

What the H*** Is Going On With Washington Politics?

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How Did We Get Here?



And When Will It End??

The Delegate Process

- Delegates are people who attend a political party national convention and who elect the party's presidential nominee
- Some states select delegates during a presidential primary and others during caucuses. Some also have state conventions where delegates are selected

The Delegate Process

Democrat

- Win nomination once you've earned more than half the available delegates
- In the primary, states allocate delegates in rough proportion to the popular vote.
- "Superdelegates" are delegates who are not elected by primary voters, but automatically given a voice in the nomination process because of their position in the Democrat Party

Republican

- Win nomination once you've earned more than half the available delegates
- In the primary, some states allocate delegates proportionately to the popular vote, and some are "winner take all"
- Also have "Superdelegates" but function differently and are less influential

Party Conventions - Becoming the Nominee

Democrat

- 4,763 total Delegates (712 Superdelegates). Majority (2,382) Delegates Needed to Win
- Delegates bound to a candidate on first ballot. Free to vote for any candidate on subsequent ballots until a candidate reaches a majority
- “Superdelegates” critical to a contested convention

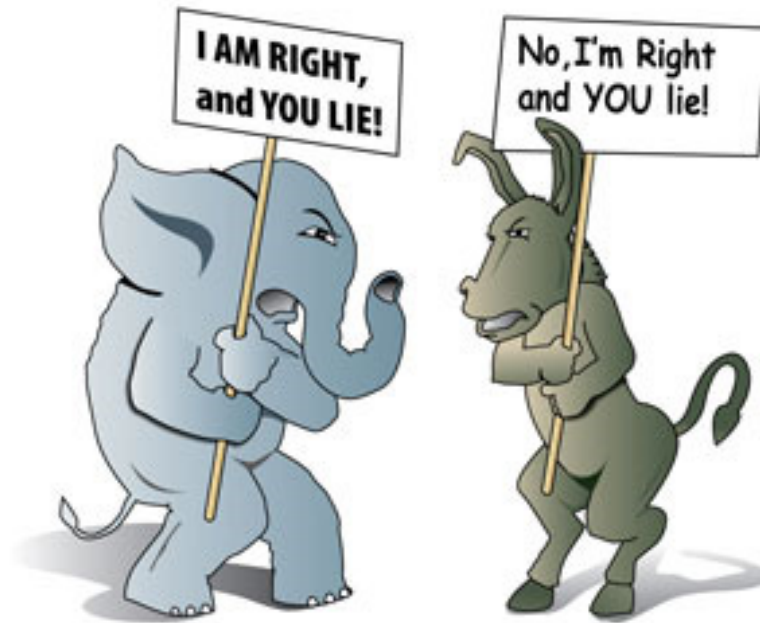
Republican

- 2,472 total delegates. Majority (1,237) needed to win
- Delegates bound to a candidate on first ballot
- More than 50% of delegates are unbound on second ballot
- The bulk of delegates are unbound on third and subsequent ballots until a candidate reaches a majority

Consequences of 2016 Process

- **Increased calls for greater transparency**
- **“Undemocratic process” / “Rigged System”**
- **Republicans and Superdelegates**
- **Superdelegates and changes to election law**
- **Potential regulation of delegates**

How Did This Happen?



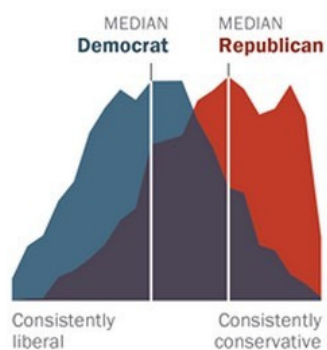
And When Will It End??

