

# Why Third Parties are Important in American Politics

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Why are they important?

## Third Parties in U.S. Politics

### LARGE (>100,000 members)

#### Green Party



**Political position**  
Left-wing  
**Ideology**  
Social democracy, Progressivism  
**Founded** 2001

#### Libertarian Party



**Political position**  
Libertarian  
**Ideology**  
Non-interventionism  
**Founded** 1971

#### Constitution Party



**Political position**  
Nationalism, Conservatism  
**Ideology**  
Christian nationalism, Social conservatism  
**Founded** 1992

### SMALL

#### Left-wing

- Labor Party
- Socialist Alternative
- U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization

#### Centrist

- Centrist Party
- Modern Whig Party
- Unity Party of America

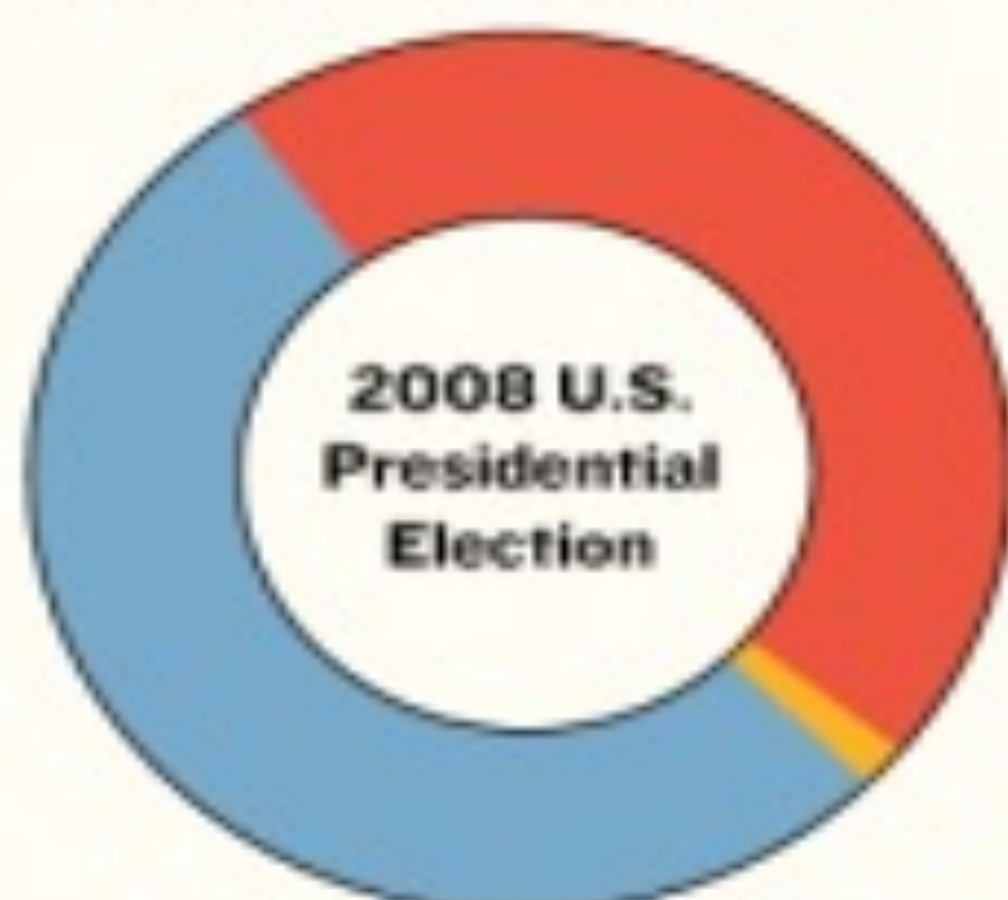
#### Right-wing

- Christian Liberty Party
- American Patriot Party
- Independent American Party

#### Other

- National Socialist Movement
- Pirate Party of the United States
- La Raza Unida Party
- United States Marijuana Party
- Prohibition Party
- Rest Is Too Damn High Party

