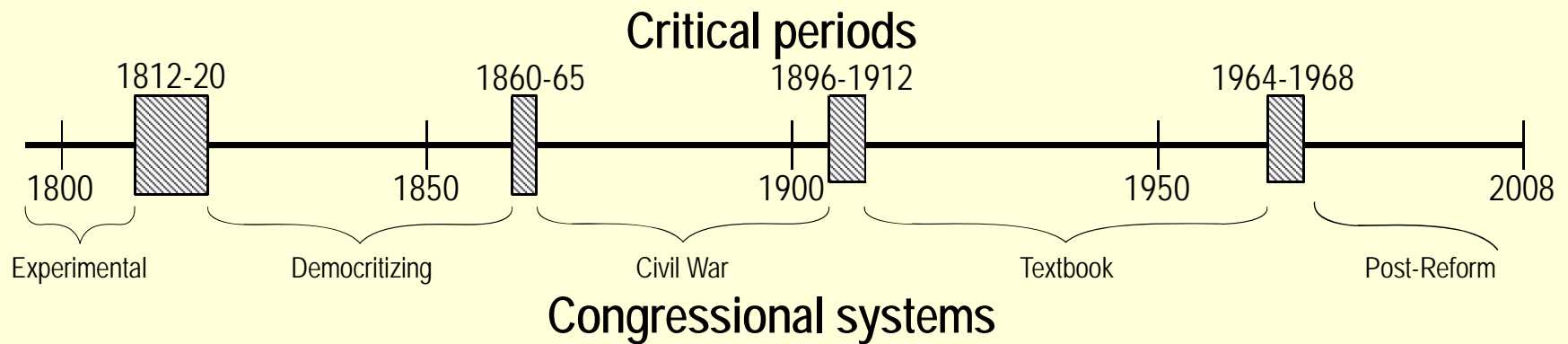


# Origins and Development of Congress

17.251/252

Fall 2008

# Congressional Historical Eras and Electoral Discontinuities



A dawning  
new era?

# 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"> <li>-Elite electorate (Table 3.2)</li> <li>-Feds vs. Reps.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Floor supreme</li> <li>- "previous q" developed in the House</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Ad hoc</i> select comms. dominate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Loose formal organization</li> </ul>

# 1812-20

(Transition from Experimental to Antebellum systems)

