THE POLITICAL PARTIES PRISM

By THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE PRESIDENTS™

Intro

Many of the founders warned that political parties would divide the country into competing factions. Nevertheless, it didn't take long for political parties to develop early in America. The parties promoted the interests of their members and aimed to craft an America based on their policies.
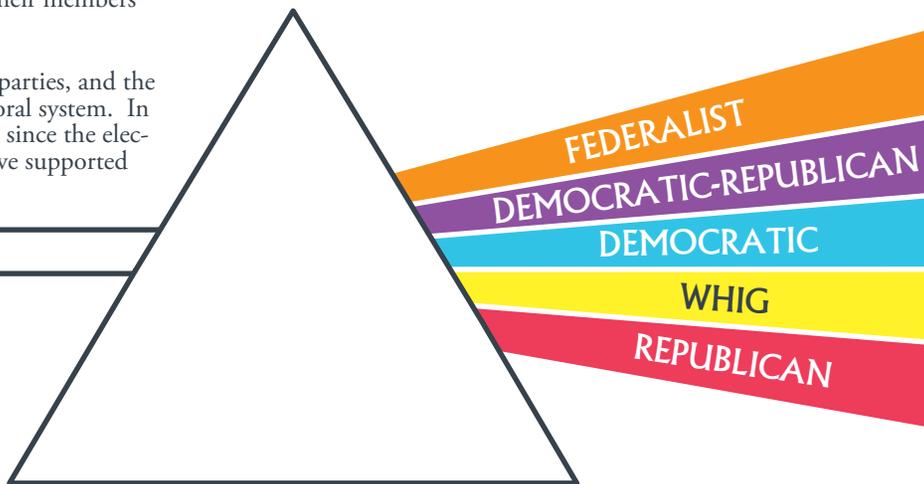
Today, it's hard to imagine presidential politics without political parties, and the two-party system is currently the standard in the American electoral system. In fact, a Democrat or a Republican has occupied the White House since the election of 1852. Let's take a look at the spectrum of parties that have supported winning candidates in the White House.

NO PARTY

In his farewell address, George Washington warned of the danger of political parties, saying "I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the State, ... and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally."
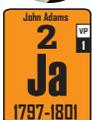
George Washington
1
Gw
1789-1797

2 wins **1789** *George Washington*

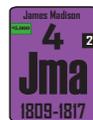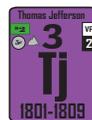| Wins	First election win	First winner
FEDERALIST — 1	1796	*John Adams*
DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICAN — 7	1800	*Thomas Jefferson*
DEMOCRATIC — 22	1828	*Andrew Jackson*
WHIG — 2	1840	*William H. Harrison*
REPUBLICAN — 24	1860	*Abraham Lincoln*

FEDERALIST

Named for its support of a federal constitution, the Federalist Party focused on a strong central government and a society forged by industry and manufacturing. The Federalists developed out of a split during Washington's administration, with Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, and George Washington on one side, and Thomas Jefferson and James Madsion on the other. Jefferson and Madison formed their own coalition that favored states' rights and rural interests. This split led to the birth of political parties in America.

John Adams
2
Ja
1797-1801
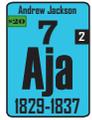
Alexander Hamilton

DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICAN

They called themselves Republicans. Today, we know them as Democratic- Republicans. As the first real modern political party, the Democratic-Republicans believed in small government, states' rights, and a society rooted in farming. Democratic-Republican presidents from Virginia led the country throughout most of the Founders period. By the election of 1828, the Democractic-Republican party had dissolved, eventually splintering into the Democratic and Whig parties.

Thomas Jefferson
3
Tj
1801-1809

James Madison
4
Jma
1809-1817

James Monroe
5
Jmo
1817-1825

DEMOCRATIC

The Democratic Party emerged with the expansion of the popular vote and rallied around the war hero, Andrew Jackson. The Party focused on the interests of the "common man," including small government and westward expansion. During the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt expanded the role of the government to help the economy and the American people recover. Today, the Democratic Party stands for an active federal government and tends to be more liberal on social issues.

Andrew Jackson
7
Aja
1829-1837

Franklin D. Roosevelt
32
Fdr
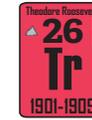1933-1945

John F. Kennedy
35
Jfk
1961-1963

WHIG

Born as a party opposed to Andrew Jackson, the Whigs took their name from Revolutionary Era Patriots who fought against rule by a king. The Whig Party believed in a strong Congress and aimed to end the reign of a powerful president they called "King Andrew" Jackson. In general, the Whigs supported industrial modernization and social reform.

William H. Harrison
9
Whh
1841

Zachary Taylor
12
Zt
1849-1850

Millard Fillmore
13
Mf
1850-1853

REPUBLICAN

The Party of Lincoln began as a combination of Whigs, Free-Soilers, and Northern Democrats who stood against the expansion of slavery and supported industrial growth. After the Civil War, Republicans dominated politics in the Gilded Age, with Grover Cleveland the lone Democrat of the era. Today, the Republican Party advocates for a smaller federal government with a strong military and tends to be more conservative on social issues. As of 2016, Republicans claim the most election wins (24) and the most presidents (19).

Abraham Lincoln
16
Al
1861-1865

Theodore Roosevelt
26
Tr
1901-1909

Ronald Reagan
40
Rr
1981-1989

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