



POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

**Unit 5** : AP Test Review

**20%-27%**

**UNIT 5**

# LAST MONTH REVIEW STRATEGY

## BIG ARGUMENTS

Make sure you can articulate answers, develop thesis statements, and contextualize these big arguments.

## KEY POINTS

Review these key points, narrowed down from our notes throughout the year. Pay particular attention to bolded terms.

## CONTEXT

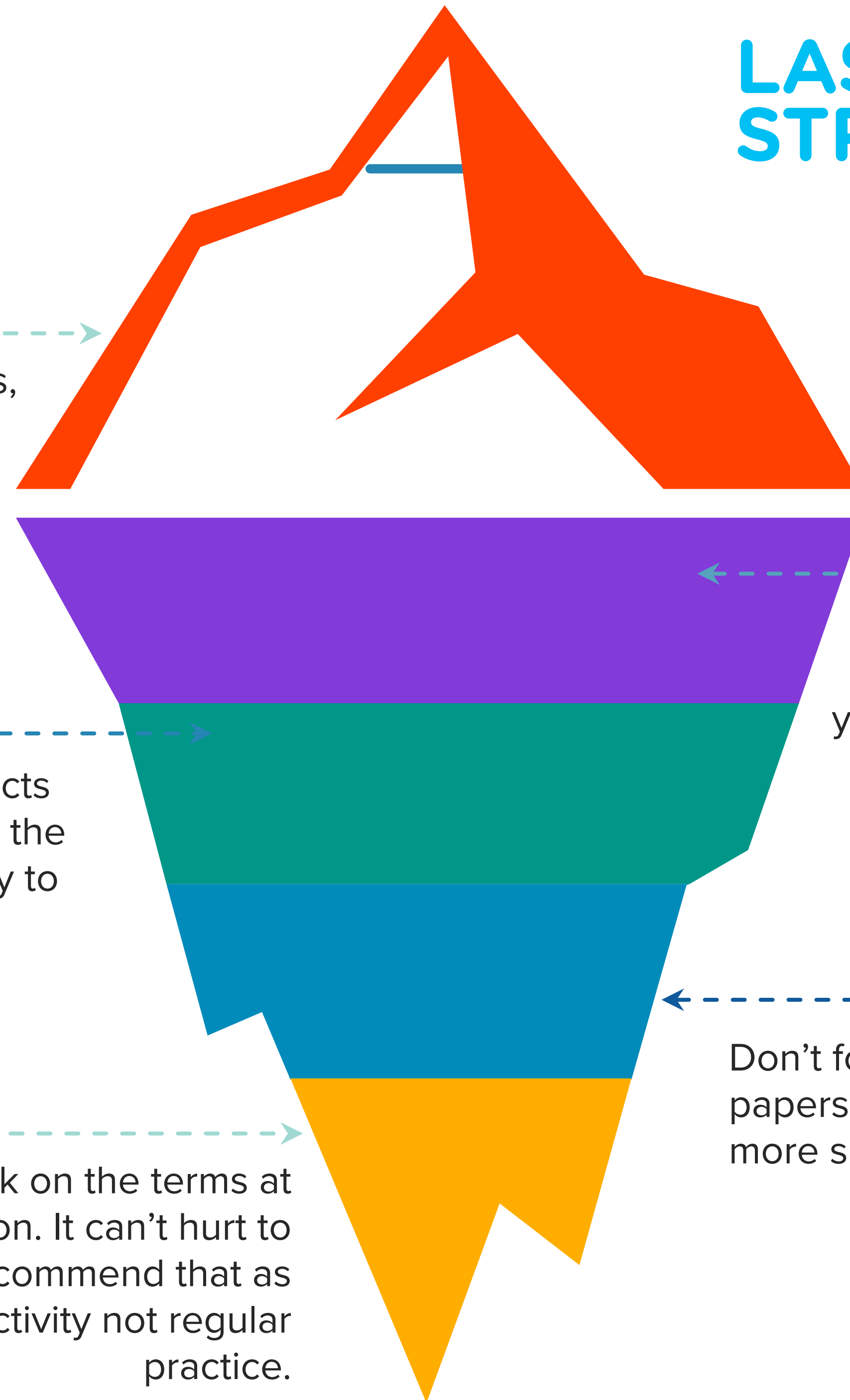
Think about how each unit connects to others. For instance, how does the compromise that denied humanity to slaves connect to the Civil Rights Movement?

## TEST PREP

Don't forget to review rubrics, sample papers, multiple choice questions and more specific test prep!

## TERMS

Your lowest priority is to work on the terms at the end of the presentation. It can't hurt to review those, but I would recommend that as a quick, periodic Quizlet activity not regular practice.



# THE BIG ARGUMENTS

**MAJOR THEMES AND CONCEPTS**

# THE BIG ARGUMENTS

- ✓ Political ideology, demographics, structural barriers, and campaigns influence the degree and nature of political participation in the U.S.
- ✓ Political parties, interest groups, and social movements provide opportunities for people to connect to their government.
- ✓ While the American political system has been dominated by two parties, the two parties have shifted and evolved over time, and they have adopted ideas from third parties.
- ✓ Interest groups have a profound influence on American politics, for good and for bad.
- ✓ The process for electing candidates for President and Congress is a blend of democratic and procedural institutions.
- ✓ Various forms of media act as linkage institutions connecting Americans with their government.
- ✓ The role of money is incredibly important in American political campaigns.

# KEY POINTS

**KEY POINTS WORTH LOCKING AWAY IN THE BRAIN**

A photograph of a crowd of people at what appears to be a political rally or protest. The central focus is a large, hand-drawn sign on a piece of cardboard. The sign reads "YOU GONNA VOTE THIS TIME?" in blue and red marker. The word "VOTE" is written in large, red, 3D block letters, while "YOU GONNA" and "THIS TIME?" are in blue. The background is filled with the heads and shoulders of other people, some wearing hats, and green foliage is visible in the distance. The overall atmosphere is one of active civic participation.

YOU GONNA  
VOTE  
THIS TIME?

**Voting & Participation**

## VOTING

# VOTING

- ▶ Over time **suffrage**, or qualifications for voting, expanded.
- ▶ **Fifteenth Amendment (1870)**
- ▶ **Nineteenth Amendment (1920)**
- ▶ **Twenty-fourth Amendment (1964)**
- ▶ **Twenty-sixth Amendment (1971)**
- ▶ Voters must **register** to become voters in their local areas.

S. J. Res. 7

## Ninety-second Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Began and held at the City of Washington on Thursday, the twenty-first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-one*

### Joint Resolution

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States extending the right to vote to citizens eighteen years of age or older.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:*

#### "ARTICLE —

"SECTION 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

"Sec. 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

*Carl Albert*  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

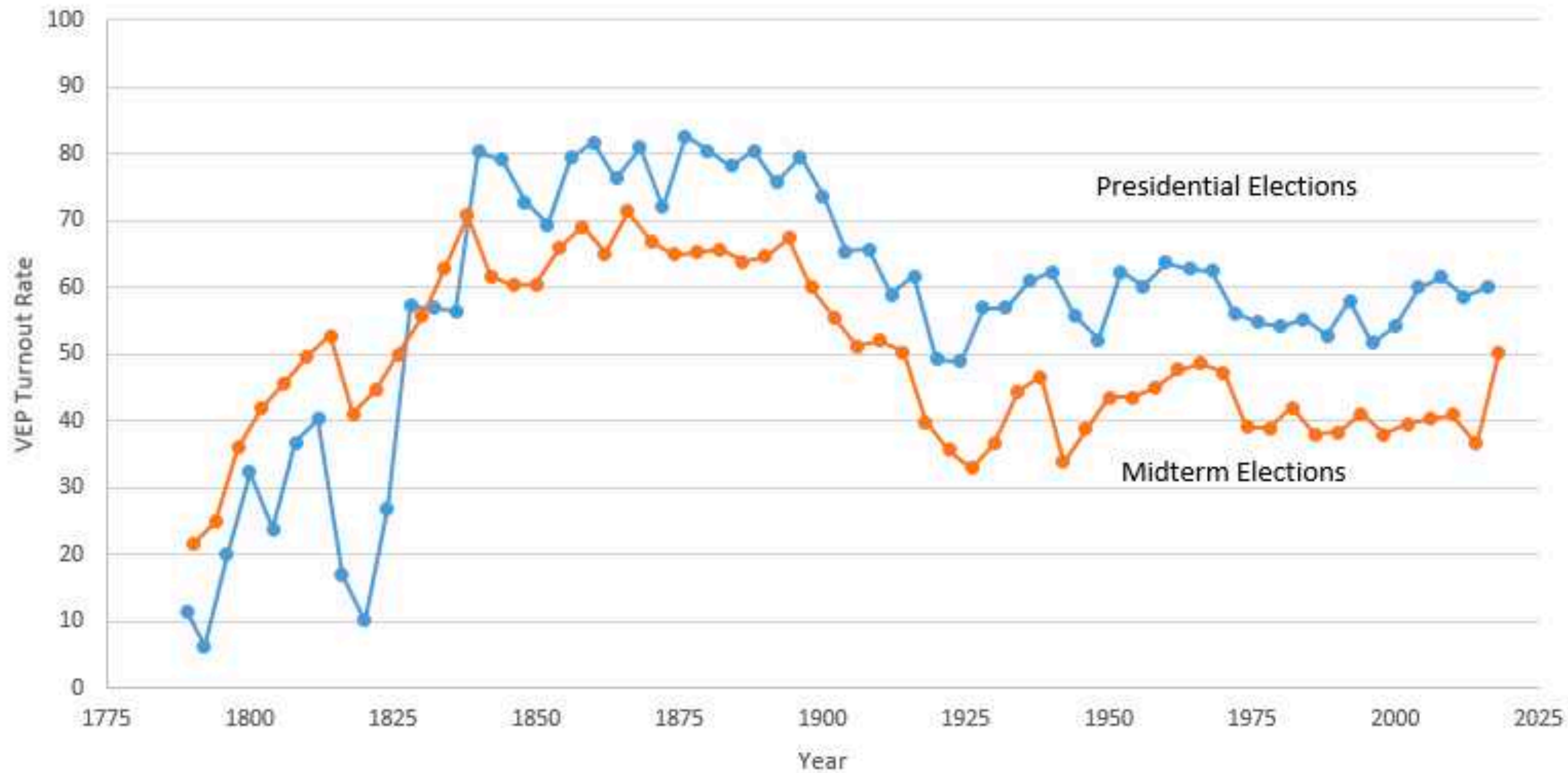
*Hubert H. Lehman*  
Vice President of the United States and  
President of the Senate *pro Tempore*





