

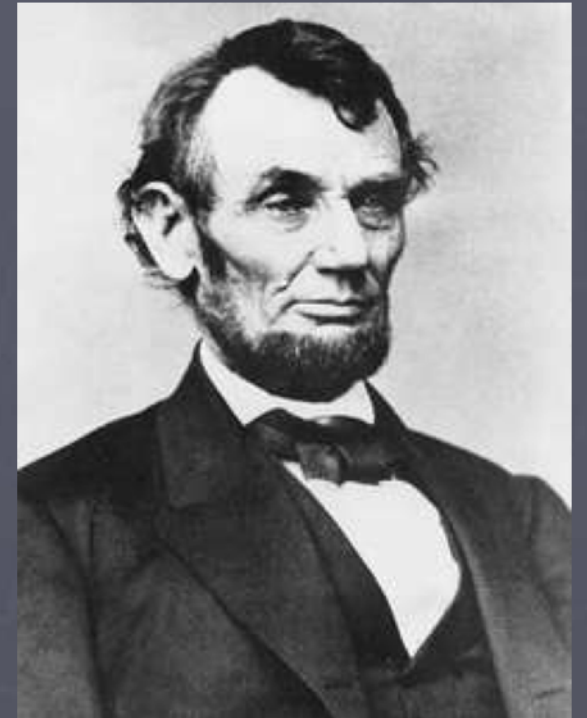
Forms of Civic Participation

Methods through which citizens have their opinions heard

Six Big Ideas: Popular Sovereignty

- Framers of the Constitution wanted the ultimate power and authority to rest with the people
 - Through system of voting and the freedom of speech citizens have the ability to influence government

“...and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” - Abraham Lincoln, Nov 19, 1863 Excerpt from Gettysburg Address



The First Amendment

- Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.



The Right to Vote

- Voting is best method to select officials that align with your own political beliefs
- Constitution originally only guaranteed right to vote for free white men
 - 15th Amendment (1870) – States can not restrict the right to vote on the basis of race
 - 17th Amendment (1913) – Abolished electoral college as basis for electing Senators
 - 19th Amendment (1920) – States can not restrict the right to vote on the basis of gender
 - 23rd Amendment (1961) – Established the right to vote for citizens of the District of Columbia
 - 24th Amendment (1964) – States can not restrict someone from voting who has not paid their taxes, or impose a “poll tax” on individuals to vote
 - 26th Amendment (1971) – Lowered the voting age from 21 to 18

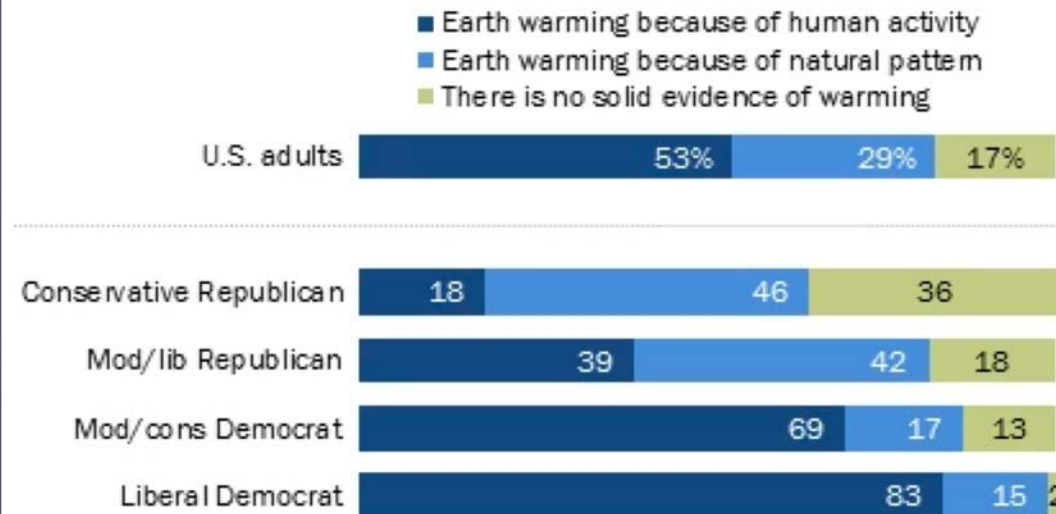
Joining Political Parties

- Political Parties are broad organizations of like-minded individuals
 - Similar values and idea of role of government
- Conservatives (Republicans) favor limited federal government, and traditional values (lower taxes, less regulations, more individual freedoms)
- Liberals (Democrats) favor progressive social values, and social programs (Higher taxes, more government supports, more regulation on business)

Differences in Thought

Democrats and Republicans tend to disagree over evidence of and main causes of climate change

% of U.S. adults who say ...



Note: Republicans and Democrats include independents and others who "lean" toward the parties. Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted March 27-April 9, 2018.

"Majorities See Government Efforts to Protect the Environment as Insufficient"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Third Parties

- Libertarian (Tends to be far right) – In favor of having very few taxes, very few government regulations, letting people and businesses decide what is best for themselves
- Green Party (Tends to be far left) – Emphasizes environmentalism and social justice over needs of businesses. Pushes for equal rights for individuals and non-violence.
- American Socialist Party (Tends to be far left) – Favors bigger government with higher taxes, in return government provides more social services such as healthcare, education, employment assistance
- Tea Party (Tends to be far left) – Similar to libertarian, but more focus on fiscal responsibility and lowering national debt

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- NGOs focus on more specific issues and addressing specific problems
- Usually reduced pay due to reliance on public funding and donations.
 - Sometimes referred to as “non-profit organizations”
 - Workers accept conditions since it is a cause they believe in
 - Can play a large role in protecting environment and educating public



Getting Involved in Political Process

- Volunteer or contribute to a campaign or Party
 - Door Knockers or Call Centers
- Contact Representatives
 - Voice opinion on important topics
- Run for political office!

