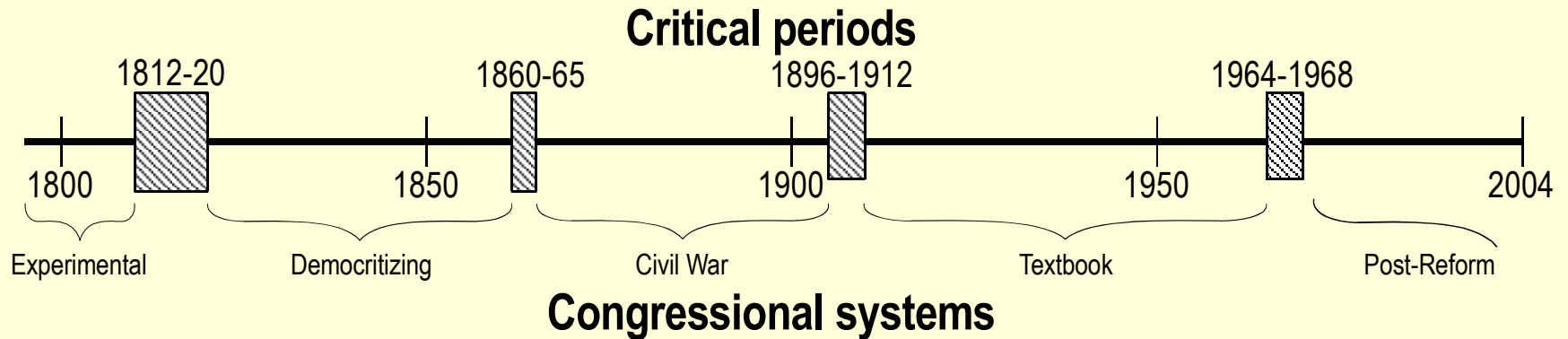


Origins and Development of Congress

17.251/252

Fall 2004

Congressional Historical Eras and Electoral Discontinuities



1789-1812

(Experimental system)

Electoral dynamics		Organizational dynamics		
During critical period	During cong'l system	Rules	Comms.	Party leadership
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Elite electorate (Table 3.2) -Feds vs. Reps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Floor supreme - "previous q" developed in the House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<i>Ad hoc</i> select comms. dominate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Loose formal organization

1812-20

(Transition from Experimental to Antebellum systems)

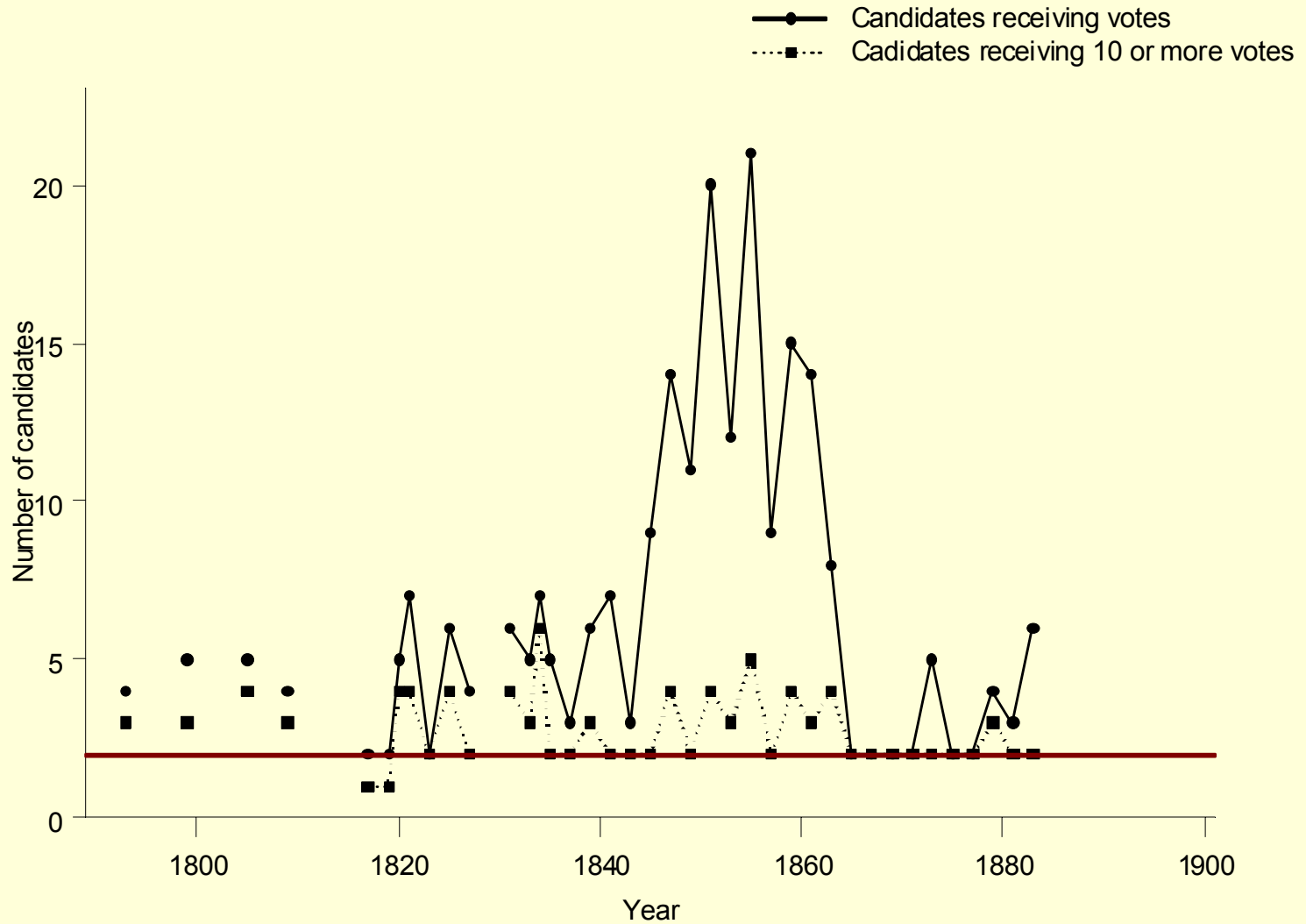
- -Electorate expands
- -Federalists discredited
- -Slavery now an issue
- -Napoleonic Wars end