# VOTER TURNOUT OVER TIME

United States VEP Turnout Rates 1789-2018



- ▶ US voter turnout is low compared to other democracies. In 2016, the US ranked 30 of 35 nations.
- ▶ **Who votes more often?**
  - ▶ Women over men
  - ▶ Older Americans over younger
  - ▶ Whiter Americans over POC
  - ▶ Educated over less-educated
  - ▶ Wealthy over less wealthy

# WHY ARE VOTING RATES LOW?

- ▶ Voters claim they are too busy, their vote doesn't count or that the parties don't represent them.
- ▶ There are **systemic obstacles to voting**, too:
  - ▶ **Historical racist practices**: poll taxes, literacy tests, grandfather clause, white primary
  - ▶ **Contemporary voter suppression**: end to Voting Rights Act preclearance, Voter ID, limited polling stations, purges, felon disenfranchisement.

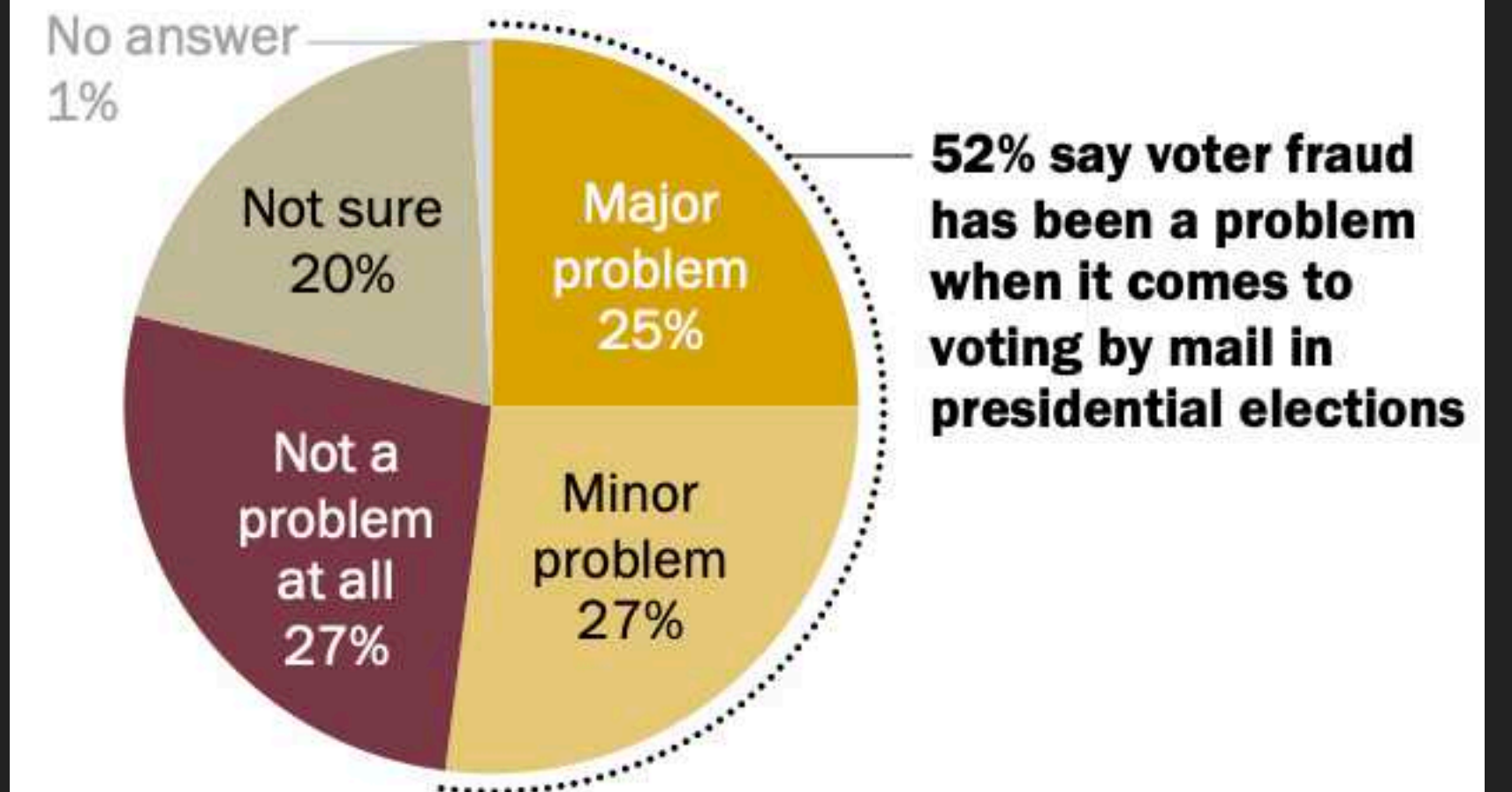


## 2000 ELECTION

- ▶ In 1993, the National Voter Registration Act encouraged voter registration, most notably with **motor voter**.
- ▶ The contested 2000 election between George Bush and Al Gore spurred reforms.
- ▶ Most notable was the **HAVA (Help America Vote Act)**, which:
  - ▶ Required upgrades to state voting systems
  - ▶ Required verification of identity (not ID, though)
  - ▶ Funded upgrades
- ▶ Democrats are currently advancing the **John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act**, but it is stalled in the Senate.

### One-in-four Americans think voter fraud has been a major problem with voting by mail, contrary to evidence

*% of U.S. adults who say voter fraud has been a \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to voting by mail in U.S. presidential elections*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020. "Political Divides, Conspiracy Theories and Divergent News Sources Heading Into 2020 Election"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# VOTING MECHANICS

- ▶ Most voters in the US are registered in a **precinct** (up to 1000 voters). At a typical **polling place**, voters from many precincts will vote.
- ▶ Before voting, voters must **register**. Nearly 40 states permit online voter registration and 19 states plus the District of Columbia permit **same-day registration**. Montana just ended it. :(
- ▶ Elections in the US use the **Australian ballot**. Ballots must show all candidates and be voted in private.
- ▶ More Americans (especially in 2020) are using **absentee ballots**. These used to be reserved for special circumstances, but many states now encourage them.
- ▶ If there is a question about a voter, her vote is a **provisional ballot**, subject to later verification.