Moderate Middle Is Disappearing

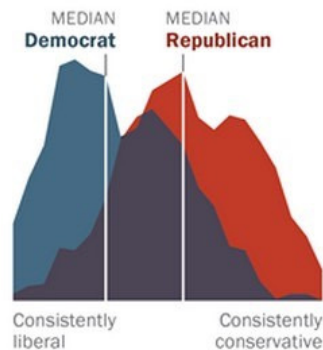
Distribution of Democrats and Republicans on a 10-item scale of political values, by level of political engagement

Among the politically engaged

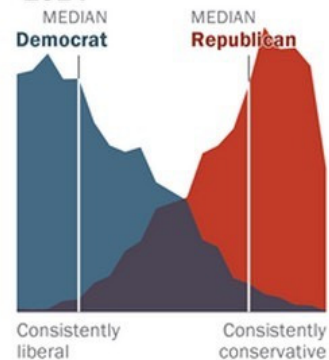
1994



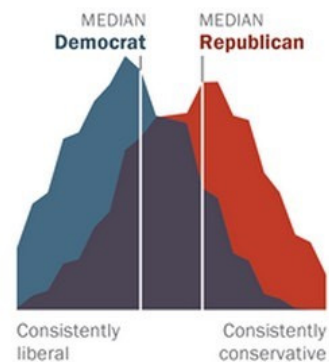
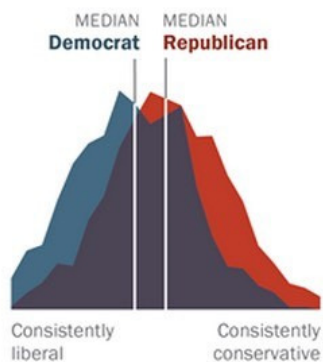
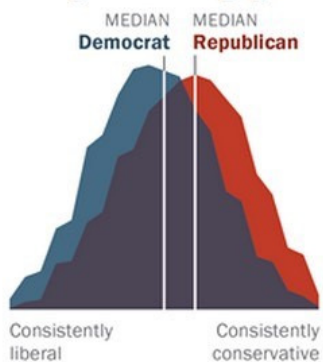
2004



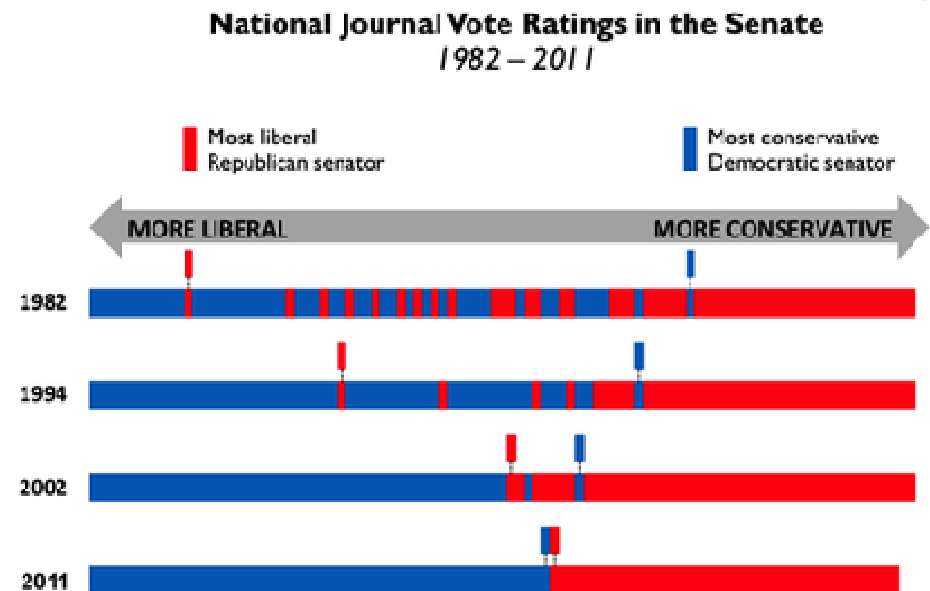
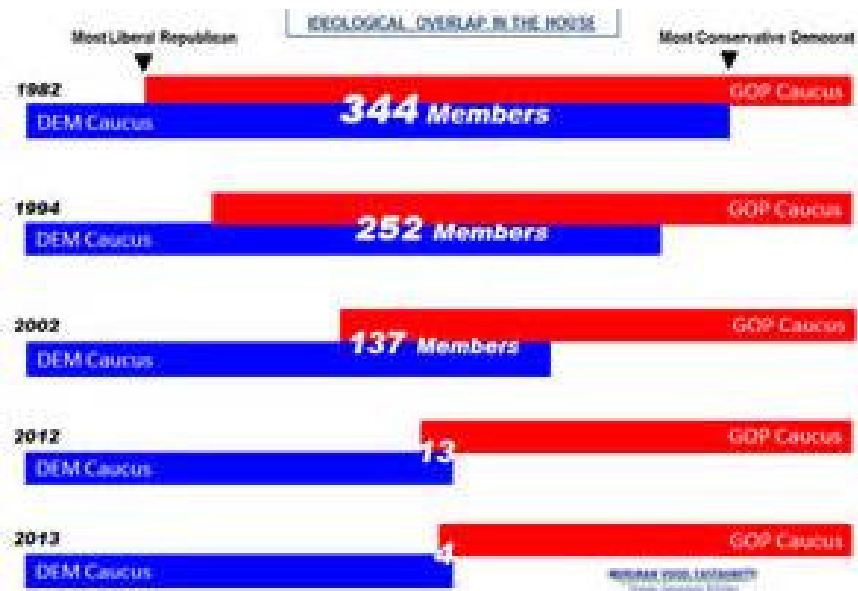
2014