1820-60

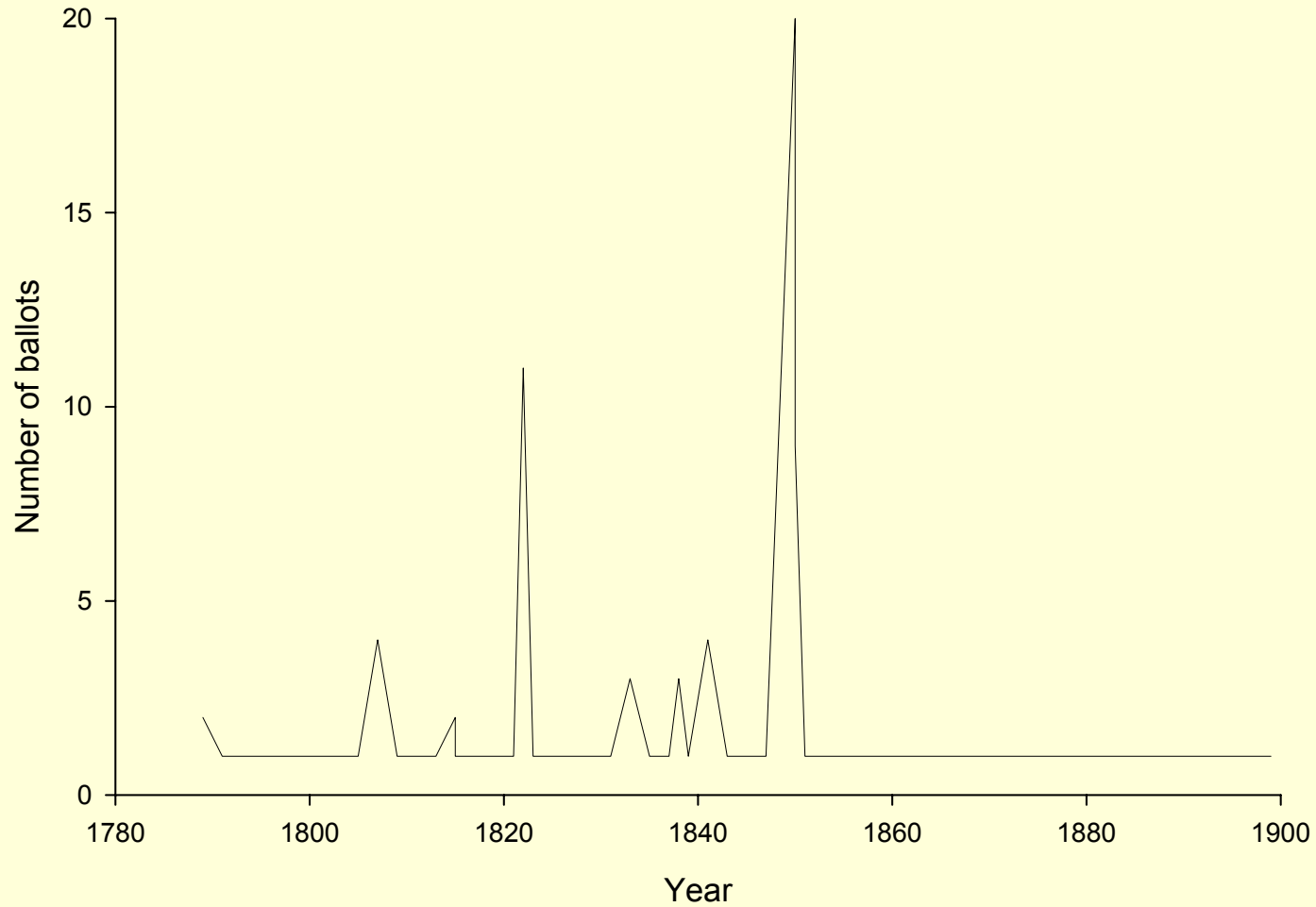
(Antebellum system)

