**Section 4 - Political Parties**

A. Party System

* **Political Party –**
* Help people define political beliefs

B. Two-Party System

* Republican and Democratic parties are the main parties in U.S.
* System dates back to the Federalist and Anti-Federalist
* Accept two parties because its always been that way

C. Role of Minor Parties

* **Third Party –**
* Also called minor parties

D. Types of Third Parties

1) **Single-Issue –**

2) **Ideological Party –**

**3) Splinter Party –**

* **Bull Moose Party –**
* Results in an easy win for Woodrow Wilson the Democrat’s candidate

E. Importance of 3rd Parties

* Have impacted the results of elections
* Splinter party candidates are most likely to impact election results
* Promote many ideas later adopted by major parties
* Minimum wage, five-day work week, unemployment insurance, health insurance

F. Political Party Functions

* George Washington warned against the “[harmful] effects of the spirit of party”
* Feared that parties would hinder a democracy
* Felt that people would be more concerned about helping their party than helping the country

**Party Functions**

1. Recruiting candidates

2) Educate the Public

* **Platform –**
* Allows uninformed voters to know how the candidates stand on key issues

3) Operating Government

* **Patronage –**

4) Acting as Watchdog