Among the less engaged



Ideological Overlap in the U.S. Congress



Doing the Math

Polarized Electorate – **Disappearing Middle** =



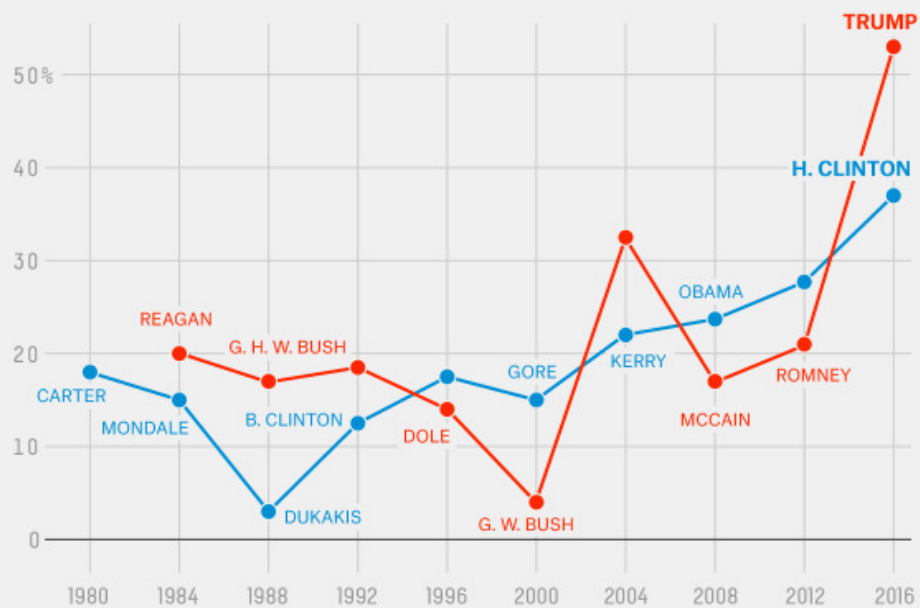
ELECTION TIME



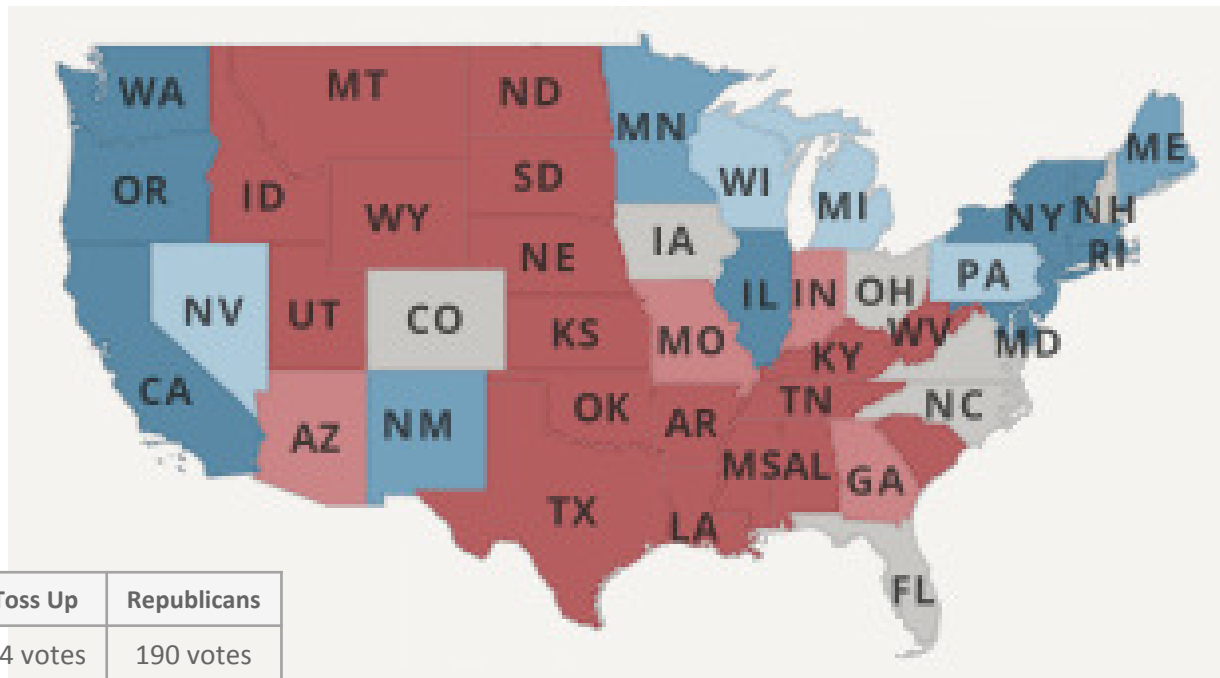
Best Worst Option

