## **PLS 405** AMERICAN PARTIES AND PRESSURE GROUPS

Hershey Chapter 4

## Part 2: The Party as an Organization Ch. 4: The Parties' National Organizations

- 0. Untitled introduction: a new presence at the summit
  - A. Old role: handmaiden to president
  - B. New role: party-building in states & localities
- I. The national parties
  - A. The national committees (apportionment)
    - 1. Democrats: population, party support, & special constituencies
    - 2. Republicans: equal representation benefits
      - a. Smaller states
      - b. Southern & Western states
      - Conservative wing c.
  - B. The officers
    - 1. National chairperson & staff | Box, p. 67
    - 2. Executive committees
  - C. Committee action and presidential power
    - 1. In-party
    - 2. Out-party
- II. Other national party groups
  - A. Congressional campaign "Hill" committees | Box, p. 70 & Table 4.2, p. 72

- 1. Democrats: DCCC & DSCC
- 2. Republicans: NRCC & NRSC
- B. Special constituency groups
  - 1. Socio-demographic
    - a. Women
    - b. Youth
  - 2. Ideological
- C. Democratic and Republican governor's associations
- III. Two paths to power
  - A. The service-party path (Republicans since 1960s, Democrats since 1980s)
    - 1. Fund-raising (discussed in Ch. 12) Figure 4.1, p. 74 & Box, p. 76
    - 2. Candidate recruitment & training
    - 3. Survey & other research
    - 4. Media productions
    - 5. Legal services
  - B. The procedural-reform path (Democrats, 1970s)
    - 1. Nomination process reforms (covered in Ch. 11)
    - 2. Unintended negative consequences
  - C. Rising to the challenge of new campaign finance rules
    - 1. Mainly due to the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) of 2002
      - a. Outlawed "soft" money transfers from national to state parties
      - b. Both parties increased "independent" spending
      - c. Greatly improved grass-roots, small ("hard") money fund raising

- IV. What is the impact of these stronger national parties? Boxes, pp. 80 & 82

  - A. Effects on candidates' campaigns
  - B. Effects on state and local parties
  - C. Effects on the presidency
  - D. Effects on Congress
  - E. Relationships within the national party
- The limits of national party organization
  - A. Recent trends:
    - 1. Great increase in national party organization fund raising and assistance to candidates
    - 2. Significant increase in national party funds and services shared with state and local party organizations
    - 3. But, U.S. state and local parties are still autonomous to a significant degree
  - B. U.S. parties are less hierarchical, ideological, efficient, unified, and professional compared to --
    - 1. Party organizations in most other western democracies
    - 2. Other large-scale organizations in the US (business, higher-education, etc.)
  - C. Explanatory factors
    - 1. Political values
      - a. Pragmatism v. ideology
      - b. Individualism v. collectivism
    - 2. Political structures
      - a. Division of powers in our federal system
      - b. Separation of powers in our presidential system
    - 3. Financial arrangements
      - a. Public funding
      - b. PAC funding
    - Media politics