

## Political Parties

1. Political Parties
  - a. Major Parties
    - i. Democratic Party: favors more government support for programs, such as health care and public education.
    - ii. Republican Party: favors less government, lower taxes, and more freedom
  - b. Third Parties (NOT the big 2)
    - i. Libertarian Party: wish to maximize human freedom and to reduce government and taxation.
    - ii. Green Party: wants to reduce exploitation of the natural environment
    - iii. Socialist Party: favors more public services, public ownership of utilities and some industries
    - iv. Communist Party: believes capitalists exploit workers; revolution needed to achieve change
2. Impact of Parties
  - a. Positive
    - i. Encourage citizens to participate in politics
    - ii. Help government leaders organize support
    - iii. Act as watchdogs over opposing party
  - b. Negative
    - i. Divides Americans
    - ii. Places pressure on legislators