Clinton and Trump are historically disliked

Strongly unfavorable ratings, late March to late April of each election year for Republican and Democratic presidential nominees

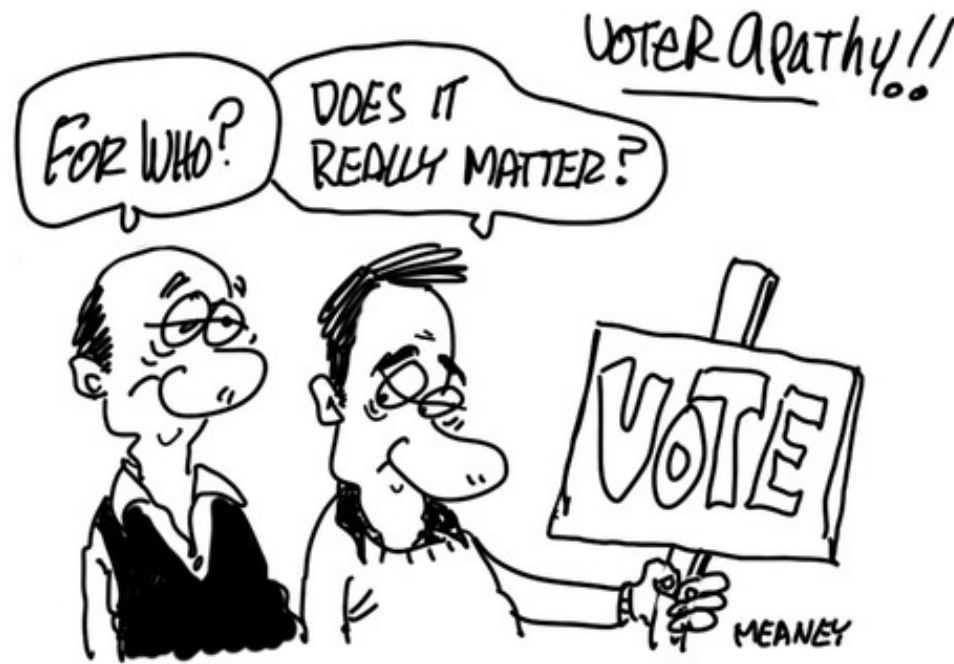


Is The Presidential Race Already Over?



