

# One Big Party?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## A. Vocabulary.

Match each key term with its definition.

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. political party    | A. Allowing a political party to put a candidate on the ballot                                     |
| _____ 2. write-in candidate | B. A person's ideas about how government should run and how issues should be solved                |
| _____ 3. public policy      | C. A candidate whose name a voter must hand-write on the ballot                                    |
| _____ 4. minority party     | D. Political party with the most elected members   |
| _____ 5. third party        | E. The stand the government takes about how issues should be handled                               |
| _____ 6. platform           | F. A political party other than Republican or Democratic   |
| _____ 7. political views    | G. An organized group of people who share similar political views and work to influence government |
| _____ 8. ballot access      | H. Set of statements describing a party's views on major issues                                    |
| _____ 9. candidate          | I. Political party that does not have a majority of the elected members                            |
| _____ 10. majority party    | J. A person running for political office   |

## B. Registered Voter!

Read each registered voter's statement. Then, decide how each voter is probably registered. Be careful—some have more than one correct possibility! Mark all that you think could apply.

<p>1)</p>  <p>I am committed to my political party.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Independent</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Third Party</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Republican/Democrat</li> </ul>	<p>2)</p>  <p>I don't agree with either the Republicans or Democrats all of the time, so I don't want to commit to either one.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Independent</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Third Party</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Republican/Democrat</li> </ul>	<p>3)</p>  <p>Seeing my party candidates win elections is less important than supporting a party I truly believe in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Independent</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Third Party</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Republican/Democrat</li> </ul>
<p>4)</p>  <p>I don't like America's two-party system. More parties should have a chance to be heard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Independent</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Third Party</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Republican/Democrat</li> </ul>	<p>5)</p>  <p>I don't fully agree with my party's platform, but I want to support a party that has power and influence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Independent</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Third Party</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Republican/Democrat</li> </ul>	<p>6)</p>  <p>My party may not be powerful right now, but if nobody joins, it will never gain influence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="radio"/> Independent</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Third Party</li> <li><input type="radio"/> Republican/Democrat</li> </ul>

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**C. Five Roles of Political Parties.** Read each example of political parties at work. Decide which of the five roles the example best illustrates. Write the underlined letter in the button next to the example. You may have more than one answer.



Support Candidates



Influence Laws & Policy



Unite Levels of Government



Create Balance



Influence Voters

1. \_\_\_\_ Party leaders meet with a senator who is not supporting the party's platform on environmental issues.
2. \_\_\_\_ A party's state office asks party members to write their legislators and ask them to vote "no" on a state tax bill.
3. \_\_\_\_ A party's state office runs a phone bank before the election to call party supporters and remind them to support the party's candidates.
4. \_\_\_\_ A party's state office hosts a conference for state and local officials to discuss the party's goals for the state.
5. \_\_\_\_ A committee of legislators from one party meets to draft a law that will be acceptable to everyone in the party.
6. \_\_\_\_ A group of legislators from the minority and majority parties meets to discuss compromise after a failed vote on a budget bill.
7. \_\_\_\_ A political party pays for a series of televised attack ads against a candidate from the other party.
8. \_\_\_\_ A political party holds a huge convention to nominate and celebrate the party's presidential candidate.
9. \_\_\_\_ A state governor meets with a city mayor and state senator from the same party to discuss the governor's policy on education.
10. \_\_\_\_ The president refuses to sign a bill passed by the opposing party and meets with legislators to discuss possible changes.
11. \_\_\_\_ Party volunteers spend a Saturday afternoon at the park handing out party-sponsored voting guides.
12. \_\_\_\_ A new law passes the Senate, where one party has a majority, but fails in the House of Representatives, where the other party has a majority.

**D. A Two-Party System?** The U.S. has lots of parties, but it is often considered a two-party system. Below, match the characteristics of a two-party system to the statistics about U.S. voters.

In two party systems...

Citizens may be frustrated or dissatisfied with the two major parties..

A

Third parties rarely gain enough support to win elections.

B

Most citizens identify with one of the two major parties.

C

In the United States...

In 2015, 55% of Americans personally identified as either a Republican or a Democrat.

In 2014, 58% of Americans thought a third major party was needed and 35% didn't.

In July 2012, 7% of Americans planned to vote for a third-party presidential candidate.