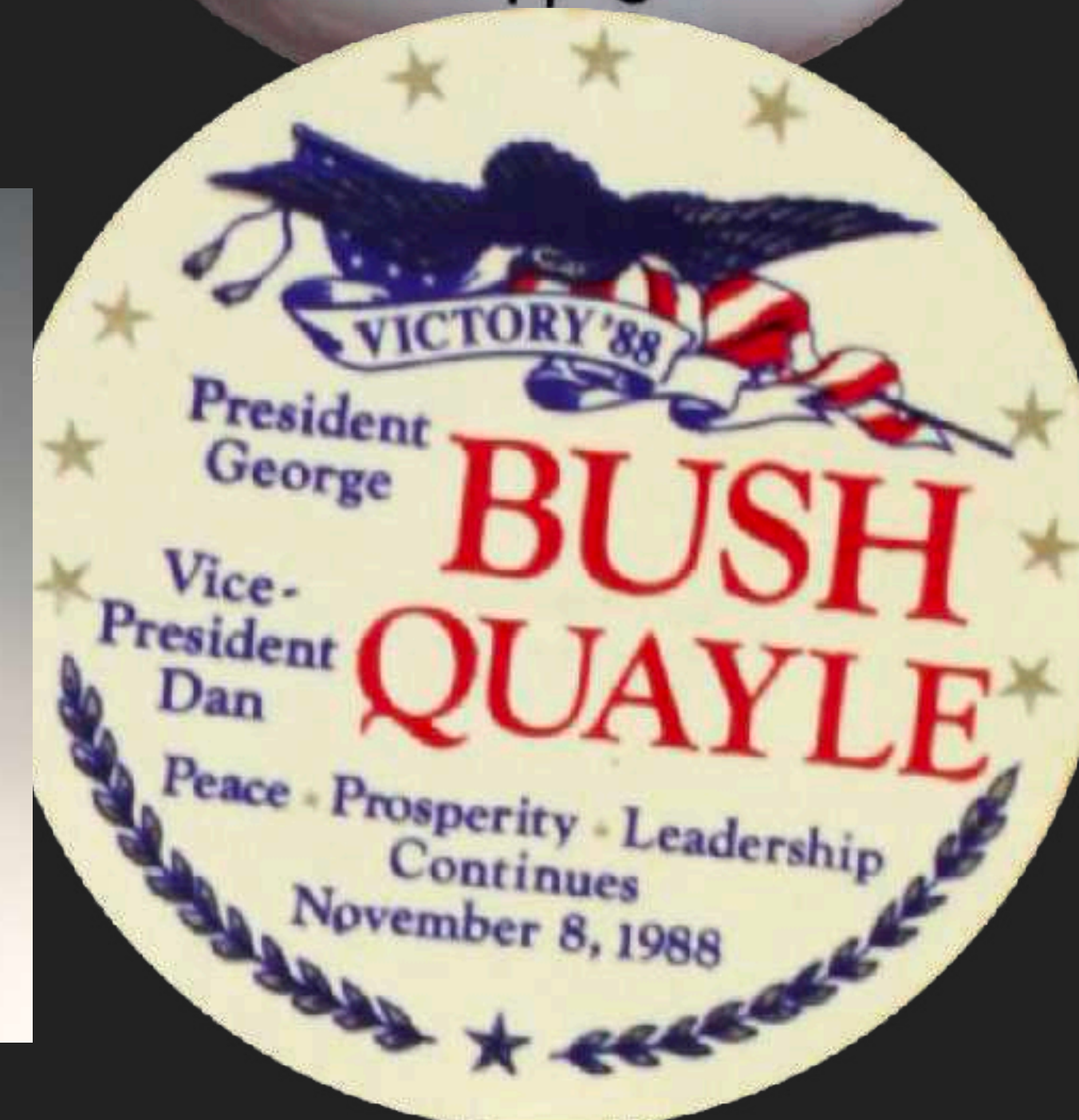
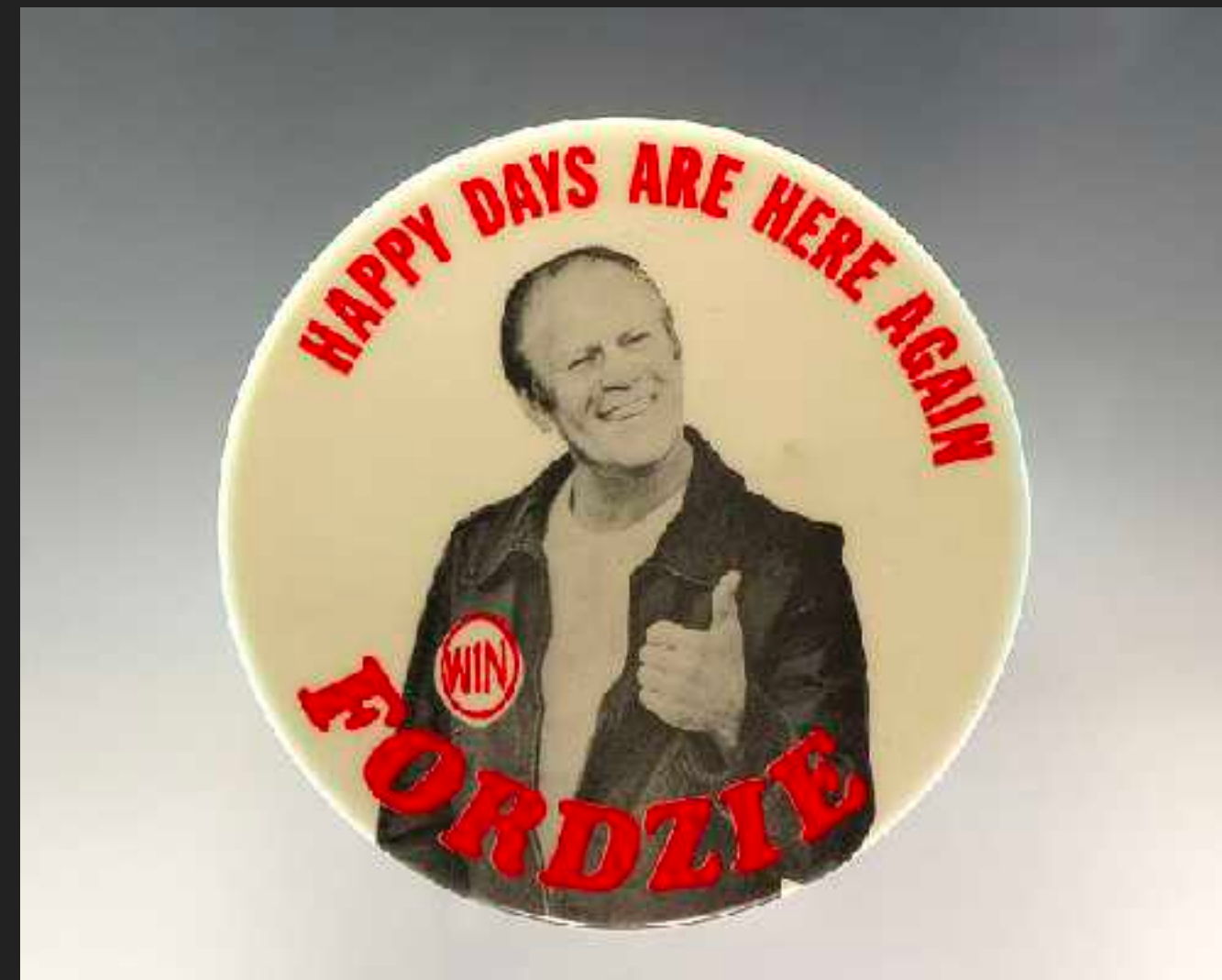




# Elections

### BEFORE THE ELECTION

- ▶ Before a candidate decides to run, she faces the **invisible primary**: the somewhat bizarre process by which a combination of **media coverage** and **fundraising** determine whether a candidate is **viable**.
- ▶ **Incumbents** have a series of advantages:
  - ▶ Bully pulpit
  - ▶ Network of campaign donors/staff
  - ▶ Four years of experience
- ▶ Incumbent success rests most often on **approval rating**.



## PRIMARIES & CAUCUSES

- ▶ The race to be elected in both parties is a series of contests at the state level.
- ▶ **Primaries** are elections for registered voters.
  - ▶ What is the difference between an **open**, **closed**, and **blanket/jungle** primary?
- ▶ **Caucuses** are meetings where people give speeches, persuade, and negotiate for candidate support.
  - ▶ These are very time-consuming and tend to represent the views of more partisan voters.



## IOWA AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

- ▶ **Iowa** is the first caucus every four years.
- ▶ **New Hampshire** is, by state law, the **first primary** every four years.
- ▶ Other states have moved their primaries up in the calendar, too, a **front-loading** that often sees primary season wrap up very early.
- ▶ **Super Tuesday** is an important early date when a lot of states hold their votes.



