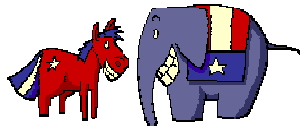


## Do Parties Matter?

- Differences in policies enacted
- Cross-nationally
  - Left parties control unemployment
  - Right parties control inflation



## Do Parties Matter?

- United States
- Presidents & parties different issue agenda
- Variations in party platforms
  - President enact 75% of platform
- Lasting partisan judicial appointments

How Would Politics of Last 5  
Years Be Different If Gore Won  
Instead of Bush?

## Parties and Policy Differences in U.S. States

- V. O. Key -- poor schools and lack of social programs in South in mid-20th century due to lack of party competition
- 1990s -- state legislatures with more Democratic and more women legislators enact more liberal abortion policy

## Parties Are Necessary in U.S.

- Screen candidates and give voters cues
- Provide coordination across branches of government
- Allow more efficiency in Congress with stable coalitions

## Stronger Parties in U.S. Could

- Give voters more distinctive choices
- Could increase voter turnout
- More innovative policies versus incremental changes

## Advocates of Stronger Parties

- Responsible Party Model
- New Politics Model

## Responsible Party Model

- Clear platform of issue positions
- All candidates run on platform
- Once elected, enact platform
- Voters hold majority party responsible for outcome

## Problems with Responsible Party Model

- Separation of powers
- Divisive more dogmatic politics
- Other forms of representation
- Some elements can occur with strong president or realignment

## New Politics Model

- Stronger parties from greater intraparty democracy
- Grassroots democracy

## Future of U.S. Parties

- Parties have become stronger since 1980s
- Better financial footing and more candidate services
- More ideologically distinct parties and ideological realignment

The End!