	Organizational dynamics		
Electoral dynamics	Rules	Comms.	Party leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mass electorate -Whigs vs. Dems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committees take agenda control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Standings dominate selects -comm chairs compete w/ Speaker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Regional divisions complicate Speakership selection (next slide) -Senate leadership remains weak

Balloting for Speaker



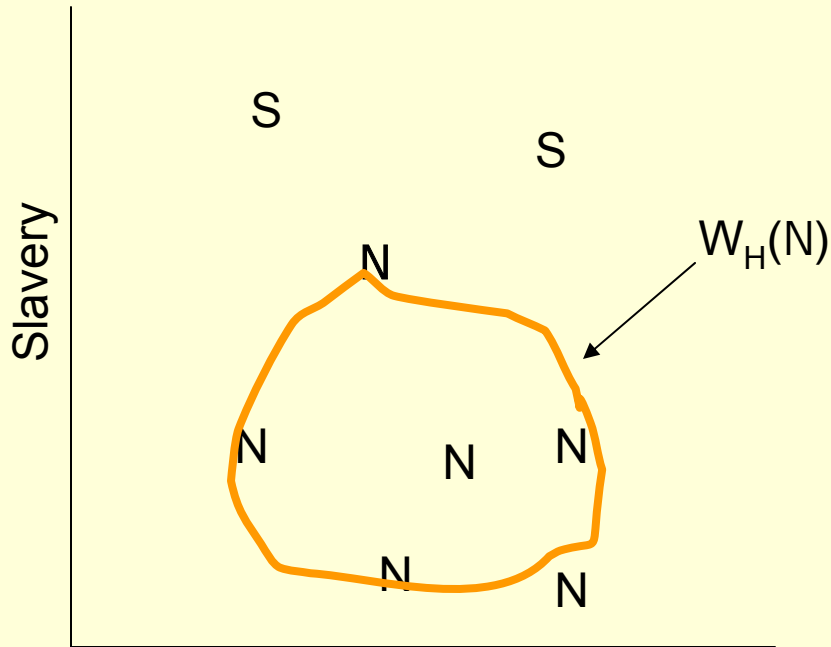
Balloting for Clerk



Year	Cong.	Ballots	Winning Speaker		Largest party	
			Name, State	Party	Name	Pct.
1825	19	2	John W. Taylor, N. Y.	Adams	Adams	51.2
1827	20	1	Andrew Stevenson, Va.	Jackson	Jackson	53.1
1829	21	1	Andrew Stevenson, Va.	Jackson	Jackson	63.8
1831	22	1	Andrew Stevenson, Va.	Jackson	Jackson	59.2
1833	23	1	Andrew Stevenson, Va.	Jackson	Jackson	59.6
1834	23	10	John Bell, Tenn.	Jackson	“	“
1835	24	1	James K. Polk. Tenn.	Jackson	Jackson	59.1
1837	25	1	James K. Polk. Tenn.	Dem.	Democrat	52.9
1839	26	11	Robert M.T. Hunter, Va.	Whig	Democrat	51.7
1841	27	1	John White, Ky.	Whig	Whig	58.7
1843	28	1	John W. Jones, Va.	Dem.	Democrat	65.9
1845	29	1	John W. Davis, Ind.	Dem.	Democrat	62.3
1847	30	3	Robert C. Winthrop, Mass.	Whig.	Whig	50.4
1849	31	63	Howell Cobb, Ga.	Dem.	Democrat	48.5
1851	32	1	Linn Boyd, Ky.	Dem.	Democrat	54.5
1853	33	1	Linn Boyd, Ky.	Dem.	Democrat	67.1
1855	34	133	Nathaniel Banks, Mass.	Amer.	Opposition	42.7