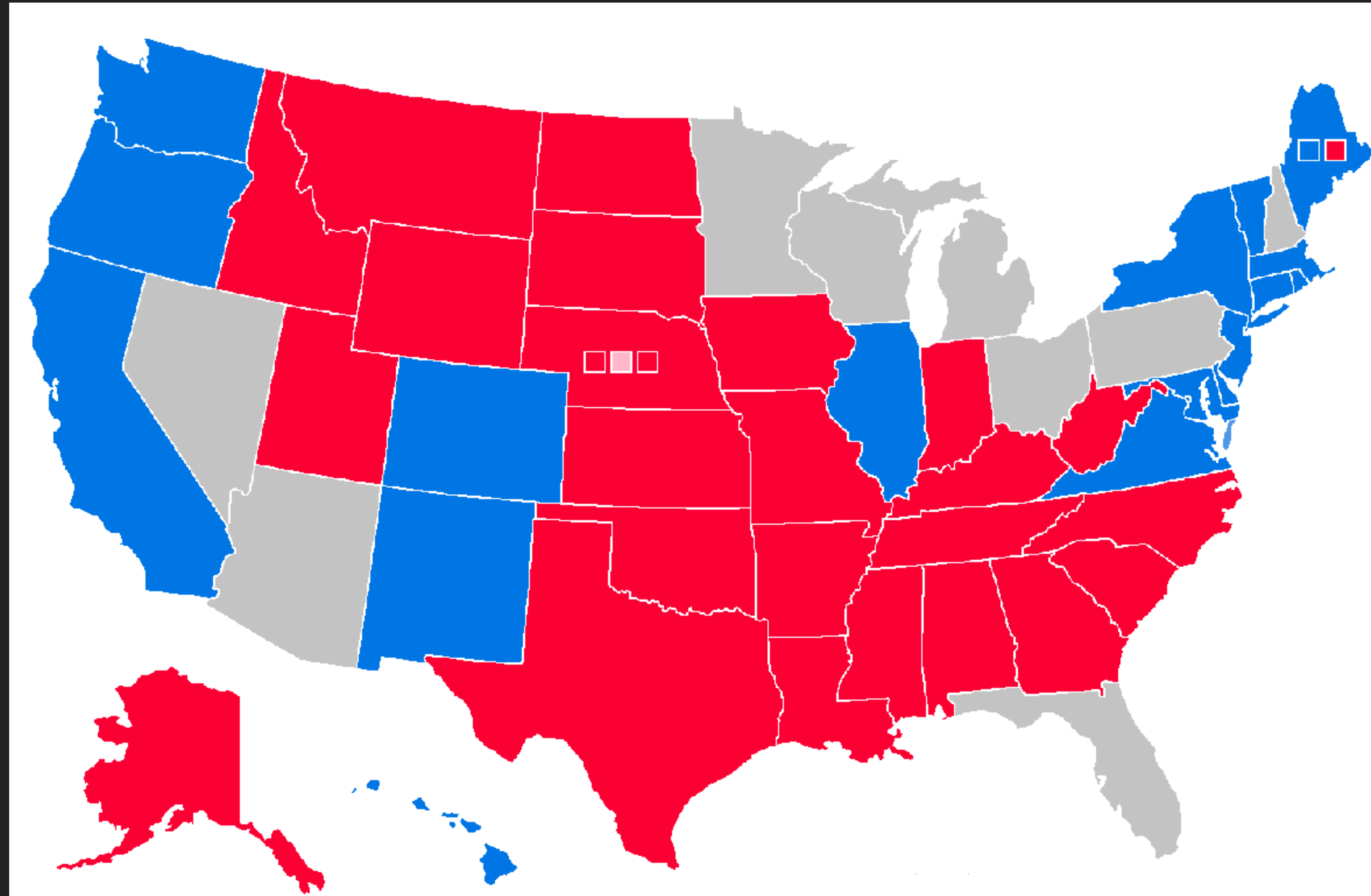
**So My  
Daughter  
Knows**

**She Can Be  
President.  
Hillary 16**



# GENERAL ELECTION

- ▶ Much of the energy is focused on **swing states**, states that could either vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate.
- ▶ Most advertising revenue and campaigning is spent in these states.

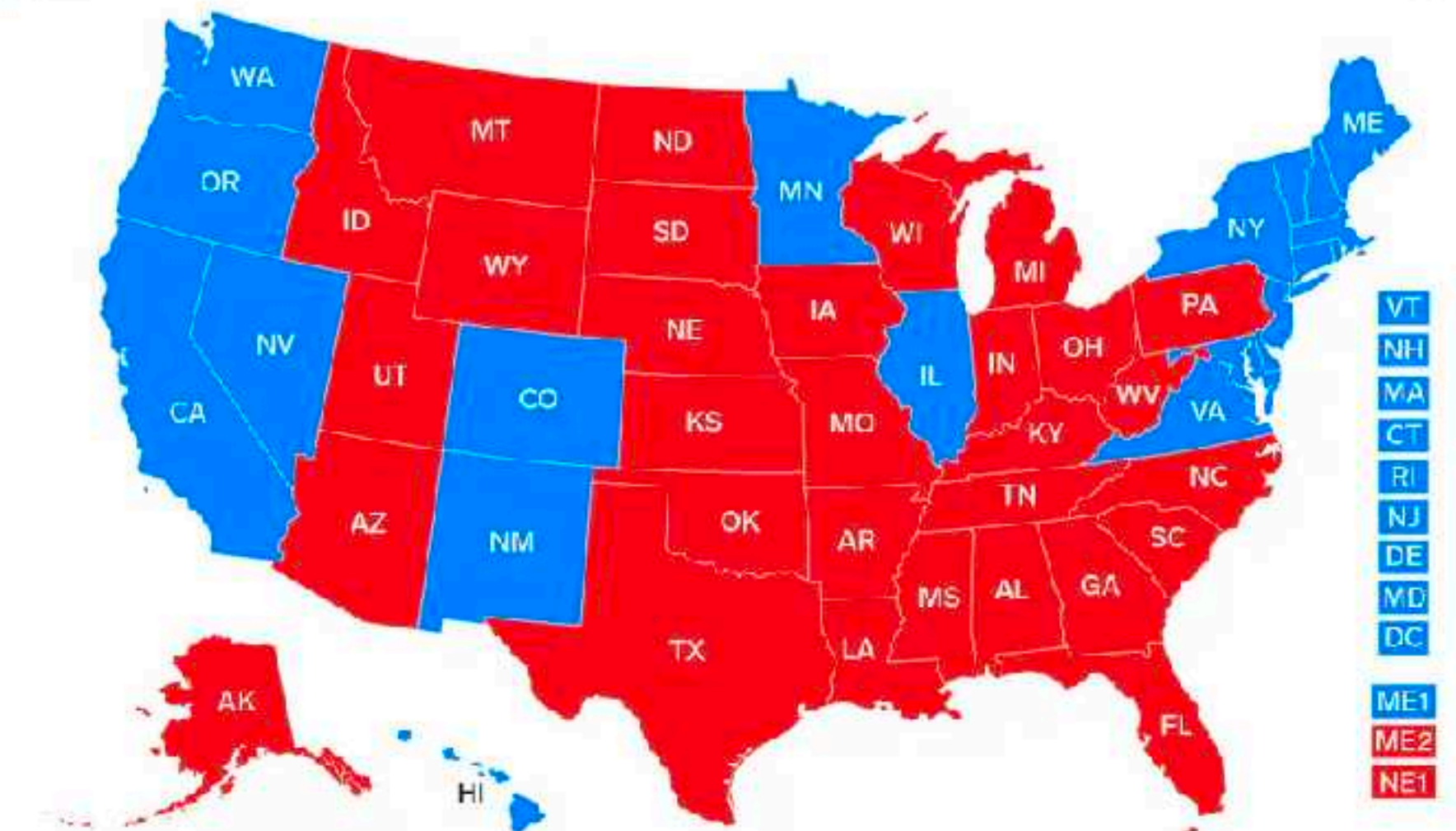
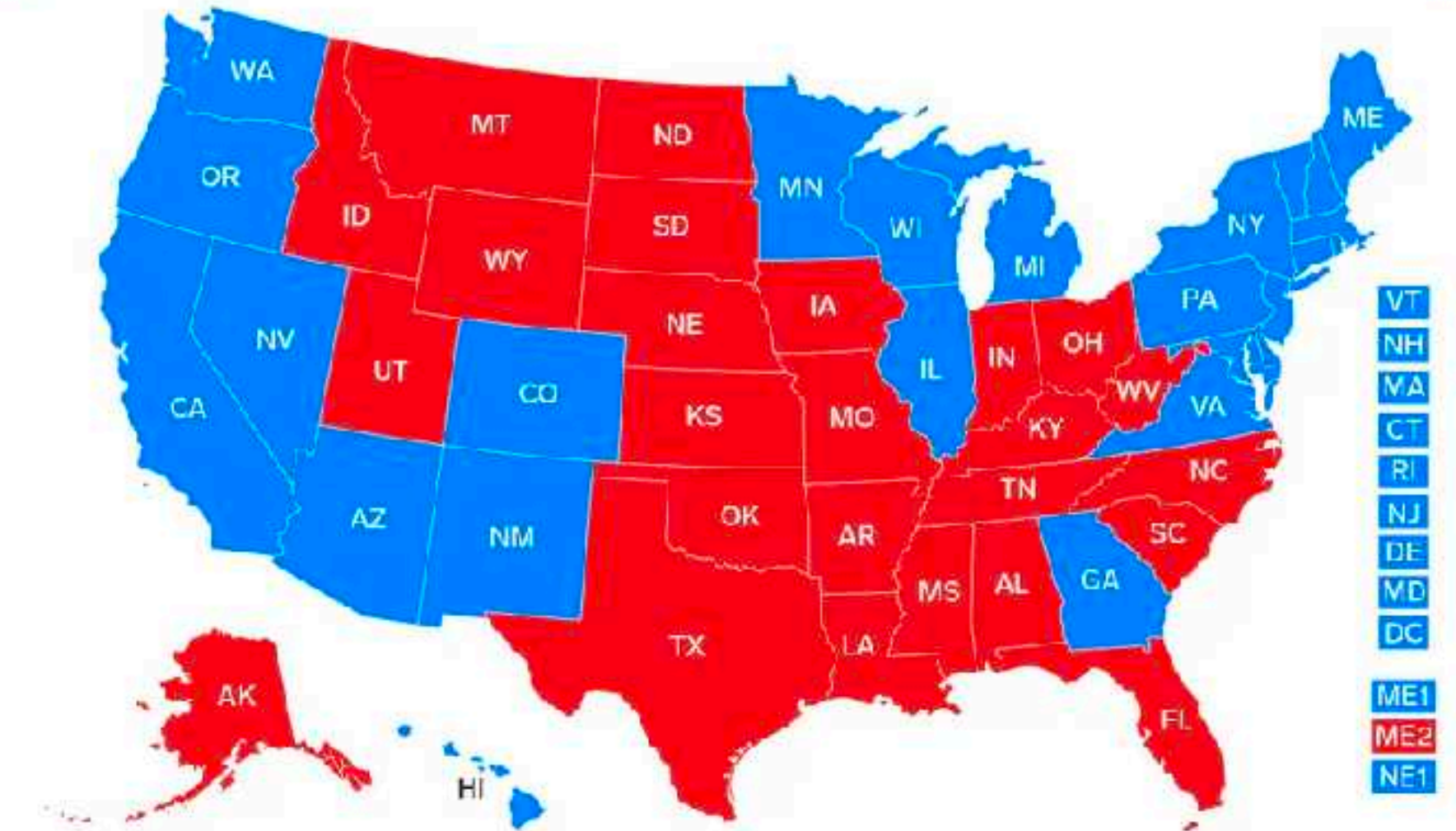