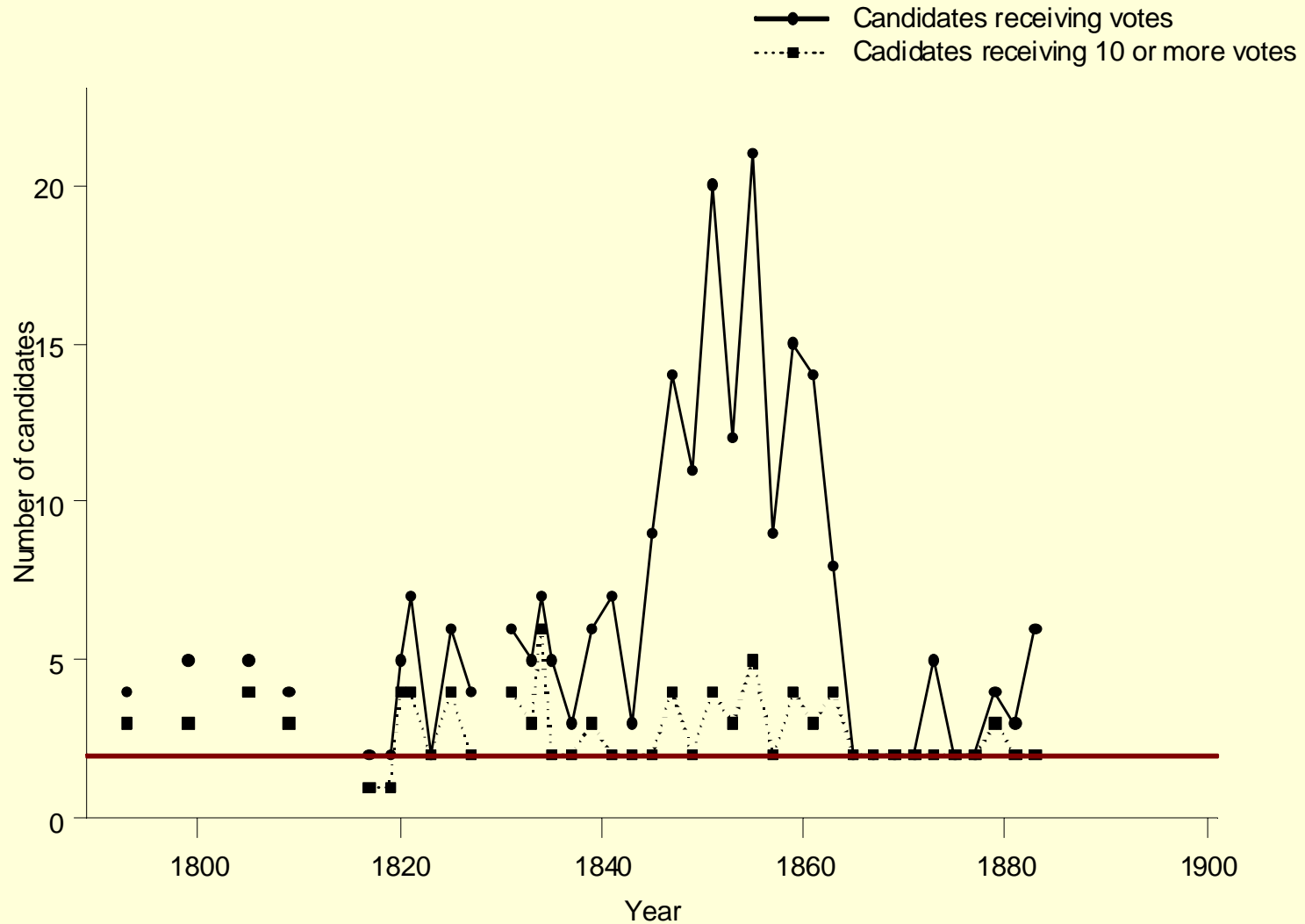
- -Electorate expands
- -Federalists discredited
- -Slavery now an issue
