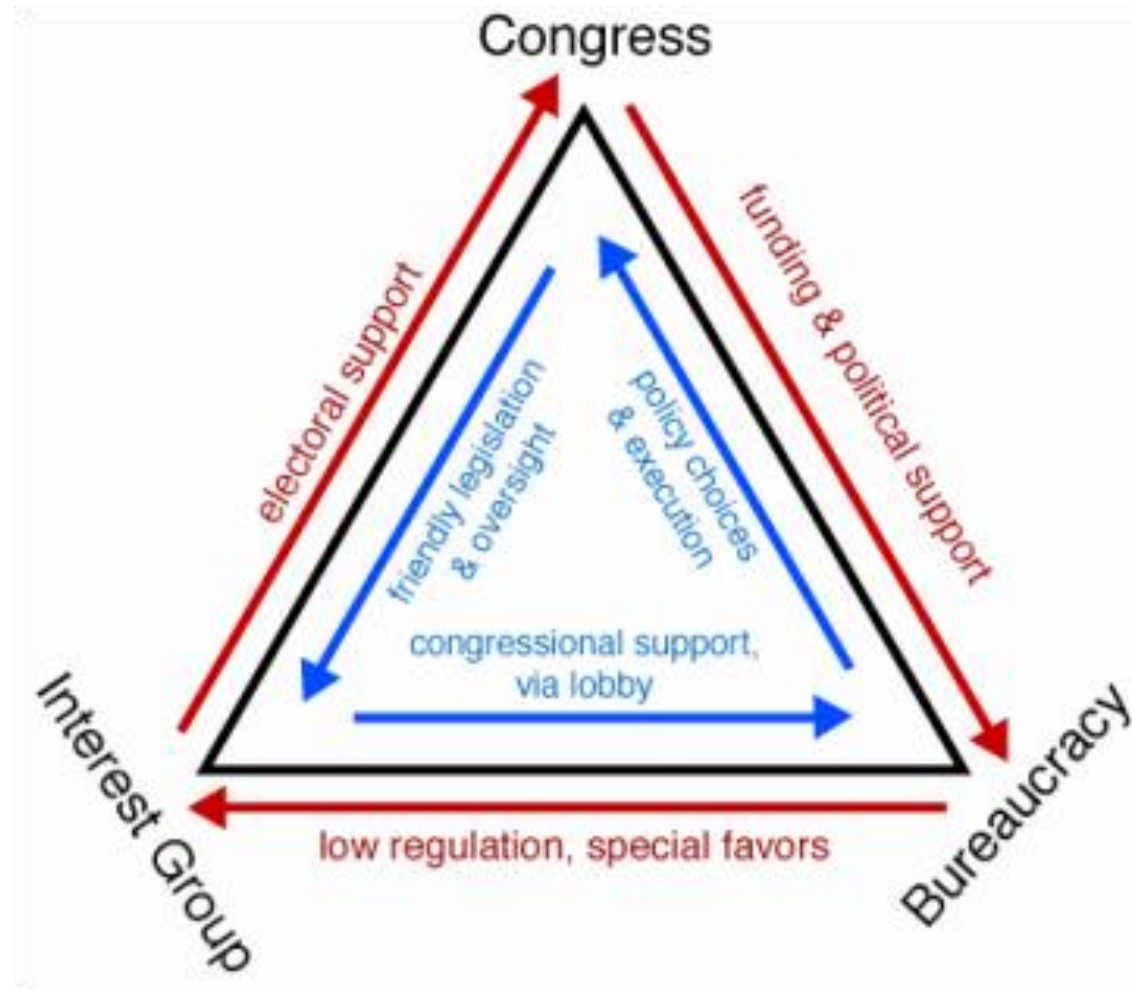




Political Parties and Lobbyists



The Iron Triangle





Interest Groups

- Political Interest groups are collective groups that allow like-minded individuals to have their voices heard
 - Interest groups seek positive benefits to promote the group's interests
 - Ex. Environmental Interests work to gain favor in the government and protect the planet





Purpose of Interest Groups

- Interest groups seek to pass legislation and influence the political process to protect their interests, or further their political aims
 - Ex. Pro-Abortion Interests groups work to protect the right to abortions working against the Anti-Abortion Interest Groups





Lobbyists

- Lobbyists are individuals who represent interest groups
 - Many Lobbyists are former legislatures
 - Lobbyists are normally very well paid to influence legislation
- Lobbyists work directly for groups or as needed





Role of Lobbyists

- Lobbyists have become integral parts of the political process due to their knowledge and expertise
 - Sources of information, ideas and innovations.
 - Ex. How a particular group would react to a particular law
 - Can help politicians strategize how to pass or block legislation
 - They can help create a campaign strategy and get interest groups to support the candidate





Lobbyists in Washington D.C.

