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The Consequences of Party Reform in the 21st Century

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Nominating the President

The U.S. Constitution makes no mention of political parties nor does the U.S. Constitution identify a mechanism for nominating candidates.

Congress nominated the president and vice-president until 1828.

Since 1832, presidential and vice-presidential candidates have been nominated by party conventions.



Consequences

Nomination by Congress	Nomination by Party Convention
<p>There is a greater likelihood that Congress will select candidates with whom they believe that they will work well.</p>	<p>Congress members, in the role of unpledged (super) delegates (since 1984) play a role in nominating the candidates.</p>
<p>The president's administration may run more smoothly as the president is elected with supporters in Congress.</p>	<p>The president is nominated separately from Congress (both as to nomination and election) which may contribute to a difficult relationship between the president and Congress.</p>



The Election of 1968

“I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your President.”

March 31, 1968, Address to the Nation



Martin Luther King

(January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968)



Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop.

And I don't mind.

Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now.

(April 3, 1968)



The Assassination of Robert Kennedy

June 5, 1968

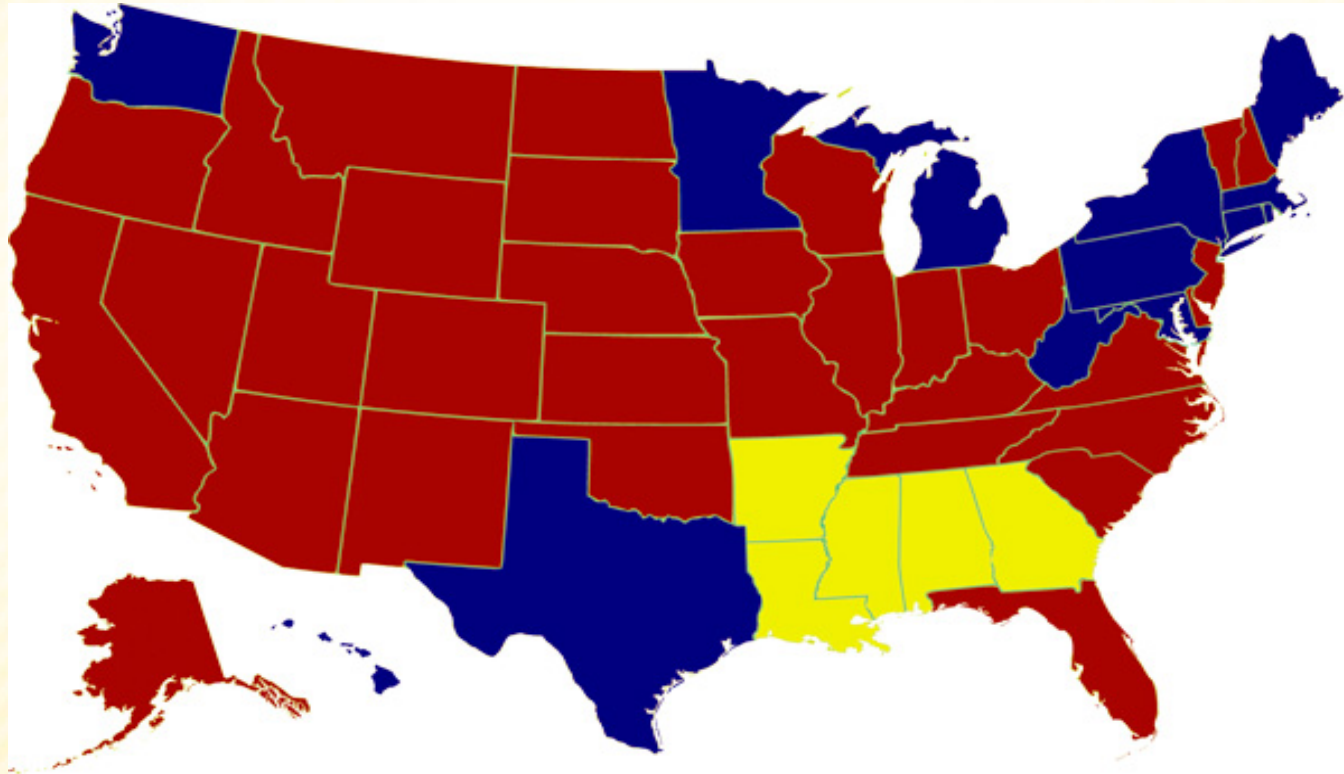


The Nomination of Hubert Humphrey

Vice-President Hubert Humphrey did not run in a single primary or caucus



The 1968 Election Result



Why Party Reform?

The nation was bitterly divided in 1968

King and Kennedy assassinations

Vietnam Conflict

Lyndon Johnson Withdrawal

Richard Nixon Win



Party Reform

The reforms that were developed from the McGovern-Fraser Commission emphasized that the nominations process should be “open, timely, and representative” (Maisel 1999, 268)

How are these goals achieved?

Nomination process is open to more rank-and-file party members
Easier to secure delegate support at nominating conventions
More women and minorities, including youth, to be included as delegates

Nomination contests now include more primaries than caucuses
No primary or caucus takes place before January 1



Party Nomination Changes

Nominations 1832-1968	Nominations since 1972
Party leader directed system	Individual directed system
Caucuses used more than primaries at the state level	Primaries used more than caucuses at the state level
Party leaders selected the vice-presidential candidate	Presidential candidate selects the vice-presidential candidate
Party-centric nominating convention	Presidential candidate-centered convention



The 2016 Presidential Nomination Season

2016 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

THE DEMOCRATS		THE REPUBLICANS					
 HILLARY CLINTON	 BERNIE SANDERS	 TED CRUZ	 RAND PAUL	 MARCO RUBIO	 BEN CARSON	 CARLY FIORINA	 MIKE HUCKABEE
 MARTIN O'MALLEY	 LINCOLN CHAFEE	 RICK SANTORUM	 GEORGE PATAKI	 LINDSEY GRAHAM	 RICK PERRY	 JEB BUSH	 DONALD TRUMP
 JIM WEBB	 BOBBY JINDAL	 CHRIS CHRISTIE	 SCOTT WALKER	 JOHN KASICH	 JIM GILLMORE		



The 2016 Nomination Season

First primary: February 9

Last primary: June 14

First caucus: February 1

Last caucus: June 7

Trump secured the nomination on May 24

Clinton secured the nomination on June 7



Delegate Characteristics

Characteristic	Democratic Delegates		Republican Delegates	
	1968	2008	1968	2008
Percent Female	13	49	18	32
Percent African-American	5	23	2	2
Percent Under 30	3	7	4	3
Median Age	49	51	49	54
Percent Protestant	N/A	43	N/A	57
Percent Catholic	N/A	26	N/A	30
Percent Jewish	N/A	9	N/A	3



What are the Consequences for Party Reform in the 21st Century?

Candidate centered campaigns render party rules less impactful
The convention itself has become far less meaningful:

The presidential nominee is selected more by the rank-and-file and less by the party elite

The vice-presidential nominee is chosen by the presumptive nominee

The platform is less directive and more reflective



More Consequences

Party reform clarified the importance of openness, timeliness and representativeness.

These expectations are now part of the public's political ethos

Efforts to restrict participation based on race, gender or age, which were factors in 1968, matter far less due to changes in the public consciousness and public policies protecting voting rights and voter access.



THANK
YOU
SO
MUCH!

