Where does one go for answers to pesky factual questions related to party politics? For example, when was Newt Gingrich born? Who was Clark Champ? What percentage of the popular vote did William Jennings Bryan receive in the critical election of 1896? And which GOP presidential candidate received the lowest percentage of the presidential vote? These are things party scholars often need to know, but rarely have at their finger tips.

Good answers to these and related questions can be found in The Encyclopedia of the Republican Party and The Encyclopedia of the Democratic Party, edited by George Kurian and published by M.E. Sharpe. This four volume work (two for each of the major parties) takes place among the best reference works on American party politics. These volumes are well-written and researched, drawing on the talents of numerous political scientists and historians, including some well-known scholars and some scholars that will be well-known some day. Most importantly, the material is well-organized and indexed, so that the broad collection of information included can be used efficiently and effectively.

The initial volumes (volume one of the Republicans; volume three for the Democrats) begin with a brief history of the party, and are then followed by a series of articles under the heading of “issues and ideology.” Here issues are defined rather broadly. The topics covered include policy issues such as abortion, crime, health care, school prayer, tort reform, trade policy, and welfare, among others. But the topics also include what might be called “organizational” (issues campaign finance and campaign finance reform, congressional party leadership, party discipline, public perceptions of parties and candidates, and voting behavior) and “partisan” issues (for the GOP: the Contract with America, modern Republicanism, and Reaganomics; for Democrats: the Democratic Leadership Council, the McGovern-Fraser Commission, and State’s rights). Often the same authors have written parallel pieces for each party, making the material especially useful. Each piece lists the connections between the topic and the party in question, and includes a basic bibliography of sources. The essay on the Democratic and Republican National Committees, by Paul Herrnson and John White, respectively, are jewels. And David Gillespie contributes two fine essays on “third” parties.

The volumes then move on to biographies. First, there are brief and well-done biographies of each party’s presidents, vice-presidents, losing presidents...

**THEME:** Party Factions

- From Headquarters
- From the Field
- Special Interests

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tial candidates, speakers of the House of Representatives, "other notables," which include especially prominent federal, state and party leaders, a complete list of members of Congress and state governors. The second volumes for each major party (volume 2 for the Republicans and volume 4 for the Democrats) contain a variety of data on parties. Each of these volumes begins with accounts of all the national nominating conventions, followed by the party platforms adopted at each convention. Next is a summary of presidential elections, including a brief description of the campaigns and a summary of the results. Then, each volume contains nine useful appendices: GOP rules and Democratic Party Charter/Bylaws; party leaders in the House and Senate; party defections in Congress; party convention dates and sites; national committees chairs; addresses of state party headquarters; House election victories; and the party affiliations in Congress. These volumes end with four excellent indices which are especially useful: a general index; a biographical index, a geographic index, and an index of minorities and women.

Overall, The Encyclopedia of the Republican Party and The Encyclopedia of the Democratic Party are excellent reference works: well-written, comprehensive, and easy to use. There are few basic facts about the major party system that are not covered in these volumes. One can only hope the editors will update the work on a regular basis.

Now for the answers to those pesky questions: Newt Gingrich was born in 1943, one of the darkest years for Western Civilization, which may explain Speaker Gingrich’s fascination with the topic; Clark Champ was a Democratic Speaker elected in 1911, ousting the legendary Joe Cannon, perhaps serving as role model for Gingrich; William Jennings Bryan received 47% of the popular vote in 1896, a result that may surprise many observers used to thinking of 1896 as a decisive defeat for the Democrats and Populism; and William Howard Taft produced the worst performance for the Republican ever with his 23.2% of the popular vote in 1912, largely because of the Bull Moose Party. The worst performance without a significant “third” party effort was Barry Goldwater in 1964 with 38.5%.

FROM HEADQUARTERS

Dear Colleagues:

Many thanks to those who have agreed to serve on the several POP committees for the upcoming year. These committees do a large portion of the work of the organization and we all owe them a debt of gratitude for their time and effort.

There are two items of business I would like POP members to think about. The Committee is engaged in planning the recognition and celebration of the anniversary of the publication of Toward A More Responsible Two Party System. Toward that end, we have set three things in motion. First, we are trying to identify individuals who might have been students or colleagues of any committee member who might have useful and interesting information to share about the development of the Report and/or recollections of the member’s spin on it. Second, we are trying to work with Wesleyan to obtain access to the Schattschneider papers. It is unclear at this point how much material related to the report might be included in the papers. If anyone knows of another archive of papers of any other member, please contact Paul Herrnson, John Green or me. Finally, we are trying to identify funding sources so that the event will be a special contribution to the scholarship and dialogue of all who are interested in political parties.