- -Napoleonic Wars end

# 1820-60

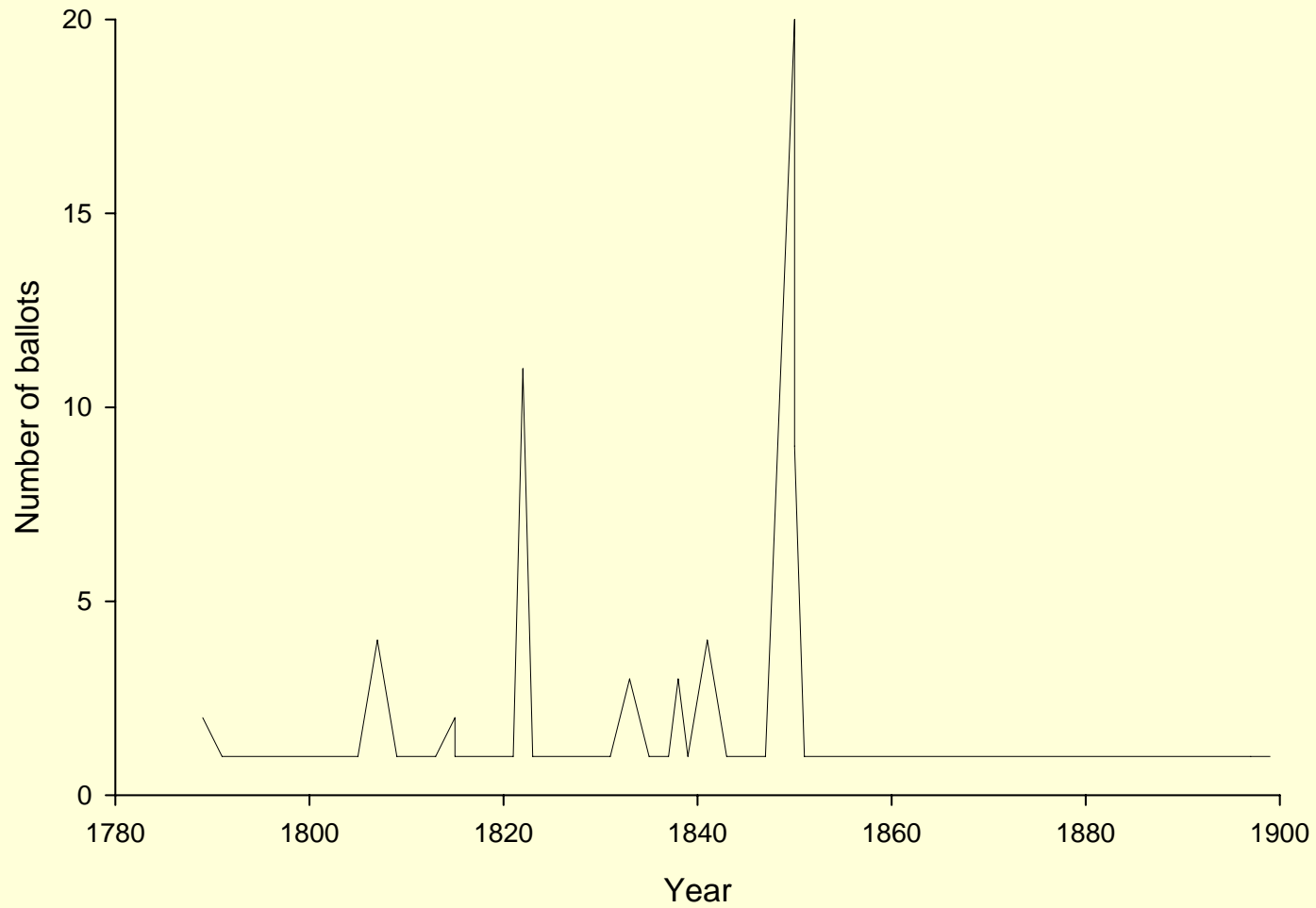
## (Antebellum system)