- Direct Lobbying – Where interest groups meet directly with an officeholder to get them to support or change policy
- Drafting Legislation – Lobbyists will draft bills for congressmen to introduce to the House or Senate
- Research – Lobbyists repair reports about legislation to attempt to sway opinion and votes, as well is inform politicians about issues
- Hearings – Staff can testify before congress to support or attack pieces of legislation



Lobbying outside Washington D.C.

- Grassroots Lobbying – Coordinate Interest group members to aid lobbyists by contacting politicians, recruiting members, or protesting
- Electioneering – Raising funds within interest groups to aid candidates
 - Funding PACs to raise campaign funds





Political Parties

- Political Parties are broad organizations of like-minded individuals
- Similar values and idea of role of government
 - Conservatives favor limited federal government, and traditional values
 - Liberals favor progressive social values, and social programs

Political Parties in America





Party Functions: Candidate Recruitment



- In order to have more say in the government political parties work hard to help representatives from their party get elected.
 - Work at the Federal, State, and local levels
- Difficult to get good candidates
 - Needs to meet party ideologies, have the proper background, and have the commitment and finances to support an election



Party Functions: Organizing Elections

- Elections take a lot of time, money, resources, and experience
 - Too much for any one person to handle, especially if they have never done it before
 - Parties help with resources, support, and ideas for running effective campaigns.





Party Functions: Establishing Platforms

- Party leadership helps direct party members to form platforms
 - Part positions on certain topics such as foreign policy, the economy, public policy, etc...
 - Helps clearly state what voters are getting if they elect a member of the party
 - Candidate Platforms formulated with help from the party

Party Platform Comparison		
Based On 2010 State Platforms		
ISSUE	REPUBLICANS	DEMOCRATS
New State Income Tax (I-1098)	Republicans oppose the initiative for a new state income tax (I-1098) because we can't afford another job-killing tax increase.	Democrats support the initiative for a new state income tax, despite a lingering recession and high unemployment.
2/3 Vote to Raise Taxes (I-1053)	Republicans support reinstating the requirement of a two-thirds majority vote of the Legislature to raise our taxes (I-1053).	Democrats abolished the voter-approved two-thirds requirement for tax increases and now oppose reinstating the law.
Crime & Public Safety	Republicans support "Three Strikes, You're Out" sentences for career criminals, and the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms to defend themselves.	Democrats would eliminate "Three Strikes, You're Out" sentences for career criminals, legalize marijuana, and slap further restrictions on private gun ownership.
Education	Republicans believe that parental choice through vouchers, tax credits and charter schools will result in "wider choices, higher quality, more innovation and lower costs."	Democrats resist parental choices. They oppose all charter schools and voucher programs. They also oppose requiring military recruiters access to public schools.
Elections	Republicans oppose the automatic restoration of a felon's ability to vote, and we support the Electoral College as an important protection for every state.	Democrats believe felons should vote, even if they have not completed all the conditions of their sentence, and they support the abolition of the Electoral College.
Energy & Environment	Republicans are committed to American energy independence. We oppose Cap & Trade as a massive job-killing energy tax that will do nothing to help the environment.	Democrats are committed to the implementation of a new Cap & Trade energy tax, even in the middle of the current economic recession.
Family	Republicans support marriage as the union of one man and one woman, and believe the family is the first and most important institution which preserves a free society.	Democrats support the following redefinition of marriage: "Marriage, as a legal union of consenting adults, should not be restricted by sexual orientation or gender identity."
Health Care	Republicans oppose a government takeover of health care. We support competition among health care providers and giving patients more choices.	Democrats call for a government-run "single-payer national health care plan" with numerous mandates and no choices available to patients.
Immigration	Republicans are committed to securing our national borders and implementing an enforceable guest-worker program, but oppose amnesty for illegal immigrants.	Democrats believe illegal immigrants should receive amnesty and free access to tax-funded services such as health care and public education.
National Defense	Republicans believe that "a strong America is a free America." We support policies which defend our national security and ensure peace through strength.	Democrats support a cabinet-level "Department of Peace and Nonviolence" and want to "make nonviolence the primary organizing principle of our foreign policy."
Taxes and Spending	Republicans oppose all new tax increases. We believe that "limited government is the foundation of a free society," and thus support fiscal responsibility in government.	Democrats support a new state income tax, higher Social Security taxes, and more government spending in every category except for national defense.



Party Functions: Operate the Government



- Party leadership helps make decisions and suggestions to other party members
 - Can make suggestions on appointment
 - Selects legislative leaders
- Party members rely on the knowledge of experienced party members to help further their causes



Party Functions: Strengthen the Party



- Parties help organize members in government under the direction of party leaders
 - Endorse candidates
 - Provide organized resistance to other parties
 - Help raise funds for electing more party members
 - Supporting bills that help party