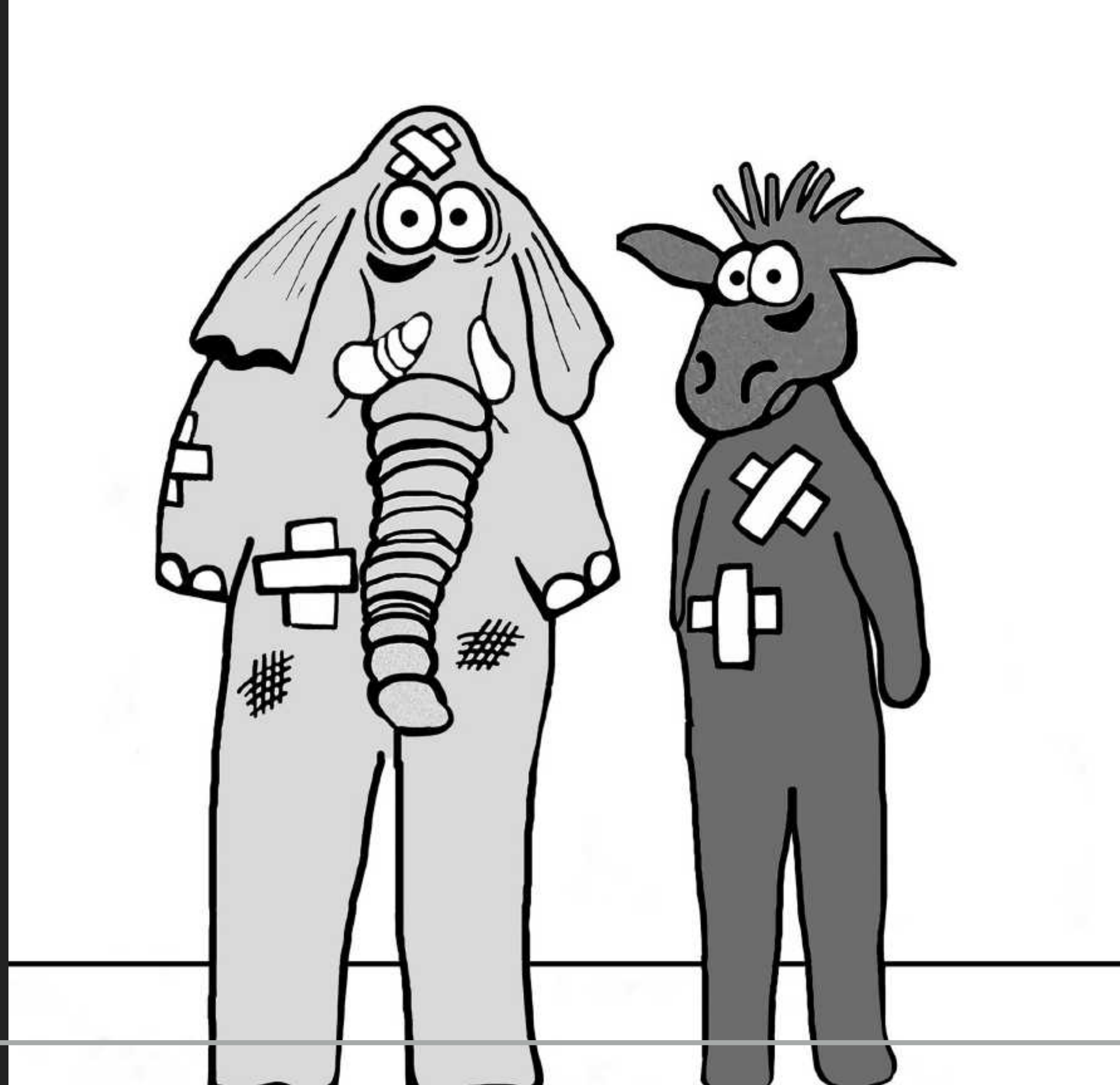


FOUR LECTURES LEFT...

