Part two: the political party as an organization

A. Great variation in the U.S. across time and place
B. Generally fairly weak party organizations in the U.S. compared to most western democracies
C. Basic goals: enact platform into law by
   1. Mobilizing party in the electorate
   2. Recruiting, electing, & supporting party in government
D. Basic means
   1. Money
   2. Personnel
E. Basic types
   1. Cadre parties
   2. Mass-membership parties

I. What is a strong party?

II. The legal environment of the parties
   A. State regulations
      1. Vary greatly but are more pervasive than federal (except for campaign finance)
      2. Parties are seen as public utilities more than private groups
      3. Focus of regulations
         a. Suffrage
         b. Ballot design & access (by third parties)
         c. Patronage & preferments
   B. Levels of party organization
      1. Local committees or conventions:
         a. Precinct (~ 200,000)
         b. Ward, township, city
         c. County (~ 3000) – usually the most active layer of local party organization
         d. Legislative or judicial district
      2. State central committee or convention
      3. Decision structure
         a. Not typically hierarchical
         b. Fairly decentralized and stratified: each level has some independent powers

III. The legendary party machines
   A. How the party machines developed and held on to power
      1. Examples
         a. Urban - Democratic
            (1) New York City - Tammany Hall
            (2) Jersey City - Frank Hague
            (3) Boston - James Curley
            (4) Chicago - Big Bill Thompson and Richard J. Daley
            (5) Kansas City - Tom Pendergast
         b. Suburban - Republican: Long Island/Nassau County - Alphonse D’Amato
         c. Small-towns and rural counties, especially in the South - Democratic prior to 1980s, becoming Republican since
      2. Core characteristic: patron/client relationship build on material incentives
         a. Patronage to poverty & working classes (especially immigrants)
            (1) Jobs
            (2) Social welfare
         b. Preferments to business & upper classes
            (1) Contracts
            (2) Regulations: health, zoning, building
            (3) Public works
   B. The decay of the party machines
1. Political reforms
   a. Civil service
   b. Sunshine laws
   c. Conflict-of-interest laws
   d. Competitive-bidding laws
   e. Secret ballot
   f. Voter registration
   g. Nonpartisan elections
2. State & national public welfare
3. Social/economic change
   a. Unionization of public sector
   b. Post WWII prosperity
      (1) Upward mobility educational & financial
      (2) Outward mobility - suburban sprawl
   c. Challenge to earlier Irish & Italian ethnic groups by Black, Asian, & Latino groups

IV. Local party organizations declined and then rebuilt  
   Table 3.1, p. 55
   A. Local parties in the 1970s
   B. Local parties today: richer and more active  Box, p. 57

V. The state parties: newfound prosperity
   A. Traditional weakness
      1. Decentralization
      2. Fragmentation
         a. Regional
         b. Urban/rural
         c. Ethnic/religious
         d. Ideological
      3. Recent competitors
         a. Mass media
         b. Campaign technocrats
         c. Issue activists
   B. Increasing strength in recent years  Table 3.2, p. 60
      1. Fund-raising
      2. Campaign services
      3. Republican advantage
      4. Allied groups
      5. The special case of the South
      6. National party money

VI. Summing up: how the state and local party organizations have transformed
   A. Local parties adapted
   B. State parties somewhat stronger
   C. But, both have less impact on politics than in the past or in other western democracies
      1. More competition from other organizations, groups, and professionals
      2. More competition for fund-raising