* [Article](http://www2.law.columbia.edu/instructionalservices/political_parties/per_cain.pdf) explaining the Legal Status of Political Parties
* Google [Answer](http://answers.google.com/answers/threadview/id/501730.html) explaining how to form a 527 Organization (political party)
* [527 organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/527_organization) Wiki
* Political affiliations over time from [Gallup](http://www.gallup.com/poll/15370/party-affiliation.aspx)
* Internet adoption over time [data](http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2012/Digital-differences/Main-Report/Internet-adoption-over-time.aspx)

Plum’s notes:

**Review: The Dynamic Legislative Process**

- **CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL SYSTEM**: Bills are passed through senate AND house of representative, where they’re reviewed multiple times by progressively larger committees, before being debated on between the house and senate. Bill is finally sent on to the president, who can veto

- In our system, the site should act as one cohesive committee. Reduces inefficiency by reducing the amount of time needed to gain approval

- In reality, the above system is antiquated, and most laws that are currently passed are done so through unorthodox means. Unorthodox lawmaking has become standard operating procedure. Not only does textbook model no longer work, no single model has replaced it. Variety, not uniformity, categorizes the contemporary legislative process.

- **EFFICIENCY AND TIMELINESS**: “[Congress’] institutional mission was more to block or delay popular legislative action than it was to speed it along . . . Many wish to reform Congress in ways that may end “policy gridlock” by making congress capable of speedily adopting sweeping changes in national policies. The problem, however, is that **a Congress capable of doing much good quickly, would also be capable of doing much bad quickly**.” - James Q. Wilson, “American Government”, eighth edition, quotation from page 320 (emphasis mine).

- The Information Party, in my opinion, has the opposite goal, to at least some extent. From my perspective, one of the foundational elements of the party is to observe and identify ways in which we can make congress more efficient. In Wilson’s view, that goal may actually be detrimental to our system of government. Does the ability to make government faster and more efficient ultimately make our country better? In making speedier decisions, are we making wiser, more informed decisions? I think so, but it bears discussion.

- **INTEREST GROUPS**. What is our stance on these? I, for one, tend to be against them, especially insofar as money is concerned. I hate the idea of buying votes. Here is a counter argument:

“Interest groups are also a healthy feature of and a positive force in the political process. They are organizations that give voice to the voiceless, and represent the unrepresented. Advances for African-Americans, the poor, the young, the aged, and others who are disadvantaged, as well as farmers, laborers, and owners of small businesses, can be attributed, in part, to the effective activities of interest groups.” - Alan R. Gitelson, “American Government”, fourth edition, pages 240-242.

- **MAJORITY RULE**. “The modern notion of democracy also includes respect for individual rights and minority rights.. A political system in which 51% of the people are allowed to terrorize and abuse the 49% is simply not a democracy in form or substance.. Above all, as the Framers recognized, it is necessary to prevent the majority from abusing its powers and threatening the rights and interests of those in the minority.” - William Lasser, “American Politics: The Enduring Constitution”, second edition, pages 7, 14-15.

- This is an important notion to keep in mind, and is certainly a criticism we’ll be faced with before long. How do we protect the interests of the minority? The first solution that comes to mind is to simply be aware of how all decisions affect those who can’t speak for themselves (such as those without internet access, for example).

