

### Chart: American Political Parties



*The County Election*

By George Caleb Bingham, 1852

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Background Note: Political parties are not mentioned in the Constitution, which was written in 1787. George Washington did not need a party to help him define issues of importance to the new republic. The United States developed a two-party system (for better or worse) beginning roughly in 1792 and continuing until the present.

Time Period	Major Parties	Position Issues	Leading Figures	Presidential Election Winners	Third Parties
1787-1792	Federalist, Antifederalist	Power of the national vs. state and local governments, Bill of Rights	Federalist: Hamilton Antifederalist: Jefferson	Federalist: Washington	None
1792-1824	Federalist, Democrat-Republican	Federalists supported Hamilton's financial plans, protective tariffs, Great Britain against France, Bank of the U.S., Alien & Sedition Acts, increased power of the national government. Hyper-Federalists, Hartford Convention in 1814 urged a secession of New England from the U.S. Democrat-Republicans opposed Hamilton's plans, supported France in their war against Great Britain	Federalist: Hamilton, Adams Democrat-Republican: Jefferson	Federalist: Adams-1796  Democrat-Republican: Jefferson-1800,1804 Madison-1808,1812 Monroe-1816,1820	None

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1824-1854	National Republican, Democrat	<p>Democrats (led by Jackson) favored moving Indians out of the way of western settlers, opposed the U.S. Bank, issued the specie circular to support pet banks, and the expansion of the U.S. Opposed tariffs.</p> <p>Whigs supported a modernizing economy, high protective tariffs almost anything Jackson favored. It opposed the expansion of slavery.</p>	<p>Democrat: Jackson, Calhoun, Douglas</p> <p>Whig: Clay, Seward, Webster, Weed</p>	<p>National Republican: J.Q. Adams-1824</p> <p>Democrat: Jackson-1828, 1836 Van Buren-1836 Polk-1844 Pierce-1852 Buchanan-1856</p> <p>Whig: W. Harrison-1840 Taylor-1848</p>	Anti-Masonic, Liberty, Free Soil, Know-Nothing
1854-1896	Republican, Democrat	<p>Republicans favored high protective tariffs and opposed the expansion of slavery into western territories. Sought to punish South for the Civil War.</p> <p>Democrats supported popular sovereignty, low tariffs, and were split on slavery</p>	<p>Democrat: Douglas, Cleveland</p> <p>Republican: Lincoln, Stephens</p>	<p>Republican: Lincoln-1860,1864 Grant-1868, 1872 Hayes-1876 Garfield-1880 B. Harrison-1888</p> <p>Democrat: Cleveland-1884,1892</p>	Whig-American, Southern Democrat, Constitutional Union, Prohibition
1896-1932	Republican, Democrat	<p>Republicans opposed free silver and supported a <i>laissez-faire</i> approach to business, the Spanish-American War and expansionism. T. Roosevelt supported conservation and breaking up trusts. The Republicans of the 1920s returned to a pro-business position and opposed federal controls.</p> <p>Democrats supported free silver, regulation of industry, particularly railroads, and Progressive issues, including child labor, women's rights, and income tax.</p>	<p>Republican: McKinley, Hanna, T. Roosevelt, Lodge, LaFollette, Hoover</p> <p>Democrat: Bryan, Wilson</p>	<p>Republican: McKinley-1896,1900 T. Roosevelt-1904 Taft-1908 Harding-1920 Coolidge-1924 Hoover-1928</p> <p>Democrat: Wilson-1912,1916</p>	Populist, Progressive, Prohibition

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1933- Today	Democrat, Republican	<p>Democrats supported an activist government approach in addressing economic problems, increased taxes, labor unions, expanded federal government, regulation of industry, and civil rights legislation.</p> <p>Republicans opposed the expansion of the federal government, welfare, and industry regulation. They supported regulation of labor unions, limitations on the power of the federal government, and lowered taxes.</p>	<p>Democrat: F. Roosevelt, Johnson</p> <p>Republican: Nixon, Reagan</p>	<p>Democrat: F. Roosevelt- 1932,1936,1940,1944 Truman-1948 Kennedy-1960 Johnson-1964 Carter-1976 Clinton-1992,1996 Obama-2008</p> <p>Republican: Eisenhower-1952,1956 Nixon-1968,1972 Reagan-1980,1984 G.W. Bush-1988 G. Bush-2000,2004</p>	<p>Union, States Rights, American Independent, Independent, Reform, Green</p>