MR. POGREBA, PARKER SCHOOL
Unit 8: Political Participation
Political Parties





Functions of Political Parties

FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

SIX FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

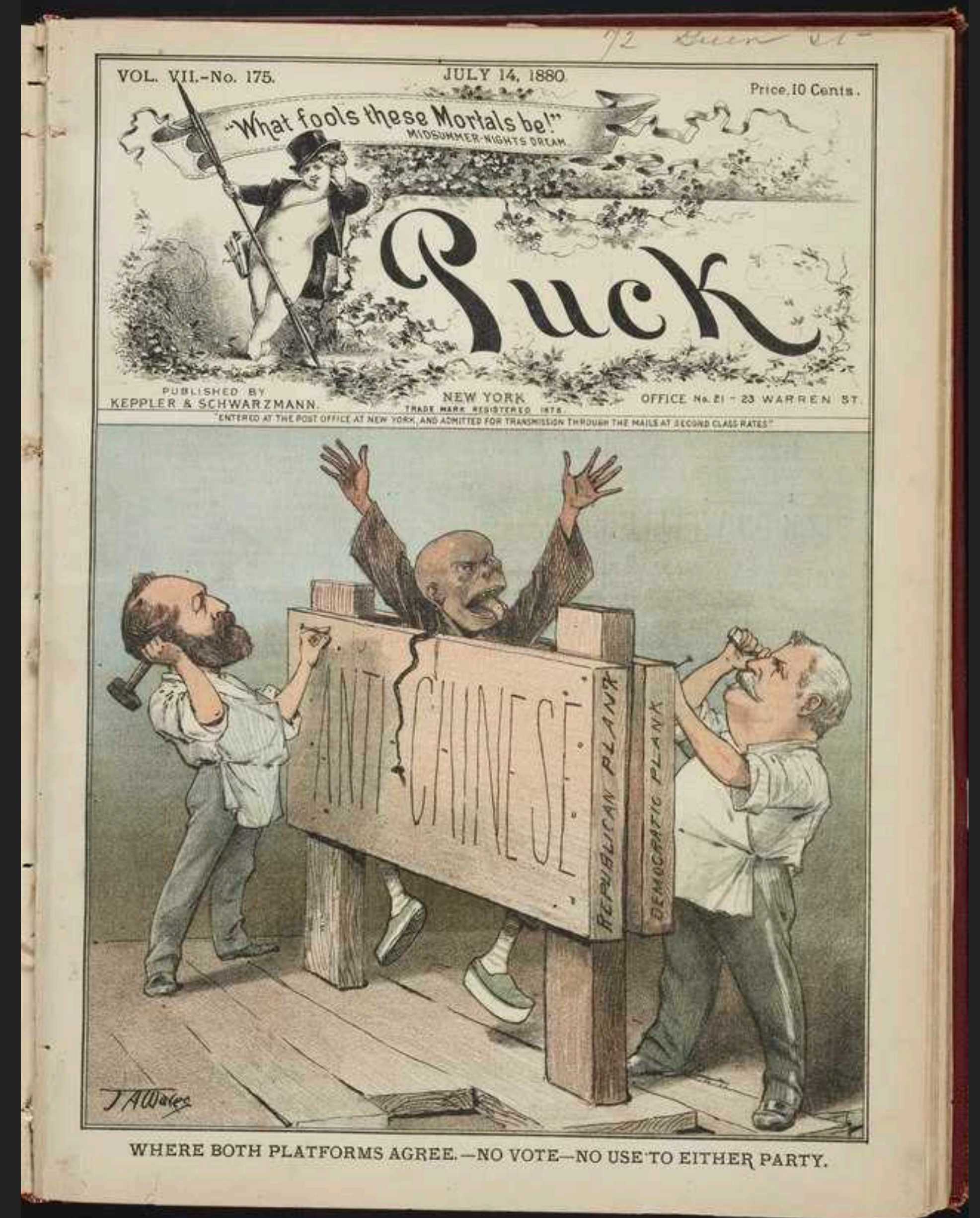
▶ Party Platforms

- ▶ Each political party has a **platform** that contains its views on key issues.
- ▶ Platforms are a statement of priorities and a tool to inspire people to support the party.

▶ Candidate recruitment

▶ Campaign Management

- ▶ Parties have deep infrastructures to support candidates.
- ▶ Parties are supposed to remain neutral in primaries, but will back candidates in general.



SIX FUNCTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

- ▶ **Mobilization and Education of Voters**
- ▶ **Fundraising and Media**
 - ▶ There are no limits on donations to political parties unlike candidates. In 2016, the Democratic National Committee spent \$755 million, the RNC \$652 million.

