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- I. Untitled introduction: methods used to choose the presidential nominees Box, p. 175
- A. Congressional party caucuses
 - B. National party conventions
 - C. State primaries and caucuses
- II. The move to presidential primaries
- A. Trends
 - 1. 1905-1968
 - 2. 1972-
 - B. Purposes
 - 1. Allocation of how many national party convention delegates won by each candidate
 - 2. Selection of actual delegates
 - C. Turbulence in the Democratic Party
 - 1. Major reforms adopted by both parties
 - a. Direct primaries (approx. 65% of delegates – varies from election year to election year)
 - b. State caucuses (approx. 20%)
 - 2. Major reforms adopted by only the Democratic Party
 - a. Ex officio "superdelegates" (approx. 15%)
 - b. Proportional voting instead of winner-take-all allocation of delegates (with a 15% minimum)
 - c. Representation of women and minorities as delegates
 - D. Presidential primaries today Figure 10.1, p. 177
 - 1. Mixed systems
 - a. Allocation by primaries; selection by caucus/convention method [most control by state party leaders]
 - b. Allocation by primaries; selection by candidates [least control by state party leaders]
 - 2. Pure primary systems
 - a. Binding primaries (voters allocate delegates)
 - b. Non-binding "beauty-contest" (delegates not bound by presidential preference vote)
 - E. Some state use party caucuses
 - 1. Open meetings
 - 2. Non-secret balloting
 - 3. Especially vulnerable to capture by ideological candidates (e.g., Jackson & Robertson)
- III. The race to win delegates
- A. The "invisible primary"
 - B. Candidates' strategic choices Box, p. 180
 - 1. Pre-1972: capture support of state party leaders
 - 2. Post-1972: win delegates through primaries & caucuses
 - C. Win early or die Box, p. 182
 - D. What is the party's role?
- IV. Voters' choices in presidential nominations
- A. Who votes
 - B. Are primary voters typical?
 - C. Do voters make informed choices?
 - D. Do primaries produce good candidates?

- V. On to the national conventions
 - A. Roots of the party conventions
 - B. What conventions do Box, p. 186
 - 1. Approving the platforms
 - 2. Formalizing the presidential nomination
 - 3. Approving the vice-presidential nomination
 - 4. Launching the presidential campaign

- VI. Who are the delegates
 - A. Apportioning delegate slots among the states
 - B. How representative are the delegates?
 - 1. Demographics Table 10.1, p. 189
 - 2. Political experience
 - 3. Issues Table 10.2, p. 190
 - 4. Amateurs or professionals?
 - 5. Who controls the delegates?

VII. How media cover conventions

VIII. Do conventions still have a purpose?

- IX. Should we reform the reforms?
 - A. Pros and cons of the current system
 - 1. The case against presidential primaries
 - a. Too costly
 - b. Too shallow
 - c. The ability to win primaries does not necessarily equal the ability to win the following general election
 - d. Weakens parties
 - 2. The case against party selection of delegates
 - a. Anti-democratic: party activists and electorates excluded
 - b. Weak & bad candidates have been picked by this process, also
 - B. What could be done
 - 1. Replace conventions with
 - a. National primary
 - b. Regional primaries
 - 2. Retain conventions and reform primary delegate selection
 - a. Scheduling
 - b. Financing
 - c. Media coverage
 - (1) Paid
 - (2) Unpaid