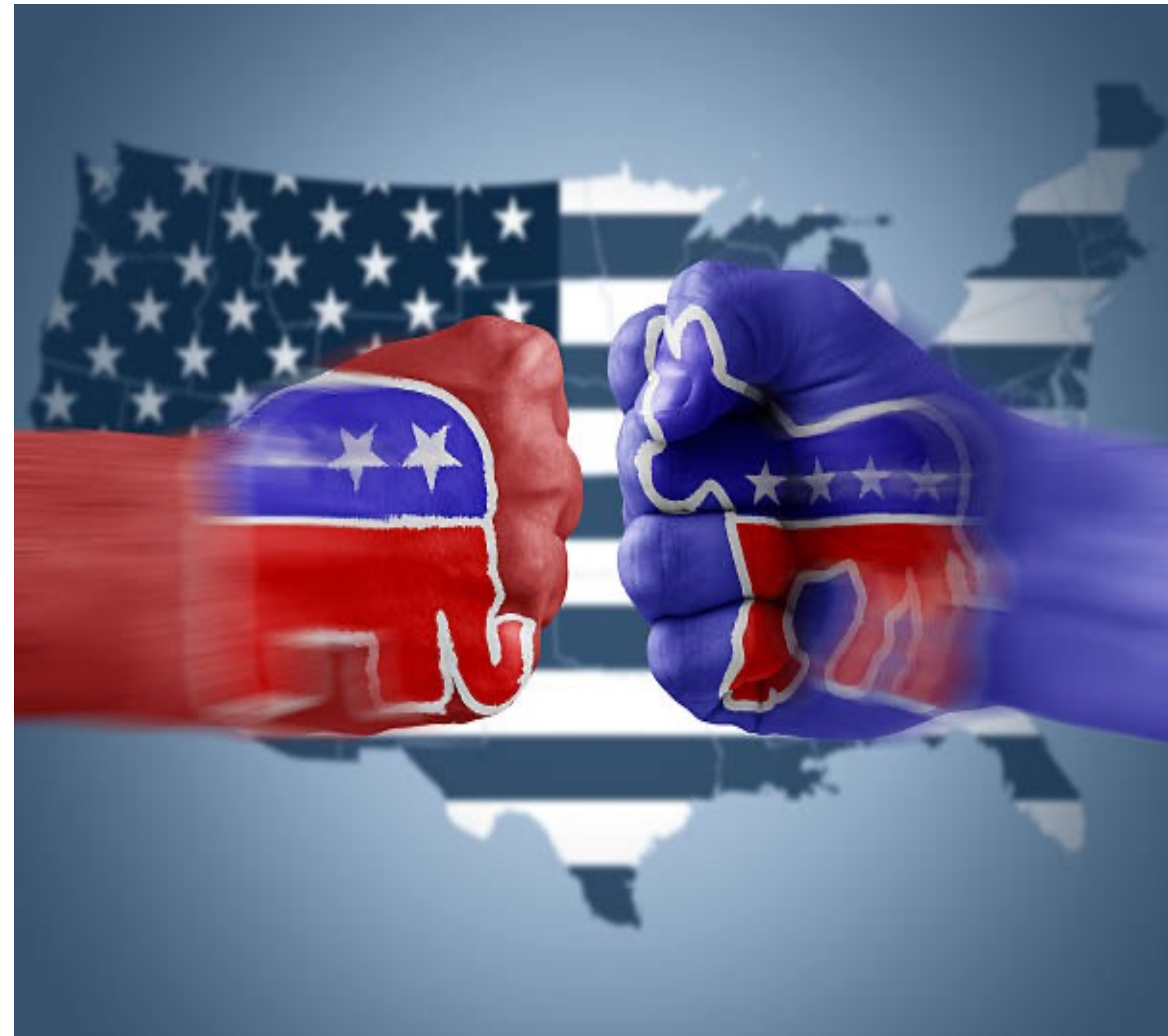
### HOW DID THEY DO IN 2008?