Key AP Concept

- ▶ **Linkage Institutions:** Political parties serve as **linkage institutions**—entities that connect people to their government.
 - ▶ This interaction can go both ways
 - ▶ People use political parties and connections to get services from the government
 - ▶ Office holders can communicate to the people through parties as well.



NATIONAL PARTY STRUCTURE

- ▶ **The Republican National Committee (RNC) and the Democratic National Committee (DNC)** are the major political organization of each party.
- ▶ Each committee runs its party **convention** every four years to set the platform and finalize their Presidential nominee.
- ▶ Each party also has Congressional campaign committees for the House and Senate.
 - ▶ They spent over \$600 million in the 2020 election.
 - ▶ **“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**.



PARTY COALITIONS

What are so complications you see?

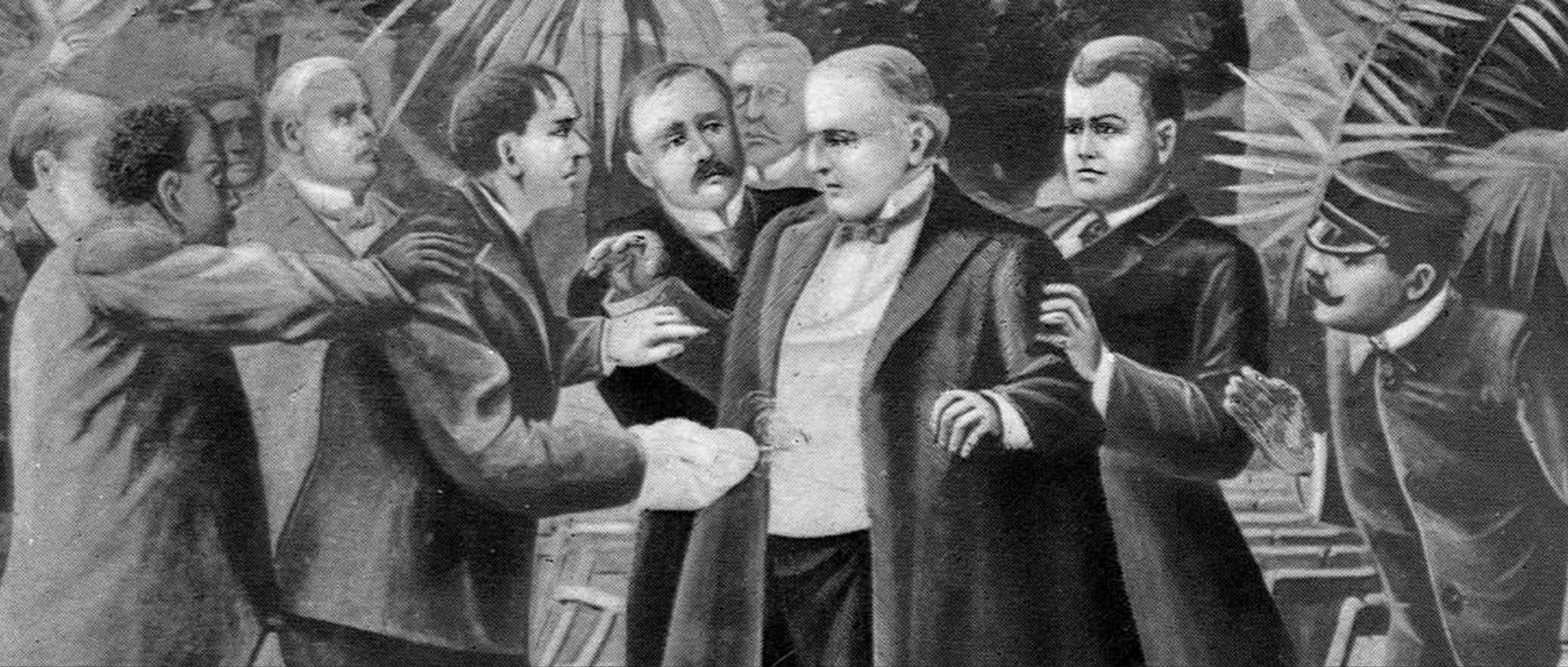
Who are the largest voting blocks?