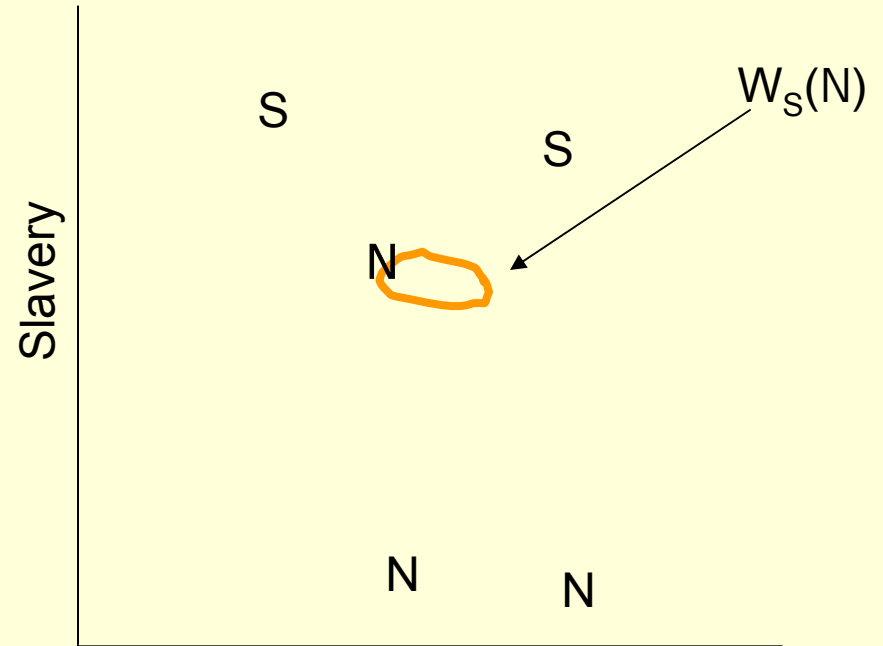
The Effect of the Balance Rule

Stylized House



Gov't Activism

Stylized Senate



Gov't Activism

1860-1865

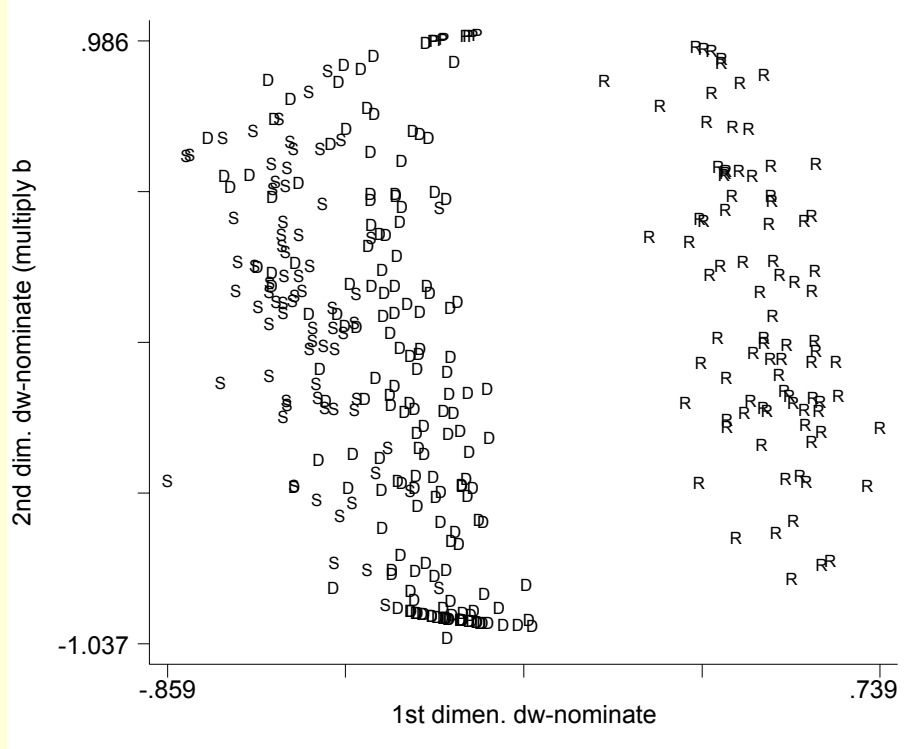
(Transition from Antebellum to Civil War System