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

# Balloting for Speaker



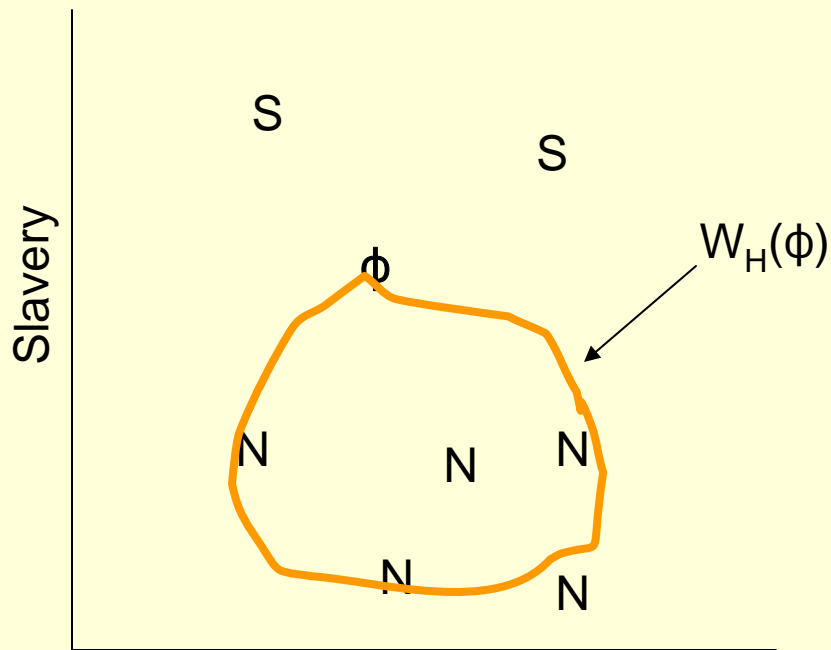
# Balloting for Clerk



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

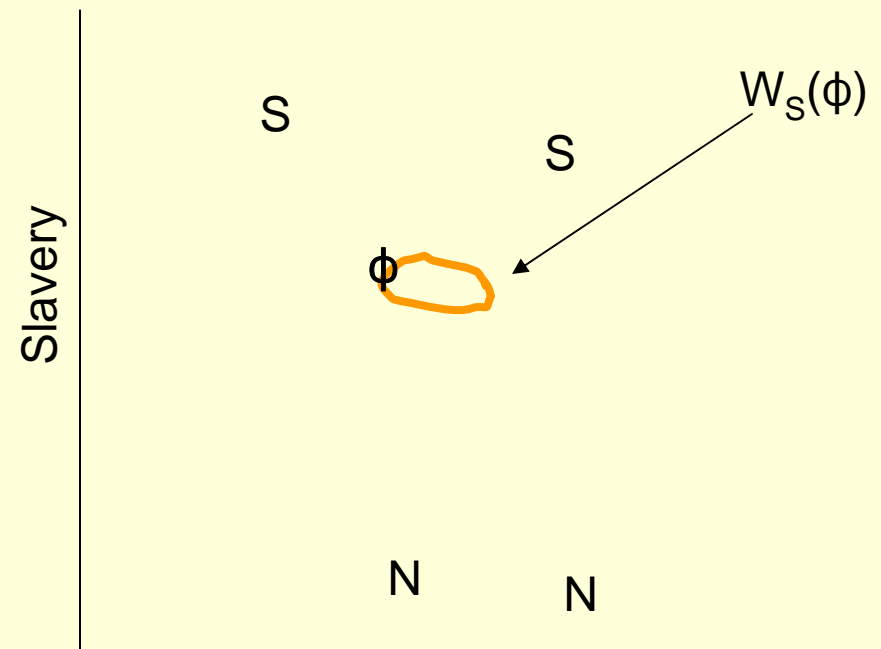
# The Effect of the Balance Rule

Stylized House



Gov't Activism

Stylized Senate



Gov't Activism

1860-1865

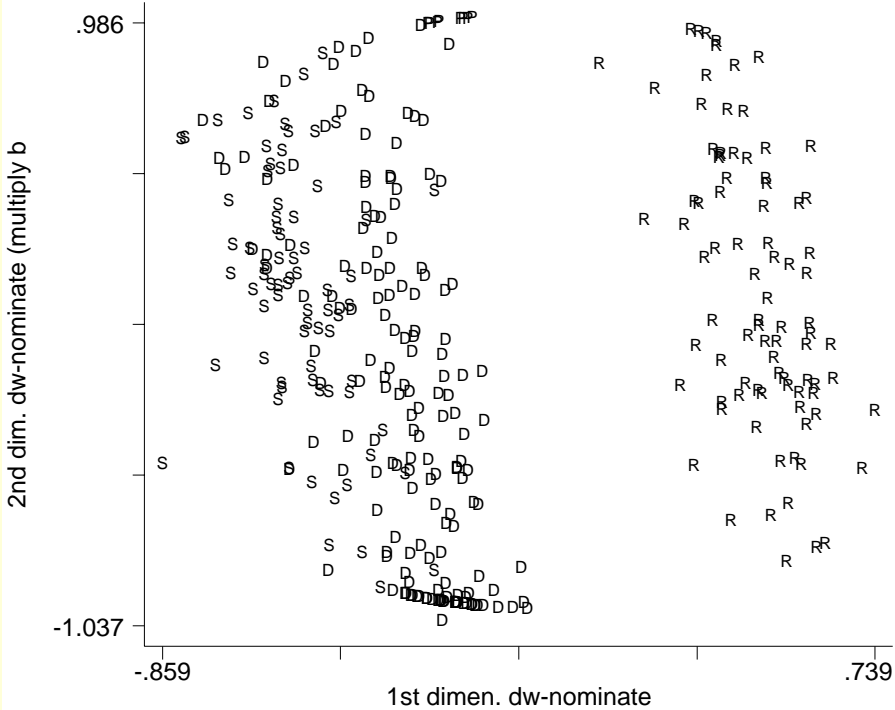
(Transition from Antebellum to Civil  
War System