2020 SWING STATES

# GENERAL ELECTION

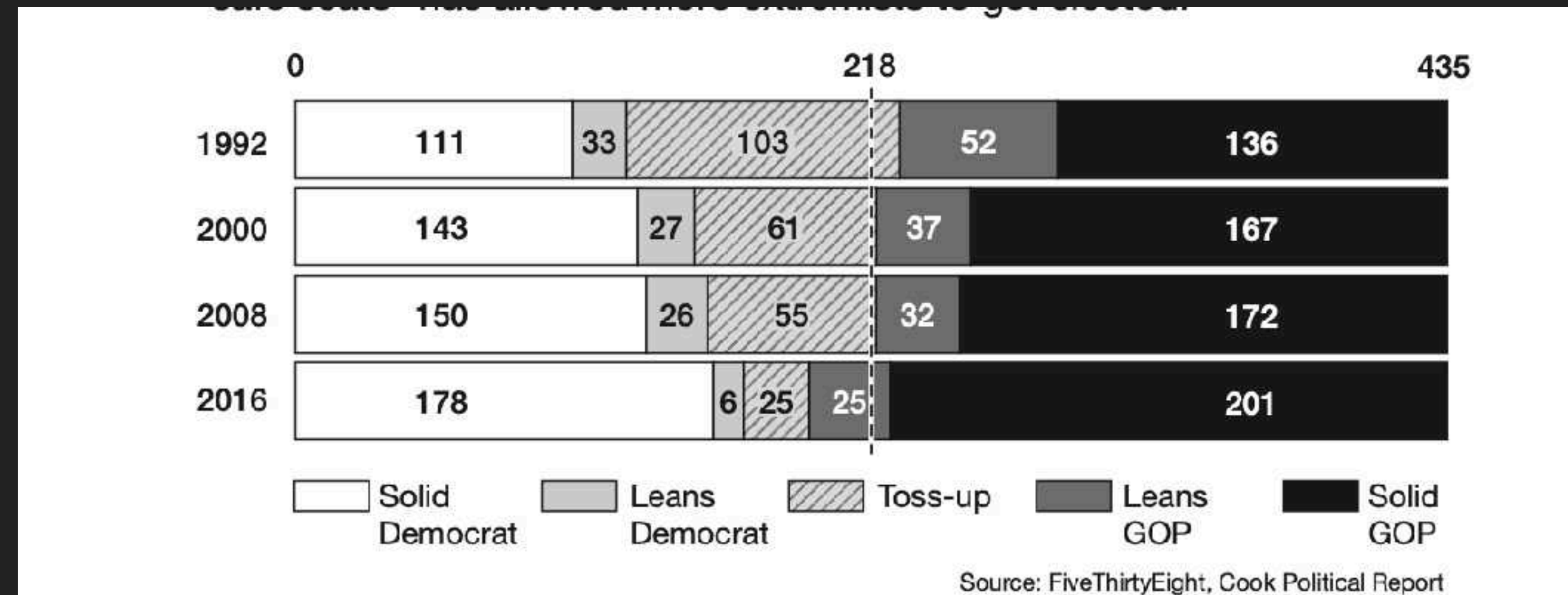
## ELECTORAL COLLEGE

- ▶ The prize, of course, is **270** votes in the **Electoral College**.
- ▶ Review: How did the **12th Amendment** change this?
- ▶ How did the **23rd Amendment**?
- ▶ In all but two states, electoral votes are **winner-takes all**.
- ▶ Five Presidents have been elected after winning the Electoral Vote and losing the popular vote.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

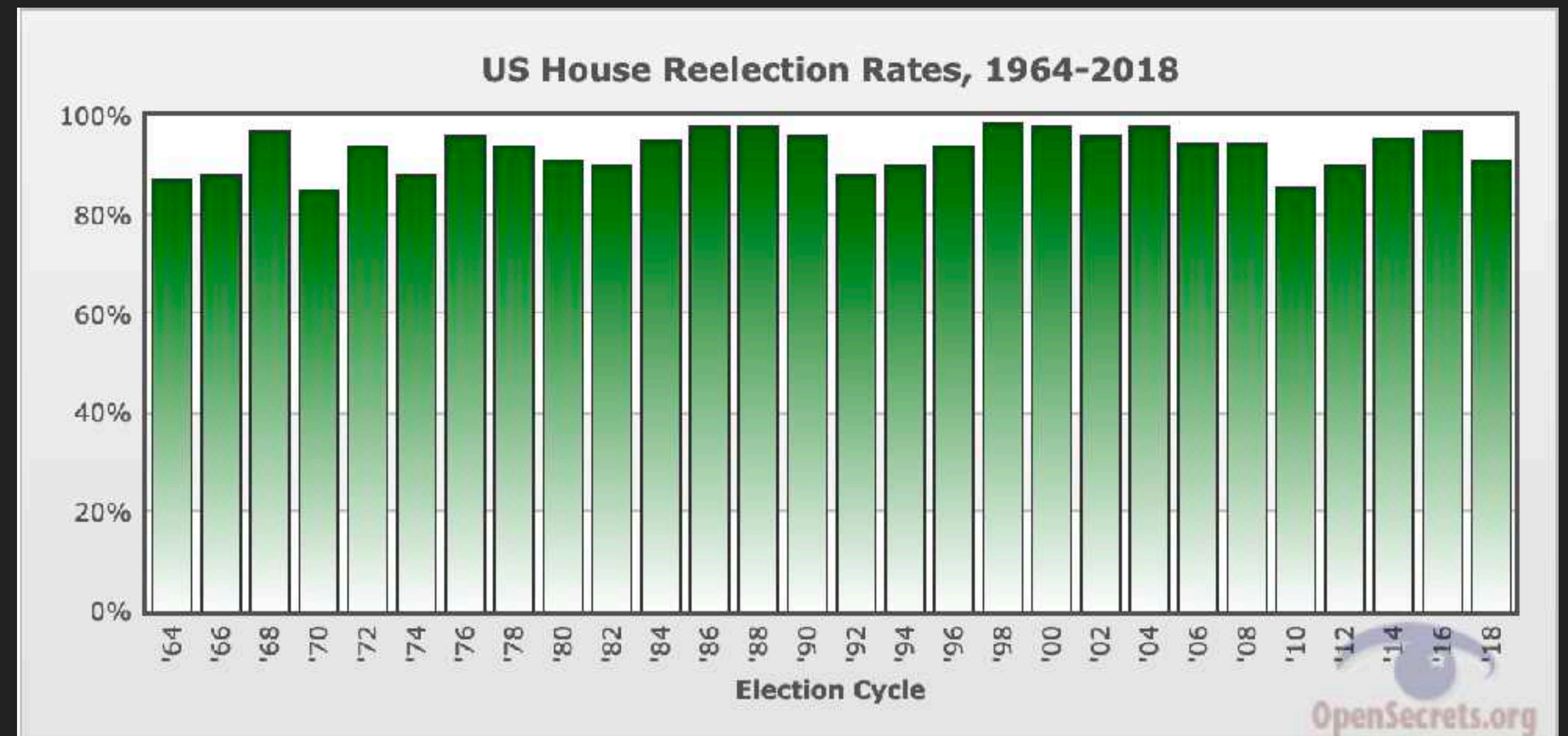
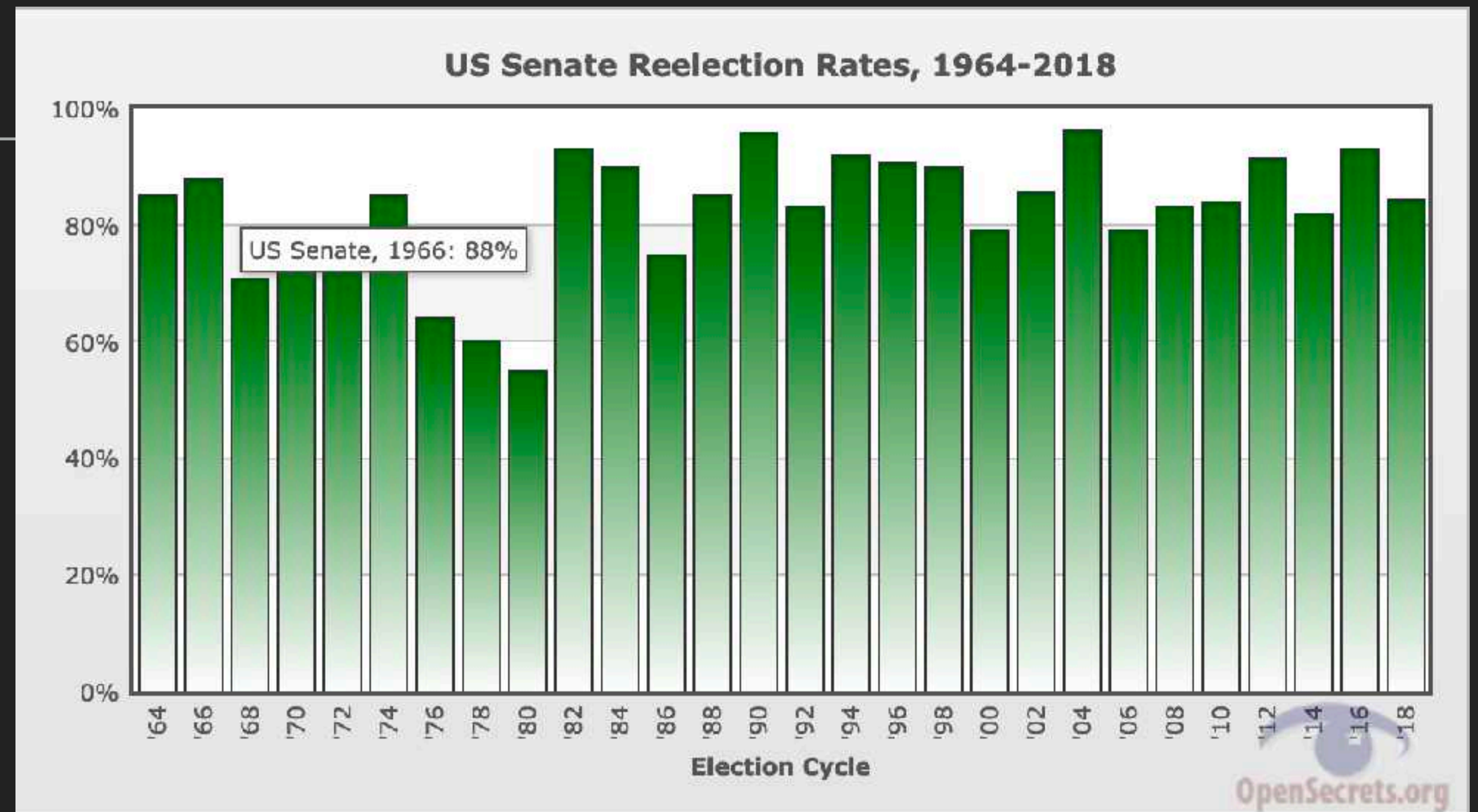
- ▶ **Every member of the House** has to face re-election every two years.
- ▶ **1/3 of the Senators** face re-election every two years, ensuring more continuity in the body.
- ▶ Senators must win election across the whole state; members of the House represent **districts** inside their states.
- ▶ **Gerrymandering** has created a situation where over 75% of House seats are considered **safe seats**, where either a D or R win is almost assured.



## CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

# INCUMBENT ADVANTAGES

- ▶ House incumbents regularly win 94% of their races, Senate incumbents win 86% of the time.
  - ▶ Name recognition
  - ▶ PAC contributions break 12:1 for incumbents
  - ▶ House incumbents
  - ▶ Franking privilege
  - ▶ Media coverage
- ▶ Incumbents are more vulnerable during **mid-term elections** when they share the President's party.





# Campaigns

# CAMPAIGNS

- ▶ Candidates generally seek to **define themselves and their opponents**.
- ▶ **Negativity** has become the dominant characteristic of general elections, with as many as 3/4 of ads appealing to anger.
- ▶ The dominant factor in many campaigns is **advertising** in social media and television, with Senate races costing as much as \$30 million per candidate.
- ▶ The impact of advertising is debated.



### 1970S

- ▶ In 1971, Congress passed the **Federal Elections Campaign Act**, which increased disclosure/reporting requirements and attempted to restrict spending.
- ▶ In 1974, Congress also created the **Federal Election Commission**, entrusted with overseeing election spending.
- ▶ For more than a decade, the bipartisan structure of the FEC Commission has made it totally ineffective, with almost 40% of votes ending in a 3-3 deadlock.
- ▶ **Buckley v. Valeo** (1976) upheld most of the FEC.



## HARD AND SOFT MONEY

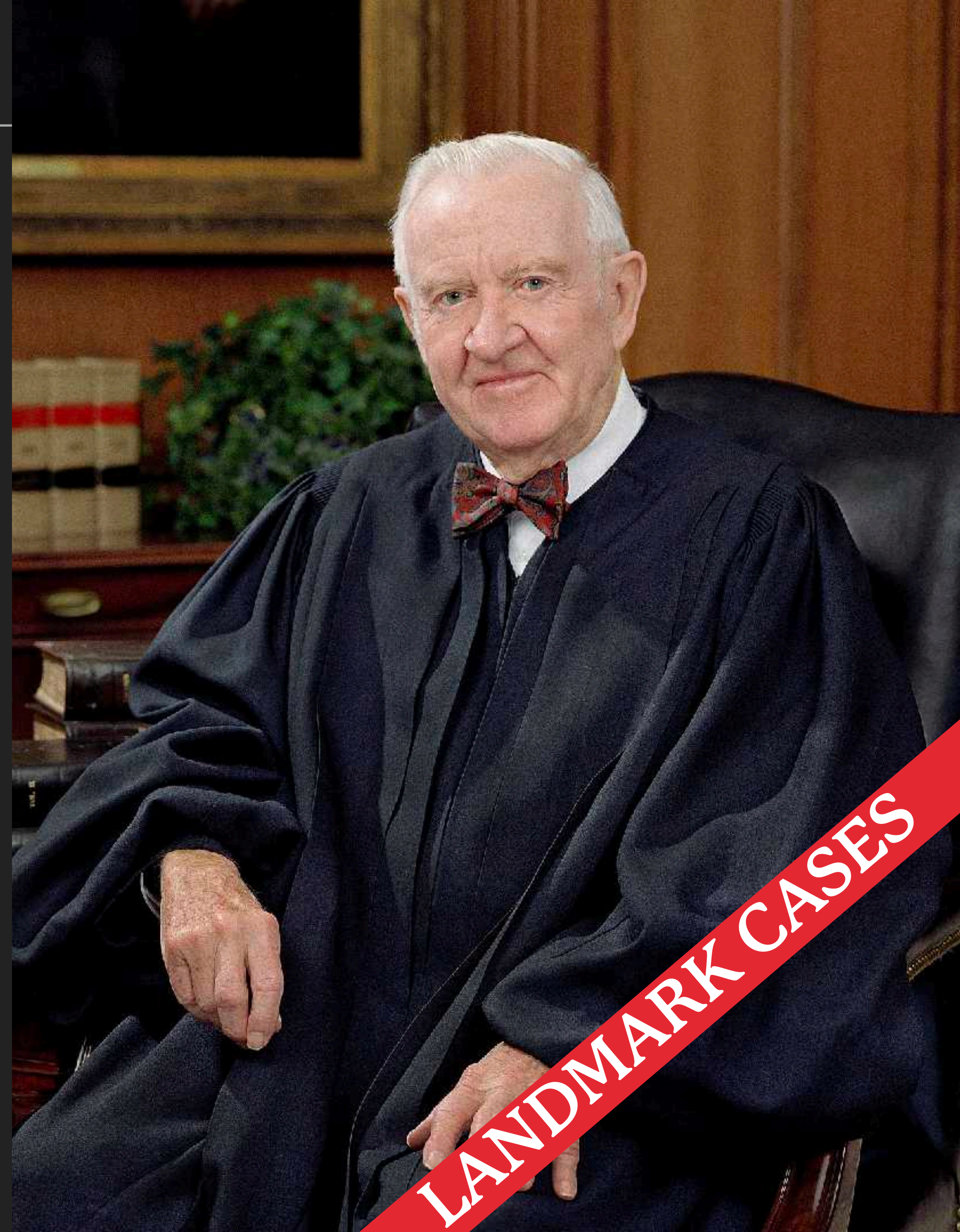
- ▶ While the law could restrict **hard money**—direct donations to candidates—it could do little against **soft money**—donations to parties and interest groups.
- ▶ The **McCain-Feingold Act (2002)** was a bipartisan effort to control spending. It increased the individual donation limit, but reduced PAC spending and increased disclosure requirements.