- South excluded from national elections
- Party support highly regionalized

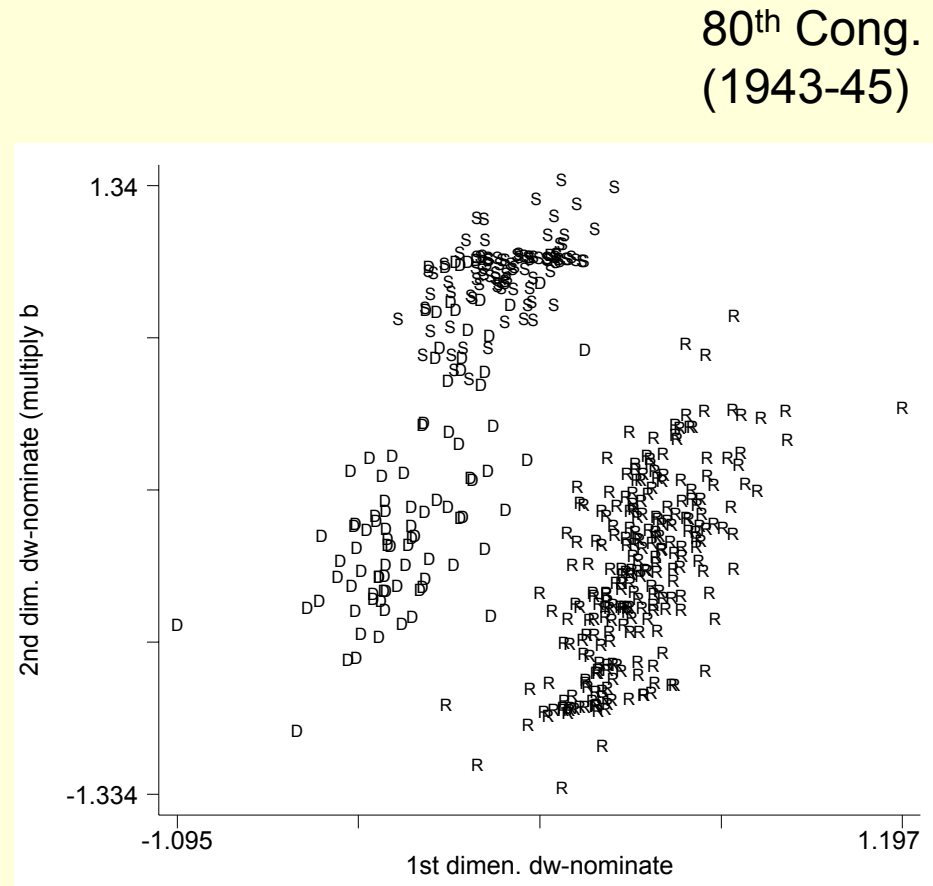
1865-1896 (Civil War System)

	Organizational dynamics		
Electoral dynamics	Rules	Comms.	Party leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Dems. v. Reps. -Dem. Strength in the South -Rep. strength in the North -Knife-edged partisan margins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -”Reed Rules” in the House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Parties take control of committee rosters -Appr. devolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Party polarization -Party “strong”

Ideological divisions



52nd Cong.
(1891-1893)



80th Cong.
(1943-45)

1896-1912

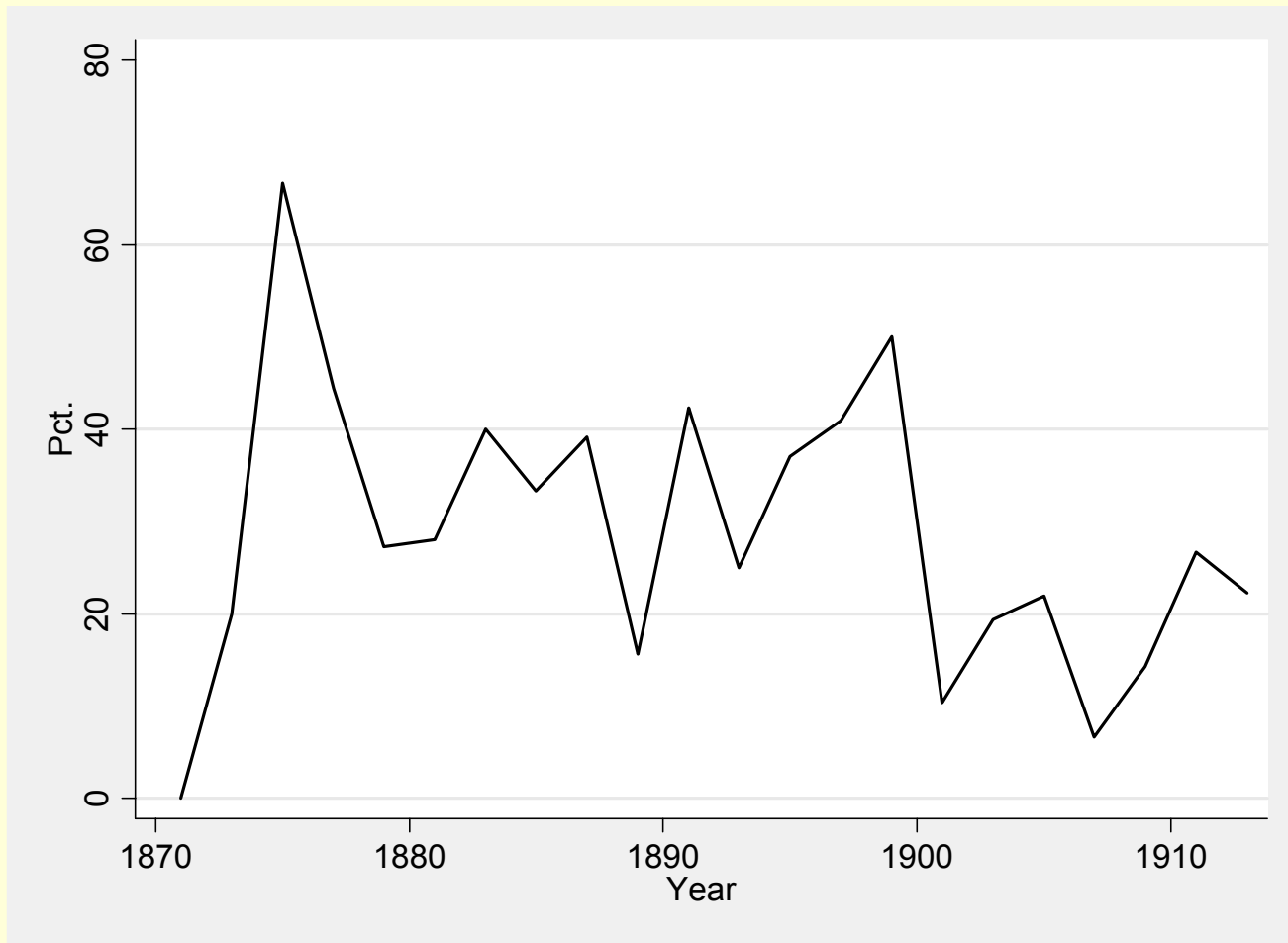
(Transition from Civil War to Textbook systems)