Democrats	Toss Up	Republicans
304 votes	44 votes	190 votes

Turnout, Turnout, Turnout



The “Other” Elections

U.S. House of Representatives

247 Republicans | 188 Democrats

218 for majority; all up for election November 2016

U.S. Senate

54 Republicans | 46 Democrats

51 for majority; 1/3 up for election

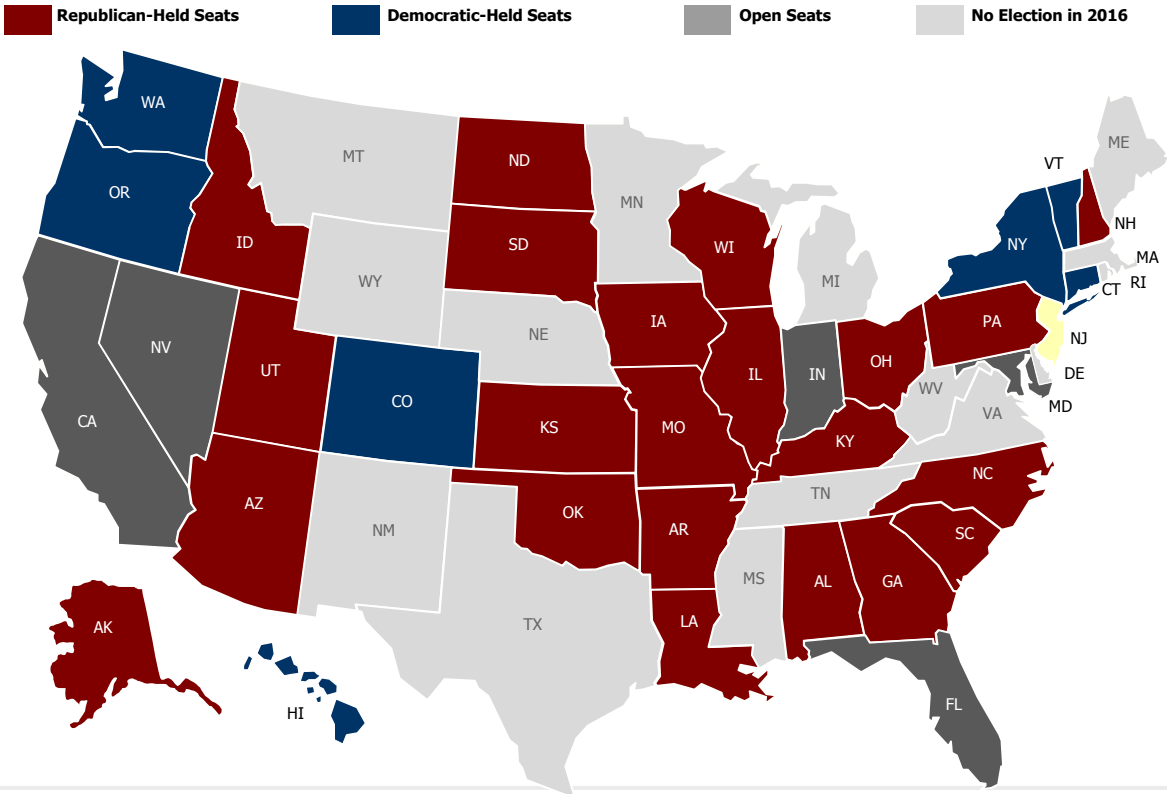


Will There Be A Down Ticket Trump Effect?

- Establishment candidates fared well in primaries
- Limited Historical Coattail Effect
 - 4 of 6 most recent landslide elections, the winning party LOST Senate seats
 - Donors redirect contributions to Congress
 - Some evidence voters prefer divided government

Republicans Hold Majority of Senate Seats Up for Re-Election

2016 U.S. Senate Elections by Incumbent Party



What The Pundits Are Saying This Month

- **President** – Clinton
- **Senate** – Leans Switch to Democrat
- **House** – Democrats gain 5-15 seats, but remains Republican

What Will Happen?



QUESTIONS?

