PLS 405 PARTIES AND PRESSURE GROUPS IN THE U.S. Party and Policy Proposals on Cultural Issues

Brewer & Stonecash Chapter 6

I. Party platforms

- A. Origin: mid-19th c.
- B. Definition: detailed statement of policy proposals adopted at each party's national (presidential nominating) convention every 4 years
- C. Change in cultural issues increasing polarization
 - 1. Table 6-1: 1960 (p. 114) cultural issues barely mentioned
 - 2. Table 6-2: 1972 (p. 115) hints at later divisions
 - 3. Table 6-3: 1980 (p. 117) 1st clear partisan divisions on abortion& public-school prayer
 - 4. Table 6-4: 1992 (p. 119) new divisions appear: sex-ed; gay rights
 - 5. Table 6-5: 2004 (p. 121) newest divisions: embryonic stem-cell research, euthanasia, faith-based funding
- D. Shifts in partisan coalitions: "the God gap"
- II. Congressional action
 - A. The Equal Rights Amendment Table 6-6, p. 124
 - B. (Government-sponsored, public-) school prayer Table 6-7, p. 126
 - C. Abortion Table 6-8, p. 129
 - D. Homosexual rights Table 6-9m o, 131
- III. Presidential politics
 - A. Presidential cues to a culture divide
 - B. Acceptance speeches and other cues Table 6-10, pp. 135-36
- IV. Conclusion