- Economic dislocations create
Progressive/Populist movements

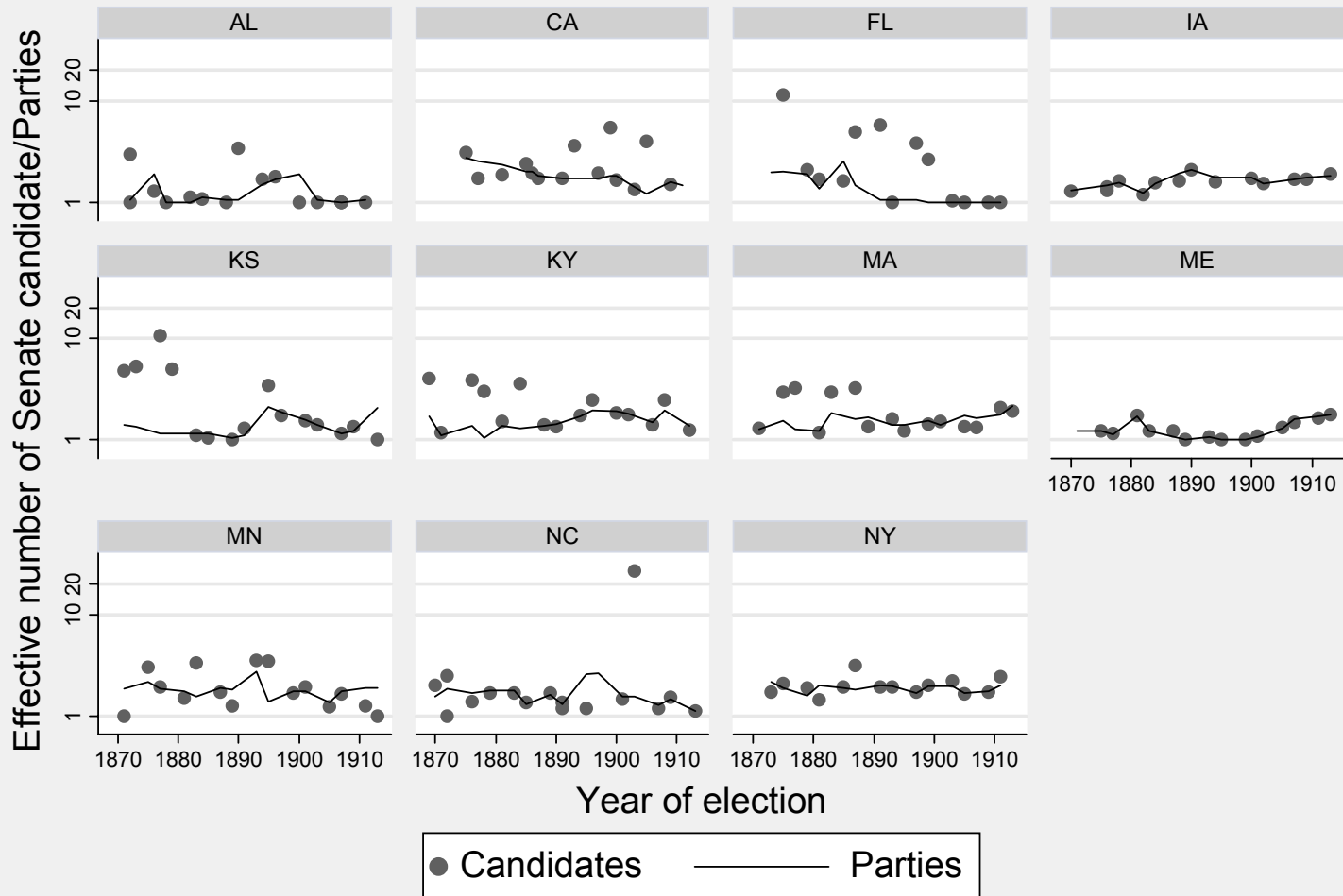
A Word about Senate Elections

- State legislative elections often brought about chaotic balloting
- Stories of corruption in Senate elections led to Progressive calls for reform