- South excluded from national elections
- Party support highly regionalized

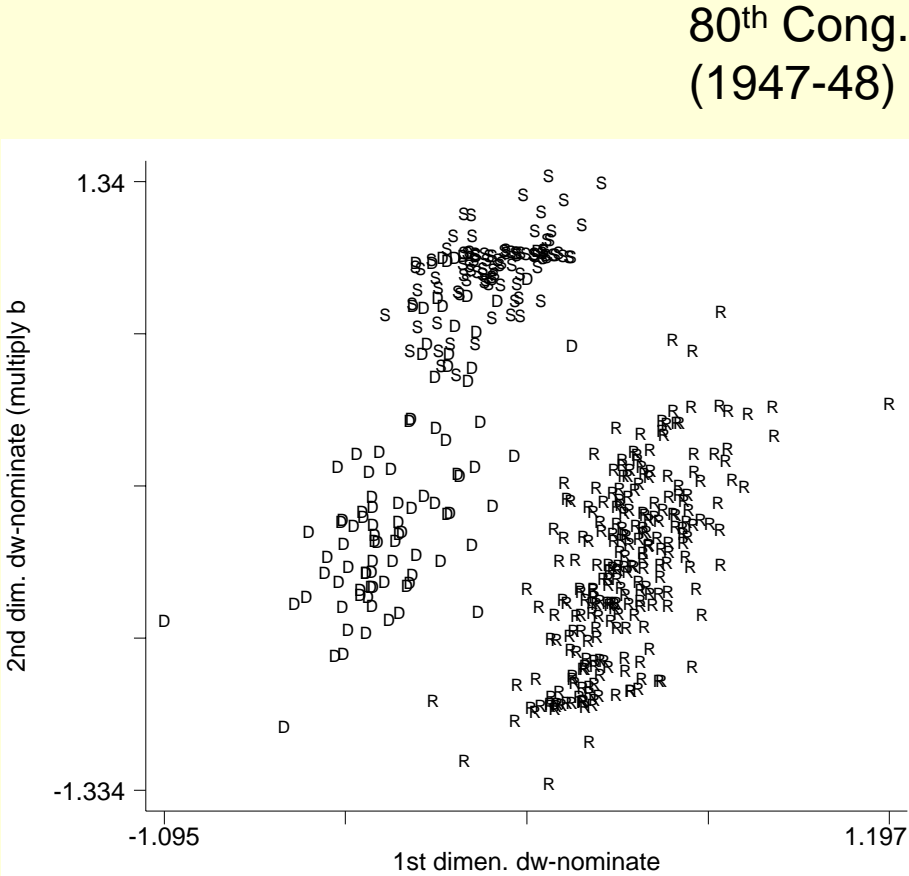
# 1865-1896 (Civil War System)

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

# Ideological divisions



52<sup>nd</sup> Cong.  
(1891-1893)



80<sup>th</sup> Cong.  
(1947-48)

