

The public + Political parties

- Can an independent truly be independent?

Political socialization: the introduction of individuals into the political culture; learning the underlying beliefs/values on which the political system is based.
• agents of pol socialization: parents, teachers, religious leaders, friends.

Contemporary Republican Party in TX

• TX gov dominated by republicans

• all major, partisan, executive offices held by republicans

• Republicans compete with other reps to be "more republican"

+ Lt gov race: Patrick Devalost

2/6/17

Political Parties, can't

Democratic Party in TX

• Democrats are typically minorities and whites/liberal transplants in urban areas
+ we don't know what causes urban to be more liberal, but people typically move to be around similar people.

• Before 1994, TX was voted democratic at State level & republican at national level.

+ currently unlikely for democratic candidates to win, Except for some urban areas.

+ Many former democratic politicians switched to republican.

- Nationwide, voter party affiliation is very diverse. Many states have weak ties to a political party at the state level (Stronger at national)

Party Org in TX

- TX has open primaries: a primary election where any registered voter can participate, regardless of political affiliation.

• Provides voters more influence in political system.

• Also provides voters privacy while being able to vote for any party.

- know temporary organisations, permanent orgs less important

• Precinct convention, county/district convention, state convention.

• Temporary organisations allow for members of conventions to direct actions, and develop party platform.

Third Parties in TX

• Not viable in current political system, they are usually absorbed because of single member district system.

Third party cont

- Dixiecrats: Conservative democrats who abandoned national dem party.
- unida la raza: Hispanic third party (see slide).

Why only 2 parties?

- "First past the post", an election rule that states: Candidate who gets plurality of votes is winner.

• Don't need a majority, this means most people in a state don't have to vote for candidate for them to win.

- Purverger's law: In winner-take-all elections, voters strategically vote for stronger parties; third parties are gradually weakened, creates 2 party system

TX History as One-party state

- Democrats dominated after Gov. Davis
- Shivers movement loses
 - Gov Allan Shivers, Eion hower, and the tidelands
 - Dem candidate wanted to give tidelands to fed gov, Gov. Shivers (Dem) backed Eisenhower, the republican candidate.
- Blue dog democrats: conservative democrats in the south. Slowly disappeared.