- 17th amendment: popular election of senators (1914)
- Still parties become more prominent

% joint ballot elections for Senate



Effective number of Senate candidates in states



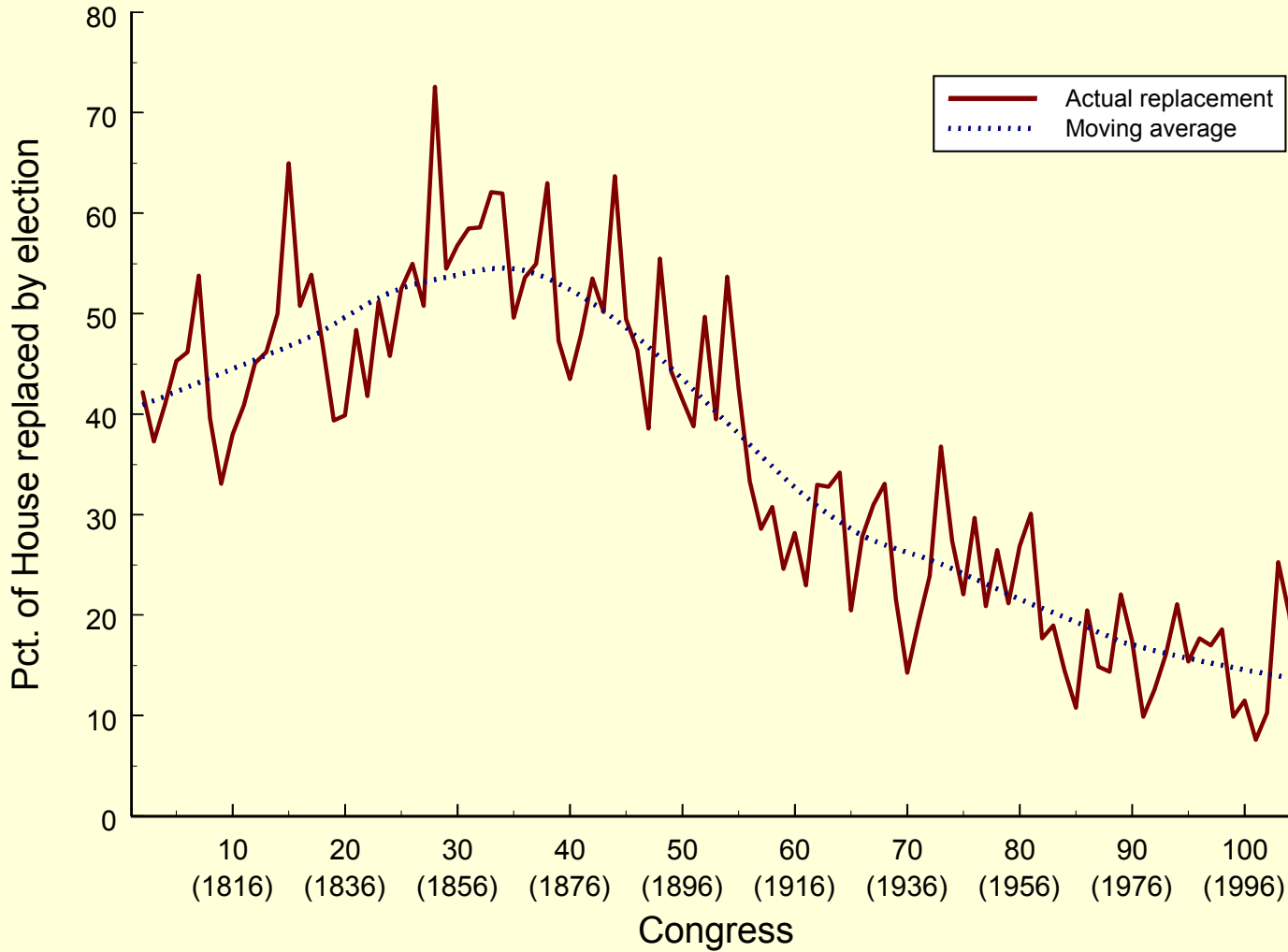
Graphs by State

1912-1968

(Textbook system)

