NA	NA	75+
1980	1	1	5	7	35	166	NA	NA	215+
1990	1	6	8	8	57	547	170	5	802
2000	2	27	13	16	72	1,233	336	10	1,709
2010	2	27	23	19	101	1,500	386	11	2,069
2012	2	27	24	19	95	NA	NA	NA	NA
2014	2	27	25	20	98	NA	NA	NA	NA

SOURCE: Republican Party of Texas.



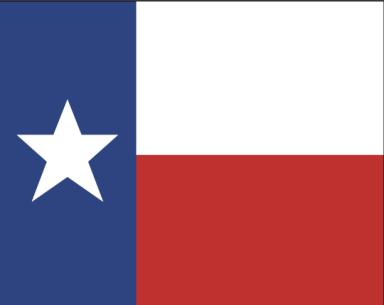
Party Unity and Disunity

- Parties have opposing factions within them
- When the Democratic Party was the dominant party in Texas, factional battles were common between liberals and conservatives
- Republican Party factions include:
 - Religious right
 - Economic conservatives
 - Tea Party



Urban, Rural, and Suburban Influences on Partisanship

- Cities in Texas have become more Democratic
- Rural areas remain solidly conservative and have become Republican
 - “White flight” to the suburbs
- Voters tend to settle in places with like-minded people, reinforcing the political proclivities already established



African Americans in Texas Political Parties

- African Americans have high influence in the Democratic Party
 - Tend to vote Democratic
 - Participate in elections more than other ethnic groups
- In the 2010 statewide elections, almost 39% turned out to vote; in the presidential election of 2012, that figure rose to over 63%



Lecture Slides

GOVERNING TEXAS

SECOND EDITION

ANTHONY CHAMPAGNE and EDWARD J. HARPHAM
Revised by Ronald Vardy