I also want to thank everyone who has expressed an interest in the POP portion of the APSA meeting next year in Boston. In the middle of the most horrendous ice storm of the century, Tony Corrado was receiving, sorting, reading and responding to paper proposals and negotiating with other section chairs in the usual back and forth of program development. He had far more proposals than our allotted 10 panels could accommodate and I regret that some members are disappointed not to have the opportunity to present their research.

We expect to have a Wednesday afternoon workshop which will get POP off to another fast start. The panels that are scheduled have expanded a bit on our traditional ways of looking at things and I think that we’ll be enriched by them.

In addition, I want to ask POP members to reflect on the present position (and status) of doctoral education and scholarly research activities related to political parties and interest groups. Are we recruiting and supporting enough new scholars? Is their work getting published and is it making an impact? What about funding and grant opportunities? Do graduate curricula reflect the interdisciplinary thrusts that are evident in the changing environment in which we all work? Finally, is there something POP can/should do to energize future research agendas in parties and political organizations?

If you have suggestions or comments about any of these topics, please discuss them with any Executive Council member or send them to me: Ruth.Jones@asu.edu.

Sincerely,

Ruth S. Jones
Chair

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1998 Political Organizations and Parties Committees

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Candice Nelson, American University 1999
Paul Beck, Ohio State 2000

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Political Organizations and Parties By-Laws

1. Executive Authority of the APSA Section on Political Organizations and Parties (POP) shall reside in the office of Chair, elected at the annual business meeting for a two-year term in odd-numbered years, beginning in 1983.
1. The Chair and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for submitting an Annual Report to the APSA on POP’s activities.

2. The chair appoints: By-Laws committees, when needed to propose new by-laws for membership approval at the Annual Business Meeting, and Nominating committees to propose candidates for Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and the POP Council. These nominations shall be forwarded to the Chair who will in turn send them to be published in the POP newsletter.

2. The Secretary-Treasurer is elected at the Annual Business Meeting for a two-year term in even years.

3. Governing authority of POP shall reside in a council of eight persons.
3. Four persons shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting every year to two-year terms on the POP Council.

2. The major responsibility of the council is to advise the POP Chair.

4. The Council shall meet annually in conjunction with the Business Meeting.
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1997 AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING


"New Issues and Political Choices: Do "Preferences" Depend on Framing or Linkages?" Michael C. Munger and Scott de Marchi, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

"Progress in Modeling Attitudes and Opinion Formation." Dennis Chong, Northwestern University.

"Accessibility of Social Identification and Political Participation." Joe TenBarge, University of Texas, Austin and Robert C. Luskin, University of Texas. 


"Cue Taking Among Big Givers." Wesley Joe, Georgetown University.

"Decision Rules of Major Individual Contributors to Congress: The Importance of Incumbent Committee and Ideology." Paul S. Herrnson, University of Maryland and Lynda W. Powell, University of Rochester.

"A Profile of Large Contributors Over Time." John C. Green, University of Akron.


"Contentious Politics in America After the Second World War." David Meyer, CUNY.

"The Impact of Institutions on Left Party Change in Italy, the UK and Germany." William Garber, Northwestern University.


"The Legislative Connection in Campaign Finance." Stephen Ansolabehere and James M. Snyder, Jr., Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"Committee Theories and Committee Institutions." David C. King, Harvard University.

"Racial Polarization and Realignment in the New South." David I. Lublin, University of South Carolina and D. Stephen Voss, Harvard University.

"Beyond Old and New Social Movements." Kim Geron and Ralph Armbruster, University of California, Riverside.

"The Phenomenology of Social Movements." Joseph Kling, St. Lawrence University.

"Theories and Practices of Transformation." Diana Coole, QMW University of London.

"Toward A Postmodern Left: Identity, Difference, and the Radical-Democratic Imaginary." Thomas C. Conte, University of Maryland, College Park.


"Conflicting and Cooperative Lobbying Strategies." Beth L. Leech, Texas A&M University.


"Interest Groups, Committee Agendas, and Partisan Changes in Congress." Gary J. McKissick, Emory University.

"Interest Group Lobbying: Differences Between the Legislative and Executive Branches." Scott R. Furlong, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay.


"The Vital Evangelical in Presidential Politics." Daniel Hofrenning, St. Olaf College.


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and David A.M. Peterson, University of Minnesota.


"Modeling Legislator Ideology Using Surveys of Elites." Benjamin Bishin, University of California, Los Angeles.

"PAC Sensitivity to Candidate Ideology." Charles H. Franklin, University of Wisconsin.


"Regimes and Institutions." Karen Orren, University of California, Los Angeles and Stephen Skowronek, Yale University.


"Institutions of Party Control in Congress." Kathleen Bawn, University of California, Los Angeles.


"Over-Time Opposition to Immigration and Support for Nativist Political Parties in the United States, France and Germany." Joel S. Fetzer, University of Southern California.

