

An Informed Voter

Element #6 – Political Party Structure – Oregon

1. The founders were fearful of the rise of **fractions**. James Madison in Federalist No. 10, called them “**mischiefs** of fractions”.
 - a. To reduce the impact of this issue the founders developed a series of checks and balances. One of these was the **popular** vote of the people for members of the House of Representatives and the members of the Senate selected by the individual **states**.
 - b. “Surely our government may go on and prosper without the existence of parties. I have always considered their existence as the curse of the country” – James Monroe 1822
2. The selection of Senators by popular vote was the result of the 1913 **17th** Amendment.
3. The Democrat Party was also called the party of **Jackson**.
4. The Whig Party was formed as opponents to Andrew **Jackson**.
5. The Know-Nothing Party was opposed to immigration of the **Irish** and **Germans**, and was Anti-**Roman Catholic**.
6. The Kansas-Nebraska bill allowed these two states to decide if they did or did not want to be **slave** states.
7. Dred Scott was a **slave** from **Missouri**. As a result of the Dred Scott Supreme Court Decision the **Republican** party took the house in 1858.
 - a. These two incidents gave birth to the **Republican** Party.
8. Lincoln won the 1860 Presidential election with **39.8%** of the popular vote.
9. The nickname for the 1912 Progressive Party was the **Bull Moose** party.
10. The foundation of the political system in Oregon is based on Voting **Precincts** at the **County** level.
11. There are **21** voting precincts in Benton County, **84** in Linn County and **121** in Marion County.

12. Cities are often divided into **_Wards_** that do not follow precinct lines. In addition, School Districts are often divided into **_Zones_**.
13. It is not uncommon for cities and special districts to include portions of **_two_** or more Counties.
14. The heart of the political system are the elected and appointed **Preconct_** Committee Persons (PCPs).
 - a. ORS 248 allocates one PCP for about every **_250_** population within a precinct.
 - b. The election of PCP occurs in **_May_** of the even years.
 - c. Individuals holding these positions can influence the **direction** and **focus** of a political party.
 - d. Benton County is allocated **242** PCP positions, Linn County **411** and Marion County **935**
 - e. Typically, only between **20** and **30** percent of these positions are filled by either party.

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Element #8 –Who are the Elected? – Federal Congress

Objectives

- The representatives of the people.
 - The representatives of the state.
 - Number and location of Congressional Districts in Oregon.
 - Term of office for US House of Representatives.
 - Term of office for US Senators.
1. The term of office for members of the House of Representatives is **2** years.
The election is held on the **even** numbered years.
 2. The US Constitution allocates one representative for every **30,000** population.
 - a. This was capped at **435** in 1911.
 3. The US House of Representatives is also called the “**The Peoples** house.”
 4. The number of members of the house for each state is based on the **__population__**, which is determined once every **10** years.
 5. The House of Representatives is responsible for the **budget**. In addition, all bills for raising **revenue** must originate in the House.
 6. As of 2020, Oregon was allocated **six** Congressional Districts. The population of each district must be about **_the same_**.
 7. Benton County is represented by the **4th** District. Linn by the **5th** District and Marion by the **5th** and **5th** Districts.
 8. Each state is represented by **2** Senators.
 - a. Their term of office is **six** years