## CITIZENS UNITED V. FEC

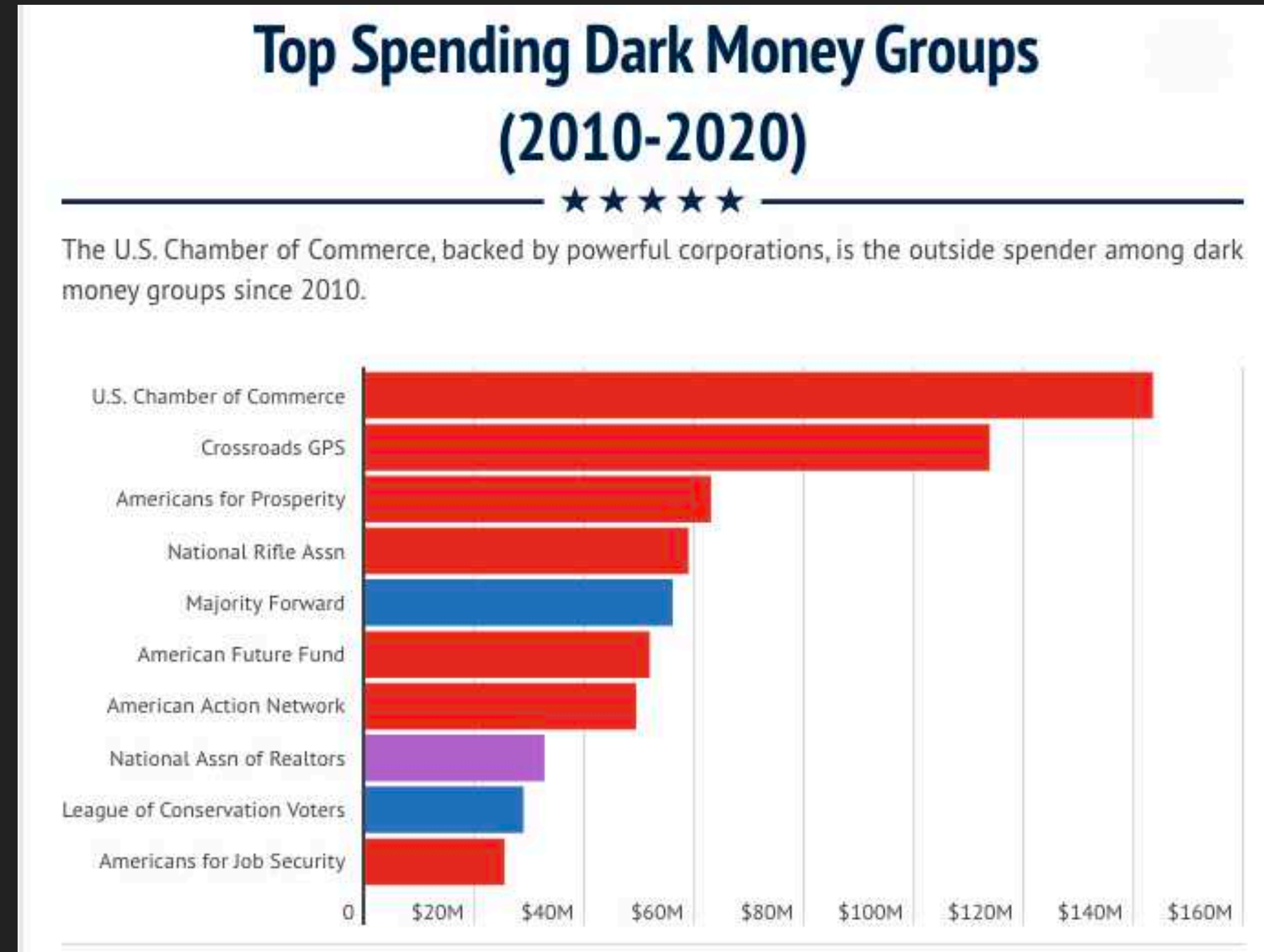
- ▶ In a 5-4 decision, the Court ruled in **Citizens United v. FEC (2010)** that:
  - ▶ The First Amendment **prohibits restrictions on political speech.**
  - ▶ In effect, corporations and unions, among others, **are regarded as holders of individual rights.**
  - ▶ According to Senate Leader Mitch McConnell, the decision was “an important step in the direction of restoring the First Amendment rights.”
  - ▶ According to Justice John Paul Stevens, it was “a rejection of the common sense of the American people, who have recognized a need to prevent corporations from undermining self government.”
- ▶ The result of Citizens United has been an explosion in spending on **dark money** in American elections.



LANDMARK CASES

# IMPACT OF CITIZENS UNITED

- ▶ Lack of transparency: elections have been flooded by **dark money**: unlimited, anonymous donations to soft money groups.
- ▶ The Brennan Center claims that Citizens United threatens the **impartiality of state judges**, permits **foreign spending in American elections**, and gives **disproportionate voice to the rich**.



## POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES

- ▶ Political action committees (PACS) come in four varieties, but we'll review two:
  - ▶ **Connected PACs** are PACs connected to organizations like businesses and unions. They are **separate funds**, not from the budgets of the orgs. [Strict donation limits]
  - ▶ **Super PACs** are the dominant player post-Citizens United. They can raise and spend unlimited funds, but cannot **coordinate** with candidates. [No donation limits]

## SUPER PAC SPENDING

**2010** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$63 MILLION**

**2012** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$610 MILLION**

**2014** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$345 MILLION**

**2016** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$1.1 BILLION**

**2018** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$822 MILLION**

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$2.9 BILLION**

## NATIONAL PARTY STRUCTURE

- ▶ **The Republican National Committee (RNC) and the Democratic National Committee (DNC)** are the major political organization of each party.
- ▶ Each party also has Congressional campaign committees for the House and Senate.
- ▶ **“Dialing for Dollars”**

**“Both parties** have told newly elected members of the Congress that they should **spend 30 hours a week dialing for dollars.”**

— Rep. Rick Nolan  
*CBS 60 Minutes*



# ELECTIONS

- ▶ While parties are playing an ever-larger role in raising money for elections, modern elections are seeing a rise in **candidate-centered campaigns**. Why?
  - ▶ TV, social media, extremely wealthy candidates
- ▶ Parties also play an important role building **coalitions**, collections of voters with different interests.
- ▶ These can be incredibly complicated to maintain and balance the interest of **competing interests**.



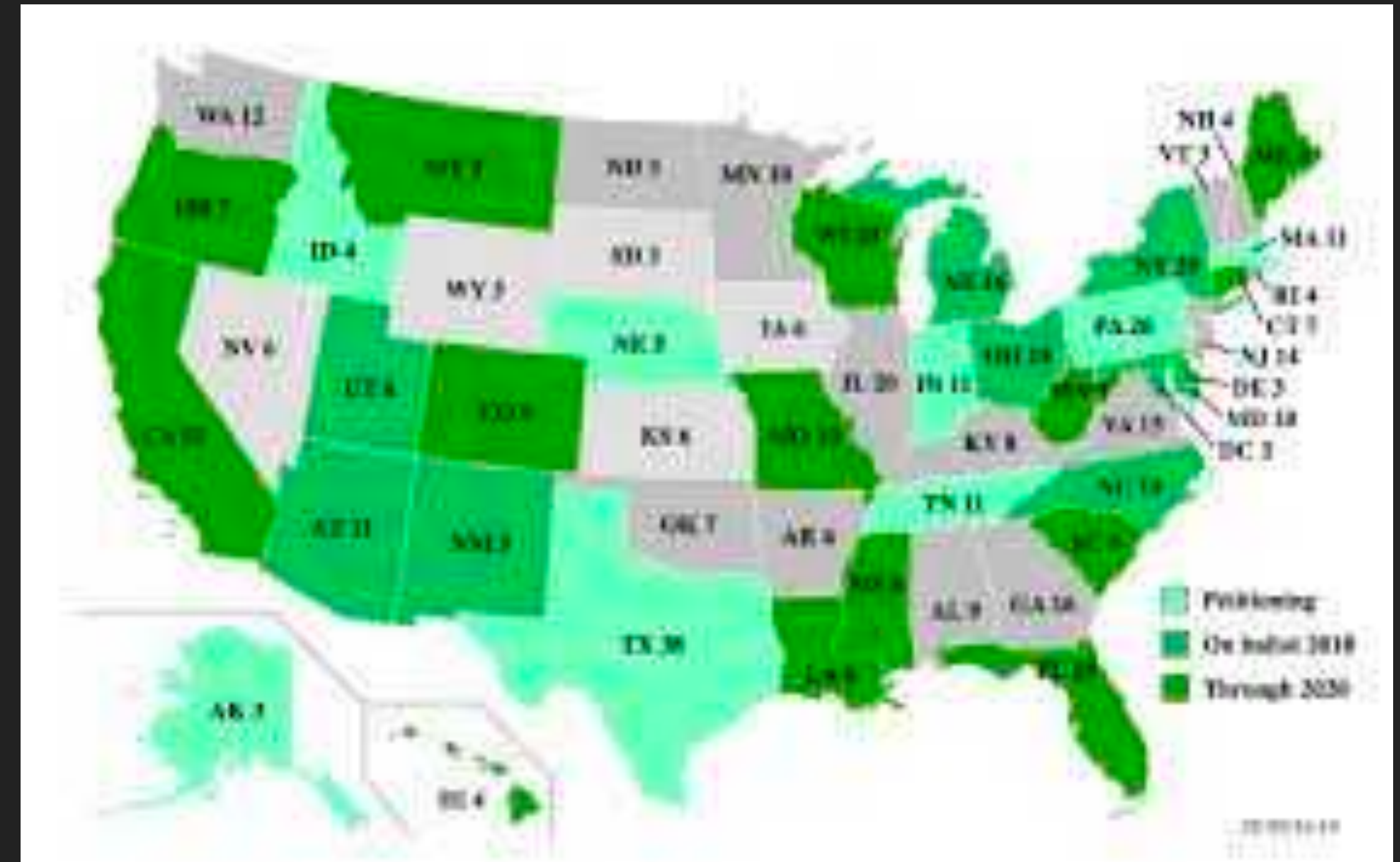
# THIRD PARTIES

- ▶ Third parties have had very limited success in the US.
- ▶ **Ideological parties** like the **Greens** and **Libertarians** attract a very small, dedicated #.
- ▶ **Single-issue parties** form around one defining issue. Prohibition, taxes.
- ▶ **Splinter parties** form when large groups of voters leave a party. Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party and Wallace's segregationist party.