# 1896-1912

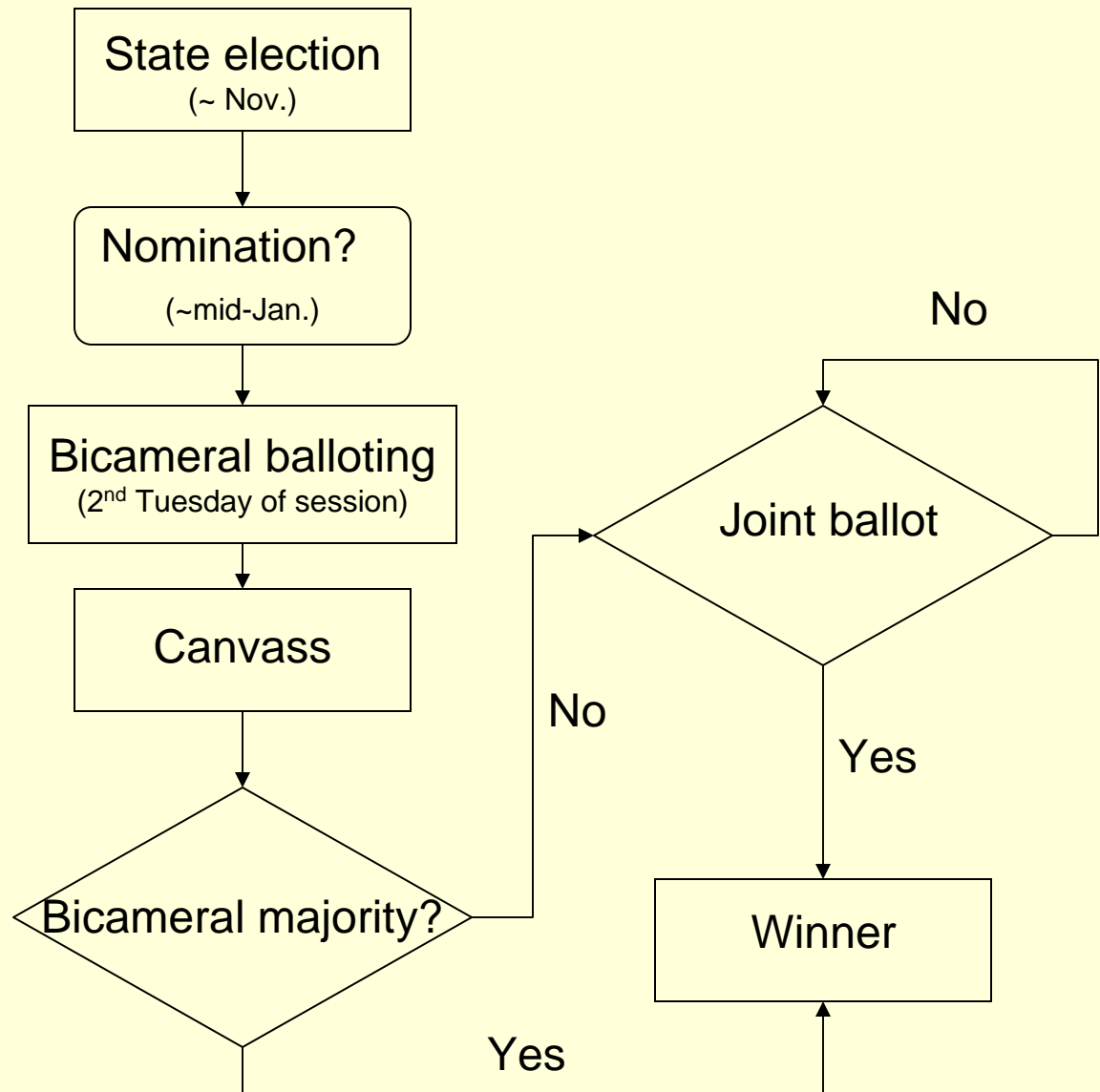
## (Transition from Civil War to Textbook systems)