	Organizational dynamics		
Electoral dynamics	Rules	Comms.	Party leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Regional support for parties -Dems pick up progressives and cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battles over filibuster prominent in the Senate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Comms. dominate legislating & careers -consol. in 1946 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Party cohesion diminishes -party leaders brokers

Rise of careerism



1968-1974

(Transition from Textbook to Post-Reform system

- Anti-war sentiment divorces supporters of strong defense from Dems.
- Civil Rights movement divorces southern Whites from Dems, but reinforces Black affiliation with Dems.

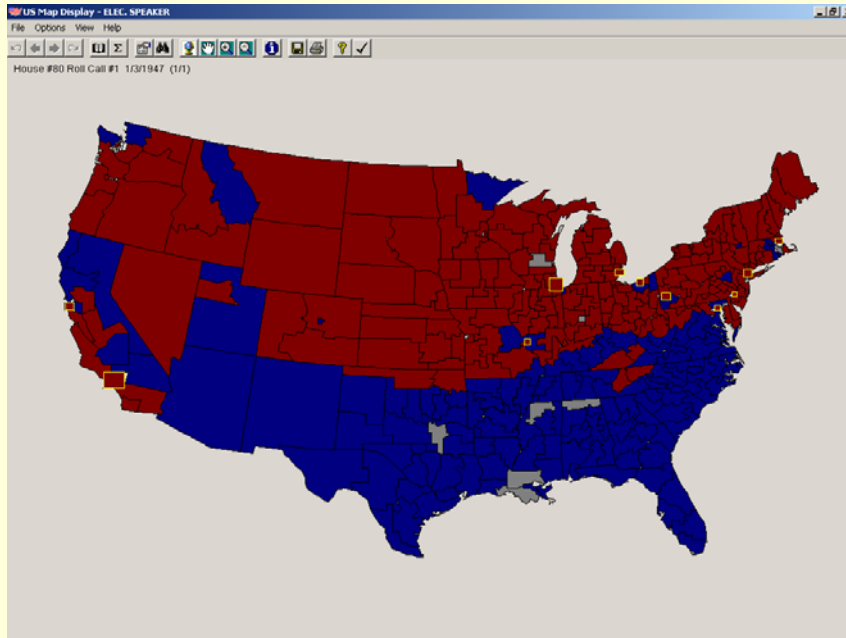
1974-now

(Post-Reform System)

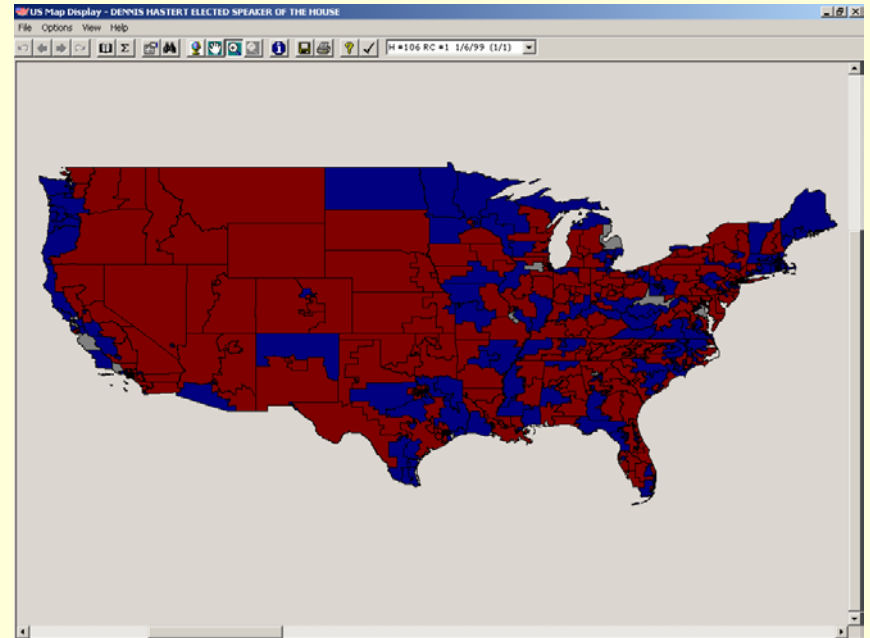
	Organizational dynamics		
Electoral dynamics	Rules	Comms.	Party leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reps conservative, Dems. Liberal -Regionalism <i>per se</i> deemphasized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floor proceedings open up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Comms important, but.... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Parties resurgent -Leaders more assertive (Republicans esp.)

Loss of regionalism in parties

80th Congress



106th Congress



Ideological separation of parties