The Democratic coalition: A snapshot

| TYPOLOGY GROUP | KEY FEATURES | WHO THEY ARE |
|--|--|---|
| Progressive Left 12% of Dem/ Lean Dem | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very liberal views across the board Only group in which majority say they like leaders who identify as democratic socialists Many backed Sanders and Warren in Democratic primaries; overwhelmingly voted for Biden in the general | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most politically active Democratic-oriented group Relatively young, highly educated About two-thirds are White non-Hispanic |
| Establishment Liberals 23% of Dem/ Lean Dem | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solidly liberal Strong supporters of Democratic Party and its leaders Upbeat about politics and nation and favor compromise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly politically engaged One of the most educated typology groups Racially and ethnically diverse, similar age profile to the population as a whole |
| Democratic Mainstays 28% of Dem/ Lean Dem | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most identify as moderate Hold many core Democratic positions about government, race, social safety net Less liberal than other Democratic-oriented groups on immigration, military, crime | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largest single group in the Democratic coalition Older, relatively low share college educated One of the most racially and ethnically diverse typology groups |
| Outsider Left 16% of Dem/ Lean Dem | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very liberal on issues – particularly climate and race Vote Democratic, despite dissatisfaction with both parties Most say other nations better than the U.S. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By far the youngest typology group Among the least politically active |
| Stressed Sideliners 13% of Dem/ Lean Dem | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed political views – lean slightly liberal economically, more conservative in other domains About equally likely to be in the Democratic and Republican coalitions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Least politically engaged typology group Among the most financially stressed groups |

The Republican coalition: A snapshot

| TYPOLOGY GROUP | KEY FEATURES | WHO THEY ARE |
|--|--|---|
| Faith and Flag Conservatives 23% of Rep/ Lean Rep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staunchly conservative on nearly all issues Most say America stands above all other countries Want Christianity to be more prominent in public life Strong Trump backers; most express support for politicians who (incorrectly) claim he won 2020 election | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oldest typology group Highly politically active Overwhelmingly Christian |
| Committed Conservatives 15% of Rep/ Lean Rep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very conservative on most issues, particularly economics Favor a foreign policy that works with allies Overwhelmingly voted for Trump in 2020, but more lukewarm toward him than some others Many name Reagan as best president of the recent past | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very politically active Most educated Republican-oriented group |
| Populist Right 23% of Rep/ Lean Rep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly restrictive views about immigration Very critical of fairness of economic system, as well as banks and large corporations Strong – and continued – Trump supporters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the typology groups least likely to have a college degree Among the highest share rural |
| Ambivalent Right 18% of Rep/ Lean Rep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservative views about government, social safety net More moderate on immigration and some social issues Tilt Republican, but many don't feel at home in the GOP Most don't want Trump to remain in politics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youngest GOP-oriented group Less religious than other Republican groups |
| Stressed Sideliners 15% of Rep/ Lean Rep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed political views – lean slightly liberal economically, more conservative in other domains About equally likely to be in the Democratic and Republican coalitions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Least politically engaged typology group Among the most financially stressed groups |



Party Realignment Again!

PARTY REALIGNMENT (AGAIN)

- ▶ **Party realignment** is “a change in underlying electoral forces due to changes in party identification.”
- ▶ They can mean parties disappear, shift their geographic focus, emerge, or create new coalitions.



FIVE SHIFTS

- ▶ 1: Collapse of the Federalists, emergence of the populist **Democrats under Andrew Jackson**. The **Whigs** emerged as their opposition. **1824-1828**
- ▶ 2: **Republicans** (free soil and free men) replace the Whigs. **1856-1860**
- ▶ 3: **Democrats absorb the Populists** and become party of labor and working class while Republicans embrace business. **1896**
- ▶ 4. **FDR coalition** adds African-Americans, immigrants to Democratic coalition. **1932**
- ▶ 5. **Breaking of Solid South**, when Republicans took away 80+ years of solid Democratic votes from Southern states by appealing to segregationists. **1964-1972**

IS TRUMP A 6TH REALIGNMENT?

▶ Yes.

- ▶ On cultural issues, Trump has exploited lasting fears among suburban/rural voters.
- ▶ Broke the power of the traditional Republican interest groups and the party.
- ▶ He has attracted a big group of previously apathetic voters who have become energized.

▶ No.

- ▶ He is a singular figure who can generate crossover voters.
- ▶ **Cult of personality**
- ▶ Voter partisan identification has hardened.



COMMUNIST PARTY!



Third Parties

WHY TWO PARTY DOMINANCE?

- ▶ 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.



