

The background of the slide is a blurred image of the United States flag, showing the stars and stripes in soft, out-of-focus colors.

Political Party Organizations

Responsible Party Model

- Viable Party organization would. . .
 - Have a “bottom-up” organization
 - people elect precinct captains
 - Precinct captains elect ward committee members
 - Ward committee members elect county committee members
 - County committee members elect state central committee members
 - State committee members select the state chair(s)

Responsible Party Model

- Viable Party organization would. . .
 - Have continuity in leadership at state and local levels
 - County and state chairs
 - County and state headquarters and staff
 - Resources (money, polls, political/media consultants)
 - Develop state platforms
 - Candidates should run on this platform
 - Nominate candidates for public office (Chapters 9 and 10)
 - Caucus convention

Responsible Party Model

- Viable Party organization would. . .
 - Campaign for candidates (Chapter 11)
 - Ads, literature drops, parades
 - Fund candidates (Chapter 12)
 - Party should fund candidate's elections
 - Voter mobilization (Chapters 10 and 11)
 - Register and GOTV (Get Out The Vote)

What is the primary goal of political parties?

- Nominate and elect public officials
 - Parties organize to do this
 - Precinct
 - Ward/Township
 - County
 - Organize to nominate/elect city and county public officials
 - State
 - Organize to nominate/elect state wide public officials
 - Write state platform/select delegates to national conventions
- Primarily Organize Party

NATIONAL

The Basic Structure of American Political Parties

The quadrennial national convention

The party's national chairpersons
The party's national committee

STATE

State central committees and state conventions

Congressional district committees

LOCAL

City and county committees

Precinct and ward committees

Party activists and volunteers

Party identifiers and voters

The Reality: Weak Parties

- Weak Parties (1960s and 1970s)
 - Changing times leading to weak parties
 - Direct primary replaced caucus/convention system
 - Democratic voters nominated party candidates not party members
 - Eu v. San Francisco County Democratic Central Committee
 - Rise of Political Action Committees/Direct Mail
 - Provided source of money for candidates, not the party
 - Direct mail to party members to raise money for a candidate
 - Rise of the electronic media
 - Replaced door-to-door lit drops
 - Rise of political consultants
 - Replaced the party leader as chief strategist

How Parties Actually Function

- In reality, do parties. . .
 - Have a “bottom-up” organization?
 - party members don’t elect precinct captains
 - Precinct captains elect ward committee members
 - Ward committee members elect county committee members
 - County committee members elect state central committee members
 - State committee members nominate the state chair(s) and elected by the State convention

How Parties Actually Function

- Have continuity in leadership at the **state** level?
 - State chairs
 - State headquarters
 - State staff
 - State Resources
 - Finances
 - Candidate support

Revival of State Parties

TABLE 3.2 Increasing Organizational Strength Among the State Parties

<i>Party Strength and Activity</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>1979–1980</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Typical election-year budget	\$2.8 mil.	\$340 K	\$2.46 mil.
Typical election-year full-time staff	9.2	7.7	1.5
Conducted campaign seminars	95%	89%	6%
Recruited a full slate of candidates	91%	—	—
Operated voter ID programs	94%	70%	24%
Conducted public opinion surveys	78%	32%	46%
Held fund-raising event	98%	19%	77%
Contributed to governor candidate	89%	47%	42%
Contributed to state legislator	92%	47%	45%
Contributed to state senator	85%	25%	60%
Contributed to U.S. congressional	85%	48%	37%
Contributed to local candidate	70%	—	—

Virginia Democratic Party

Democratic Party of Virginia

2006 Party Summary Data

2006 election Select a Cycle: <input type="button" value="2006"/>	Total Receipts	\$5,004,728
	Total Spent	\$4,900,173
	Begin Cash on Hand	\$36,848
	End Cash on Hand	\$104,038
	Debts	\$0
	Date of last report	July 31, 2006
	<i>Contributions from this committee to federal candidates (list recipients)</i>	\$3,304
	<i>Contributions to this committee from individual donors of \$200 or more (list donors)</i>	\$52,952

FEC NAME: DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF VIRGINIA

Democratic Party of Virginia

Party Contributions to Federal Candidates 2006 Cycle

House Candidate	Total Contribs
Kellam, Phil (D-VA)	\$3,304
Total to Democratic House Candidates:	\$3,304
Total to Republican House Candidates:	\$0

Florida Republican Party

Republican Party of Florida

2004 Party Summary Data

2004 election Select a Cycle: 2004	Total Receipts	\$26,995,312
	Total Spent	\$23,253,064
	Begin Cash on Hand	\$22,881
	End Cash on Hand	\$3,765,129
	Debts	\$62,249
	Date of last report	December 31, 2004
	<i>Contributions from this committee to federal candidates (list recipients)</i>	\$10,986
	<i>Contributions to this committee from individual donors of \$200 or more (list donors)</i>	\$7,104,763

Republican Party of Florida

Party Contributions to Federal Candidates

2004 Cycle

House Candidate	Total Contribs	Senate Candidate	Total Contribs
Diedrich, Larry William (R-SD)	\$5,000	Coleman, Norm (R-MN)	\$5,000
Green, Carole (R-FL)	\$493	Total to Democratic Senate Candidates:	\$0
Mack, Connie (R-FL)	\$493	Total to Republican Senate Candidates:	\$5,000
Total to Democratic House Candidates:	\$0		
Total to Republican House Candidates:	\$5,986		

How Parties Actually Function

- Have continuity in leadership at the **local** level?
 - County chairs and precinct captains
 - County staff
 - Resources

- Revival of Local Political Parties (1980s-2003)

TABLE 3.1 Changes in Local Parties' Organizational Strength, 1979/1980–1996

<i>The local party organization has (in percent)</i>	<i>Democrats</i>		<i>Republicans</i>	
	<i>1996</i>	<i>1979–1980</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1979–1980</i>
A complete or nearly complete set of officers	95	90	96	81
A year-round office	17	12	25	14
A telephone listing	27	11	30	16
Some paid staff members				
Full-time	4	3	4	4
Part-time	6	5	7	6
A regular annual budget	26	20	34	31
A campaign headquarters	60	55	60	60
<i>Campaign activities</i>				
Organized door-to-door canvassing	55	49	57	48
Organized campaign events	81	68	82	65
Arranged fund-raising events	74	71	76	68
Contributed money to candidates	75	62	78	70
Distributed posters or lawn signs	93	59	93	62
Used public opinion surveys	13	11	15	16

How Parties Actually Function

- Develop state platforms
 - States develop a platform
 - All state parties develop a platform
 - Candidates should run on this platform
 - Candidates pick and choose what issues to run on

Conclusion

- Local and State Parties Stronger Now Than in 1970s
- To what extent does the organization of parties correspond to the Responsible Party Model?

Where did the money come from to strengthen parties?