Realchangenews.org

- Third Parties play as “Spoilers”
- They allow voters to see a different viewpoint
- They tend to focus on issues that the major parties don't do
- “The most important role of third parties is to bring new ideas and institutions into politics, they innovate” (share.america.gov)

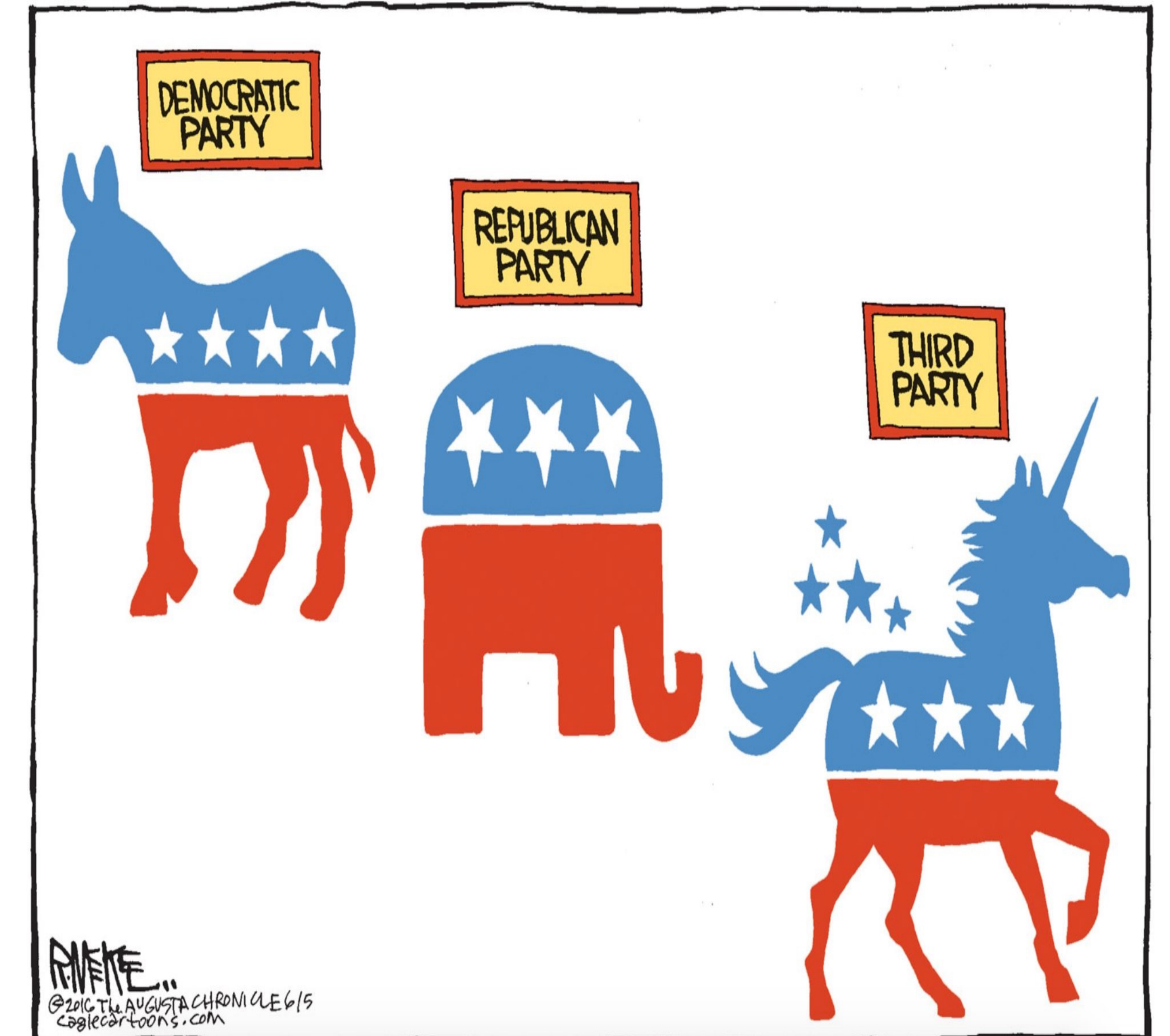
What's stopping them?



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- America has run on a two-party system since the election of 1796
- The federal government has rules placed on how many votes and finances you need to be able to run for offices
- Must have 15 percent of the votes in order to participate in the election
- Media coverage is very low for third parties making it difficult for voters to notice a third-party member
- Increase in polarization have made it difficult to gather support for third-party members

How we can fix it and the benefits of it



Progressive.org

- Change up the Federal campaign finance law
- Give more media attention to third-party members
- This can decrease polarization if more people are more aware of third-parties and their ideologies can align with the voters
- Can finally abolish a corrupt two-party system