Political Parties

What is a political party?
- Defining Parties
- Party Organization
- Party in government
- Party in the electorate
- What Parties do

History of Parties in America
- “free beer blowout” of 2001
- 1st party system: Constitutional Debate
- 2nd party system: Mass-based parties
- 3rd party system: Gilded Age
- 4th party system: Progressive Reforms
- 5th party system: New Deal
- 6th party system: Realignment & Dealignment
- Parties Today

The American two-party system
- Plurality voting vs PR (Duverge’s Law)
- Legal barriers
- Primaries
- Kang and Kodos
- Third Parties

The Party Organization
- Local party organization
- State party organization
- National party organization
- The “party in service”

Party in the Electorate
- Party Identification (PID)
- Measurement of PID
**Michigan PID measure**

1. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Democrat, Republican, Independent or what?
2A. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Democrat/Republican
2B. Do you consider yourself to be closer to the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, or neither?

**3 point and 7 point Michigan PID Scales**

- Democrat
- Strong Democrat
- Weak Democrat
- Independent
- Pure Independent
- Independent Republican
- Weak Republican
- Strong Republican

**2016 Party Identification (3 point)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>35.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>36.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2016 Party Identification (7 point)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong Democrat</td>
<td>21.4% (24.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weak Democrat</td>
<td>14.0% (13.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind Democrat</td>
<td>11.2% (10.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pure Independent</td>
<td>13.8% (8.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind Republican</td>
<td>11.5% (11.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weak Republican</td>
<td>12.0% (11.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong Republican</td>
<td>16.0% (15.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Party in the electorate (continued)**

- Party Polarization
  - Party tribalism
- PID and Issues
- PID and Demographics

**Realignment in the South**

- Chart showing changes in party affiliation in the South from 1960 to 2000, with line graphs for Democrats and Republicans.
PID and Demographics

FIGURE 8.3: Party coalitions today

Party in Government
- Defining party in government
- Rise of party in government