

# The Six Political Party Systems in American History

First 2-party system  
Federalists v. Republicans  
1780s – early 1800s

Federalists

Republicans

Second 2-party system  
Democrats v. Whigs  
1828 – approximately 1852

Democrats

Whigs

Third 2-party system  
South v. North, the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century political crisis  
Mid 1850s until 1865

Liberty Party

Free Soil Party

Whigs

American Party

Republican Party

The Election of 1860	
Democrats	Republicans

Fourth 2-party system Politics of the Gilded Age, Progressive Era, and Republican Era 1868 – 1932
Republicans and Democrats

Populist Party  
1892 – 1900

Progressive Era Politics  
1900 – 1920

The Republican Era  
1921 – 1933

Fifth 2-party system  
Roosevelt and the "New Deal" v. Republicans  
1932 – 1968

The Political Legacy of the New Deal

Democrats

Republicans

States' Rights

Progressive Party

Sixth 2-party system  
Democrats v. resurgent Republicans  
1968 – present

Nixon's New Federalism  
1968 – 1972

Democrats

Republicans

Reagan and the "New Right"  
1980 – present

Democrats

Republicans