"Regionalism and Successful Party Formation: The Reform Party of Canada and the Northern League of Italy." Christina Grabarkiewicz, Ohio State University.


"Equivalent "Bang for the Buck? A District Level Test for Differential Returns for Campaign Expenditures." Joanne Connor Green, Texas Christian University.

"When Women Run: Congressional Districts and Female Candidates." Nicole R. Krassas, Eastern Connecticut State University and Dena Levy, SUNY, Brockport.

"A Woman's Seat in Congress? The Role of Gender and Race in the Battle to Succeed Pat Schroeder." Monica Bauer, Metro State College of Denver.

"Money Matters: Women's PACs and Individual Contributions' Impact on Unique Senate Elections." Kelly J. Barnes, University of California, Riverside.


"To Lobby Alone or In a Flock: Foraging Behavior Among Organized Interests." Virginia Gray, University of Minnesota and David Lowery, University of North Carolina.

"Interest Groups, Parties and Policies in the American States." Sarah M. Morehouse, University of Connecticut.


"Between Purista and Pragmatists: Presidents and Social Reform Movements." Daniel J. Tichenor, Rutgers University.

"Presidential Leadership and Partisan Realignment." David K. Nichols, Montclair State University.

"Democratic Presidential Leadership: an Oxymoron?" Sidney Milkis, Brandeis University and Marc Landy, Boston College.

"Parties and Participatory Linkage: What Do We Do With Non-Participation?" Andrew M. Appleton, Washington State University.

"Expanding Participation Opportunities in Parties: Who Benefits?" Susan E. Scarrow, University of Houston.

"From Collective to Selective Linkage?" Piero Ignazio, University of Bologna.

"Campaign Finance and Linkage in U.S. and German Parties." Andrea Rommele, University of Mannheim.


"Political Parties and Informative Representation." Roger Larocca, University of Chicago.


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“The Partisan Choice: Bill Clinton or Bob Dole.” Chalres E. Smith, Jr., University of Mississippi; John H. Kessel and Peter M. Radcliffe, Ohio State University.

“Attitudinal Correlates of the 1996 Presidential Vote.” Herbert Weisberg and Stephen Mockabee, Ohio State University.


“Candidate Campaign Organizations in General Elections.” Jonathan H. Bernstein, University of California, Berkeley.

“Campaign Contributions: Narrowing the Field of Candidates.” Alexandra Cooper, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.


“Campaign Finance Reform and the 1996 House Elections.” Robert Kirby Goidel, Indiana State University; Donald A. Gross, University of Kentucky and Todd Shields, University of Arkansas.


“The Majority Vote Rule and Campaign Contributions.” Stacy Gordon, University of California, Davis.


“Campaign Finance in New York City: The Limits of Reform.” Jeffrey Kraus, Wagner College.


“The Politicization of the AARP: Is it an 800 Gorilla or a Paper Tiger?” Thomas Schlesinger, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

“Special Interests and the Initiative Process in Colorado: The Case of the Parental Rights Amendment.” Daniel A. Smith, University of Denver and Robert Herrington.

“Old Parties and New Democracies: Do They Bring Out the Best in One Another?” Michelle Taylor, Texas A&M University.


“The Check is in the Mail: Small Money Contributions and Major and Minor Party Activism in 1996.” Lori M. Weber and Walt Stone, University of Colorado, Boulder; Patricia Jaramillo and Randall W. Partin, University of Colorado.


“Did the Campaign Matter? First Evidence from the 1997 British Election Campaign Study.” Anthony Heath, Oxford University; Roger Jowell, Social and Community Planning Research; John Curtice, Strathclyde University; and Pippa Norris, Harvard University.


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“Pathways to Political Professionalism: Institutional Context and the Emergence of a Political Class in the U.S. and Germany.” Jens Borchert, University of Goettingen.


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"A Dynamic Model of Campaign Fundraising." Brett A. Saranti, Northwestern University.

"Formal Models of War Chests." Jay M. Goodliffe, University of Rochester.

"Reconsidering Buckley vs. Valeo: How Should We Regulate Spending By Wealthy Candidates?" Alan Gerber, Yale University.

"Germany's Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) in Comparative Perspective." David F. Patton, Connecticut College.

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"Labor Neotraditionalism: The Key to Understanding Union Politics." Taylor Dark, III, Doshisha University.

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"Business Roots of an Urban Agrarian Credit Reform, 1900-1916." Stuart Shulman, University of Oregon.

"The Suffrage Kindergartens: Converting the Women Who Has "All the Rights She Needs."" Cheryl Logan Sparks, Ohio State University.


"Adaptation and Decline in Chinese Basic Level Party Organizations: Responses to Economic Change." Nina Halpern, University of British Columbia.