- Economic dislocations create  
Progressive/Populist movements

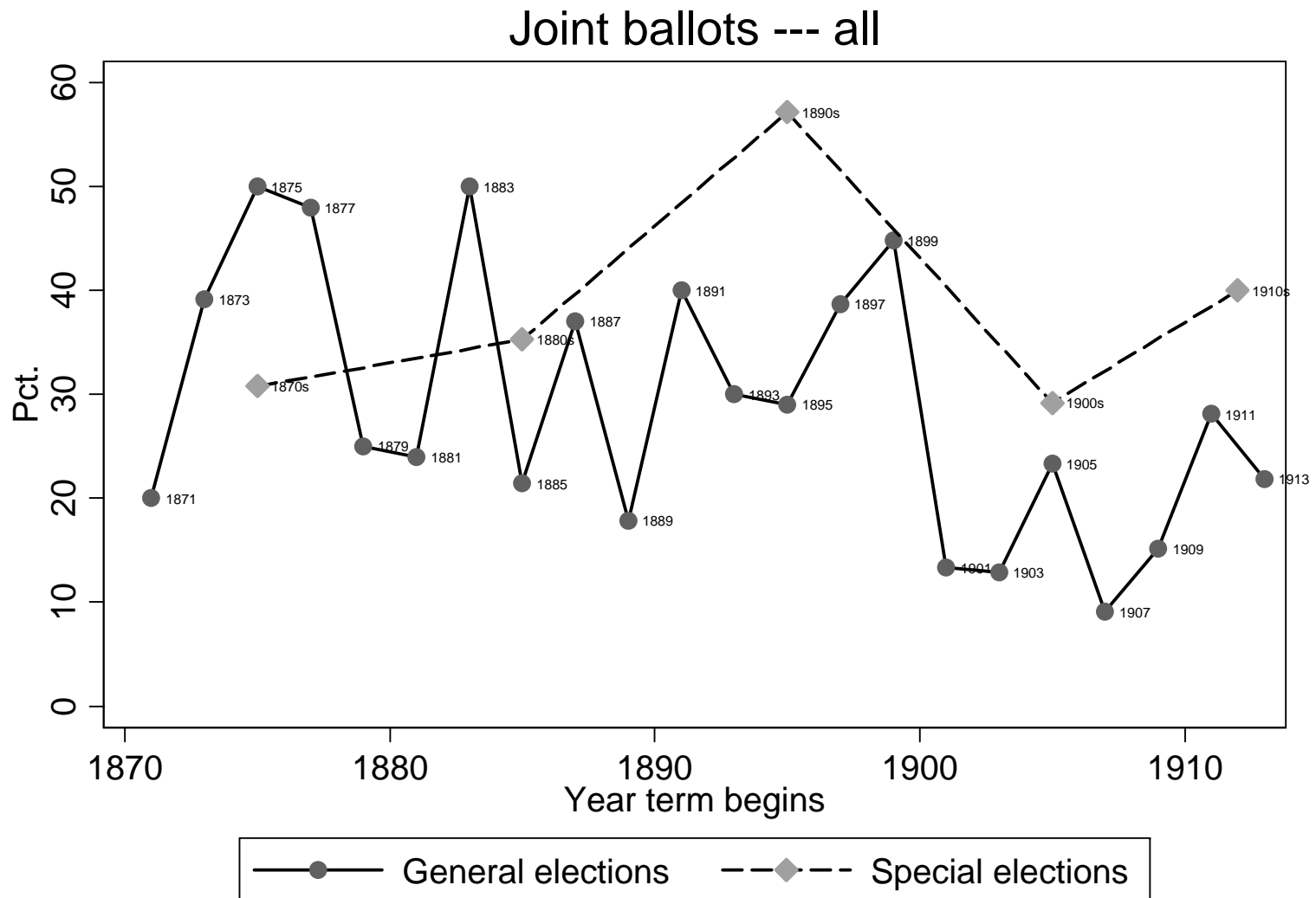
# A Word about Senate Elections

- State legislative elections often brought about chaotic balloting
- Stories of corruption in Senate elections led to Progressive calls for reform
- Rise of third parties gave major parties an incentive to create a duopoly of power
- 17th amendment: popular election of senators (1914)
- Still parties become more prominent