H. ROSS PEROT AND GEORGE WALLACE

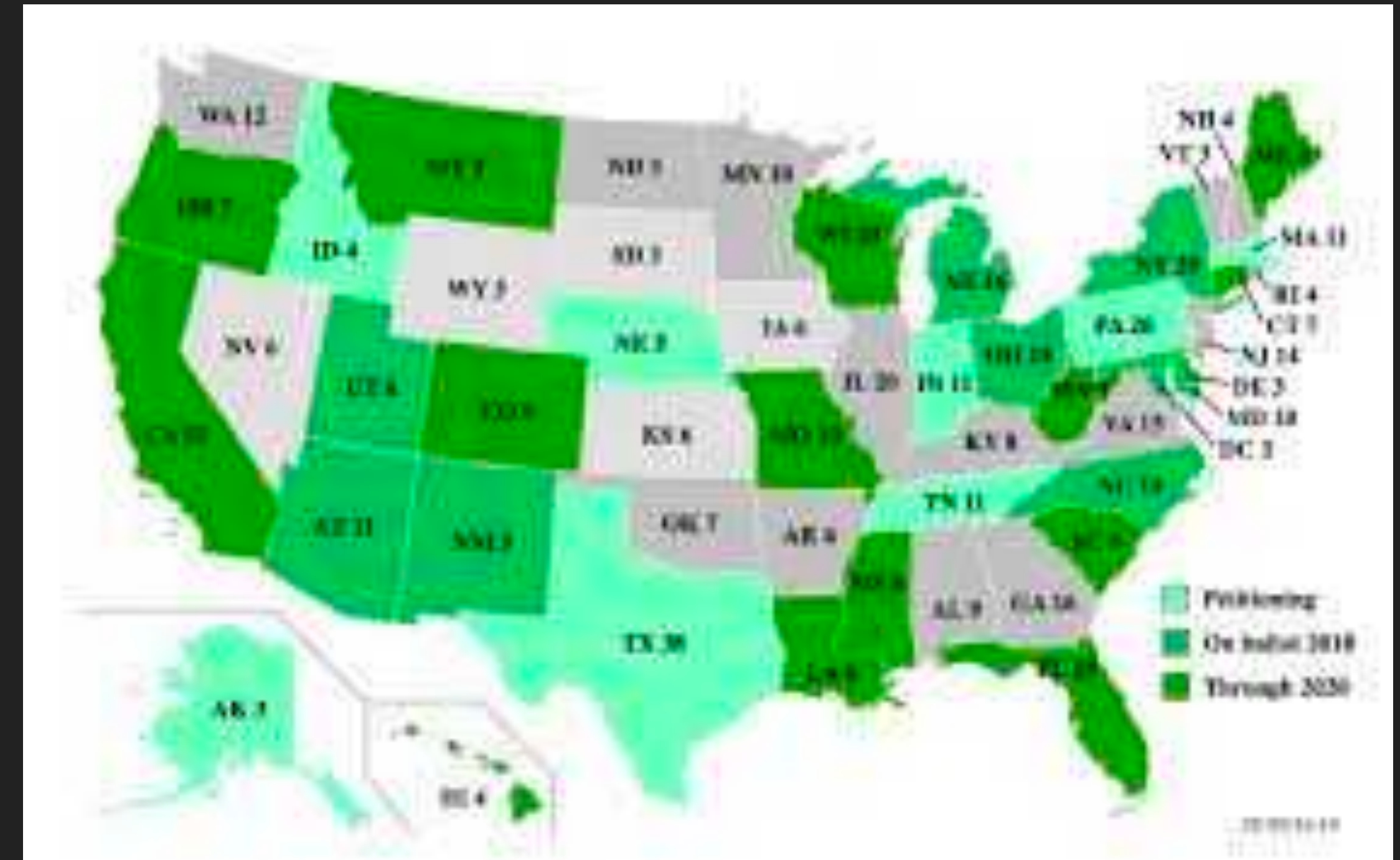
- ▶ The two most successful third party candidates in the last 100 years were **George Wallace** in 1968 and **H. Ross Perot** in 1992.
 - ▶ As the candidate of the segregationist American Independent Party, Wallace received 13% of the popular vote and won five states.
- ▶ In 1992, Texas billionaire Perot received 19% of the popular vote but zero states.
 - ▶ At one point he was first in the polls with 39%, but his campaign fell apart.
 - ▶ He spent \$70 million.



BILL CLINTON, GEORGE BUSH, AND ROSS PEROT

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