# BARRIERS TO THIRD PARTY SUCCESS

- ▶ There are five main barriers to third party success in the US:
  - ▶ **Money**
  - ▶ **Ballot Access:** many state have heavy restrictions keeping candidates off the ballot.
  - ▶ **Media Coverage** tends to ignore them.
  - ▶ **Winner-take all elections** make people afraid to “waste” their ballot.
  - ▶ Major parties **co-opt** the ideas of third parties when they become too popular.



**GREEN PARTY BALLOT ACCESS**



# The Media



## LINKAGE INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ **Linkage institutions** are structures in society that connect people to the government. The **media, political parties and interest groups**.
- ▶ In the idealized form, they inform the public about what the government is doing and let the government know what the public wants.
- ▶ Others argue that the media fails to cover complex issues and plays a more important role **agenda setting** than reflecting the public's opinion.



# NEWS REPORTING

- ▶ The credible press today rests on the idea of an **adversarial press** that challenges power.
- ▶ **Investigative journalism**: from the muckrakers through **Watergate** through reporting about Afghanistan today.
- ▶ **Watchdog** reporting is when the media acts as a check on powerful interests like the government and corporations. Some critics argue that the media acts as a **gatekeeper**.
- ▶ **Political analysis** is reporting with commentary about political races, efficacy of government officials.
  - ▶ **Horse race journalism**
  - ▶ **Scorekeeper journalism**
- ▶ Hard news reporting is rooted in the idea of **objectivity**, but some argue that it leads to dangerous "**both sides**" coverage.



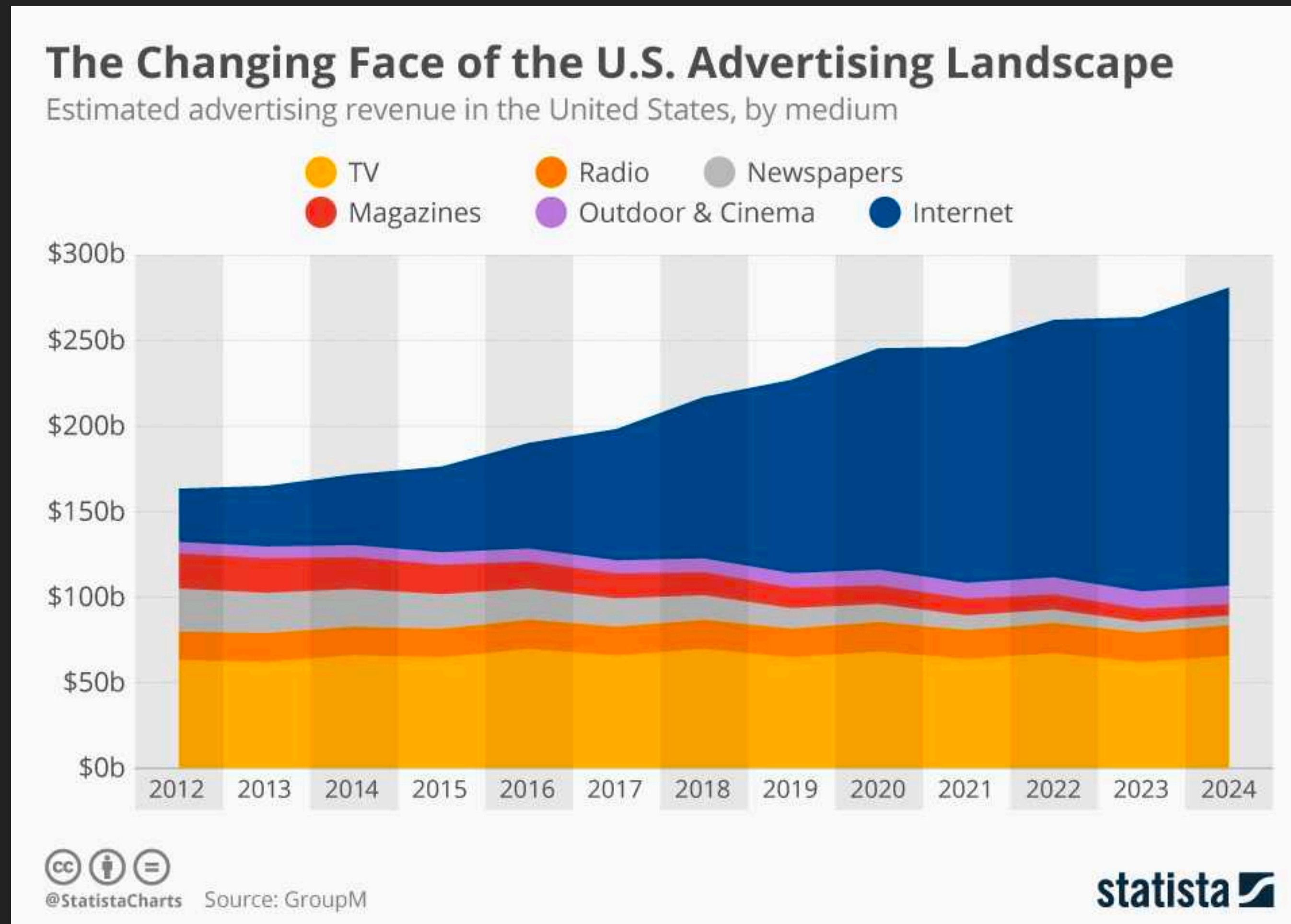
# POLARIZED MEDIA

- ▶ The **Fairness Doctrine** (1949) required that those holding radio and TV broadcast licenses devote **equal time** to controversial issues.
- ▶ It was abolished by the FCC in 1987, leading to the rise of **conservative talk radio** and **advocacy cable news**.
- ▶ The impacts of polarized media have been profound.
  - ▶ It has **hardened partisan identity**, w/ people on either side seeing politics as a matter of life and death.



# THREAT TO TRADITIONAL MEDIA

- ▶ The increasing dominance of sources like **Facebook** and **Google** to dominate **advertising revenue** present an **“existential threat”** to local media outlets.
- ▶ Global newspaper ad revenue has fallen by half between 2016-2021.





# Interest Groups

# INTEREST GROUPS

- ▶ **Interest groups** are organized groups who seek to influence public policy.
- ▶ Many interest groups arise from **social movements**, but these movements are hard to sustain.
- ▶ Political scientists say they rely on
  - ▶ **Material incentives** (AARP)
  - ▶ **Solidarity incentives** (Sierra Club)
  - ▶ **Purposive incentives** (NARAL)



**NEWT GINGRICH**

# ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST GROUPS

- ▶ Interest groups issue **ratings** of politicians that can be really powerful.
- ▶ The most important function of interest groups is **lobbying**.
- ▶ While there are certainly abuses, most lobbying comes in the form of providing **information**—specialized, detailed information about **political cues** and policy implications.
- ▶ Most lobbying is small, one or two lobbyists working on **niche policy implications**.



**BRIAN SCHATZ: WHAT ARE HIS RATINGS?**

# TERMS

**CAN'T HURT TO KNOW WHAT THESE MEAN**



## KEY TERMS

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- Interest groups
- Solidarity incentive
- Material incentives
- Purposive incentives
- National committee
- Lobbyist
- Social movement
- Free rider problem
- Labor movement
- Public interest
- Boycott
- Faction
- National Convention
- Party Platform
- Patronage
- Divided Government
- Safe Seat
- Plurality
- Pluralism
- Electoral College
- Third Party
- Splinter Party
- Realignment
- Swing voters
- Primaries
- Caucuses
- Super delegate
- Delegate
- Federal Elections Commission
- BCRA
- Soft Money
- Hard Money
- Independent Expenditures
- Super PACS
- PACs
- Fifteenth Amendment
- Nineteenth Amendment
- Twenty-fourth Amendment
- Twenty-sixth Amendment
- Suffrage
- Linkage institution
- Grandfather clause
- Poll Taxes
- Voter Suppression
- Felon Disenfranchisement
- HAVA
- Motor Voter
- Australian ballot
- Absentee ballot
- Provisional Ballot
- Bully pulpit
- Iowa and New Hampshire
- Super Tuesday
- Dark Money
- Citizens United
- Connected PAC
- Horserace journalism
- Political analysis
- Political Scorecards
- Lobbying
- Polarization
- Fairness Doctrine