# The Process



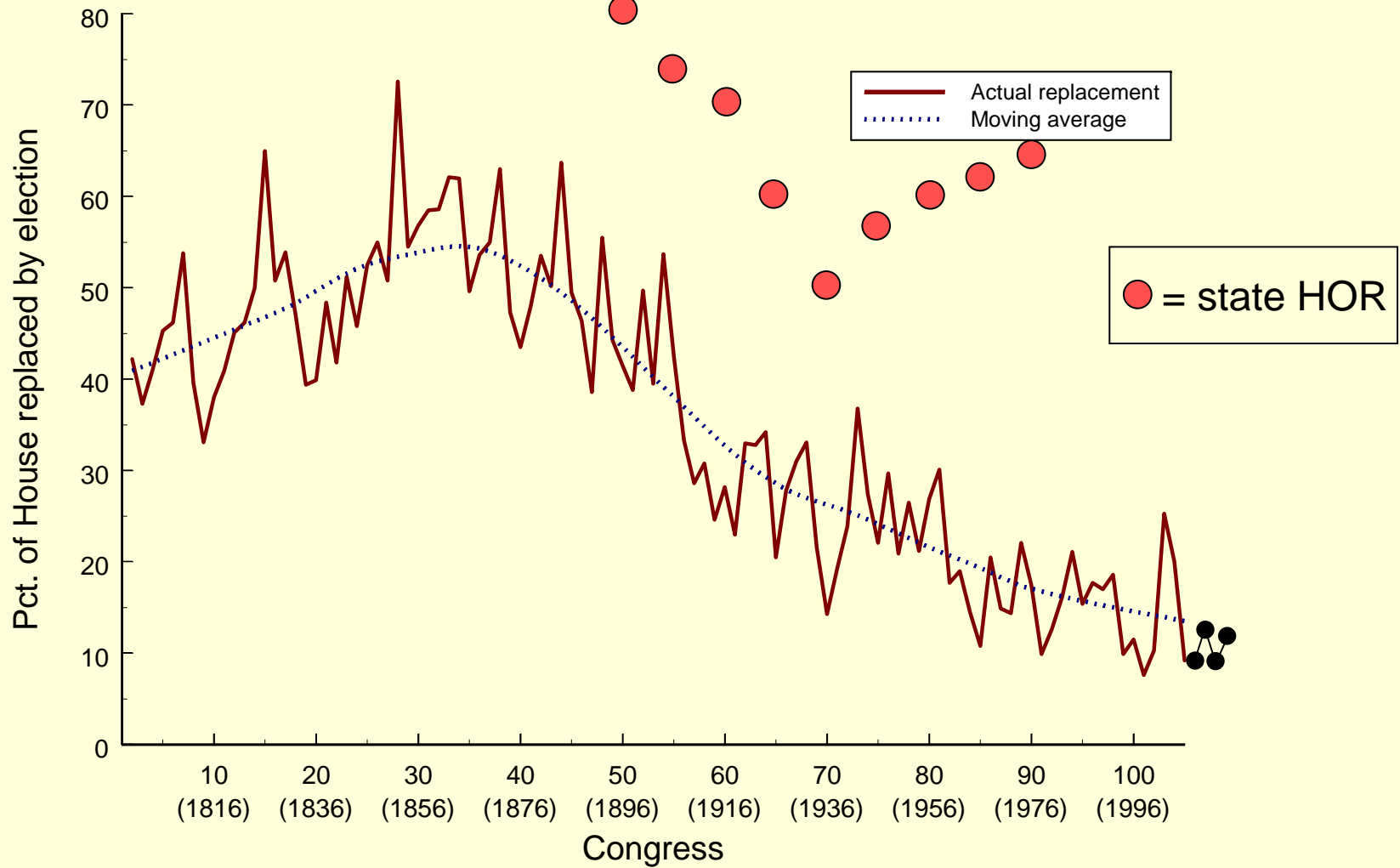
# % joint ballot elections for Senate



# 1912-1968 (Textbook system)

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

# Rise of careerism



1968-1974

(Transition from Textbook to Post-  
Reform system

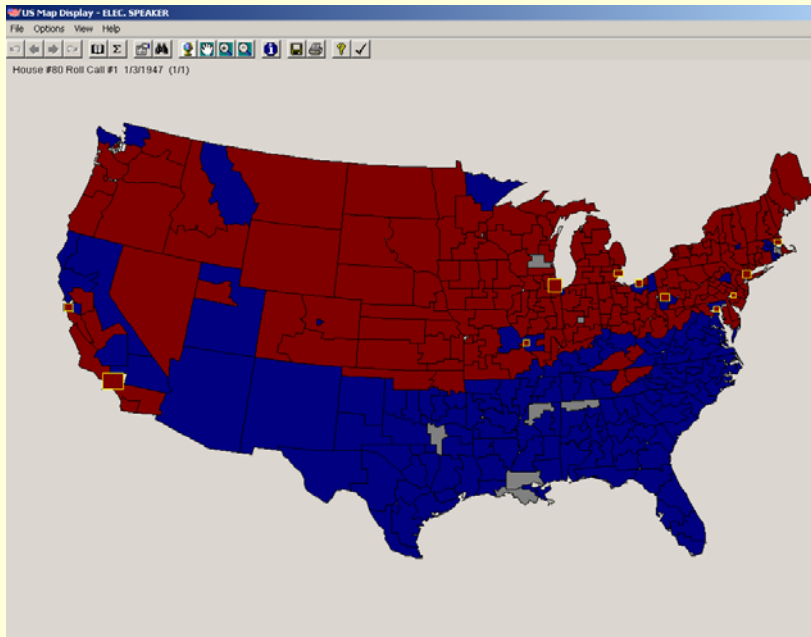
- Anti-war sentiment divorces supporters of strong defense from Dems.
- Civil Rights movement divorces southern Whites from Dems, but reinforces Black affiliation with Dems.

# 1974-now (Post-Reform System)

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

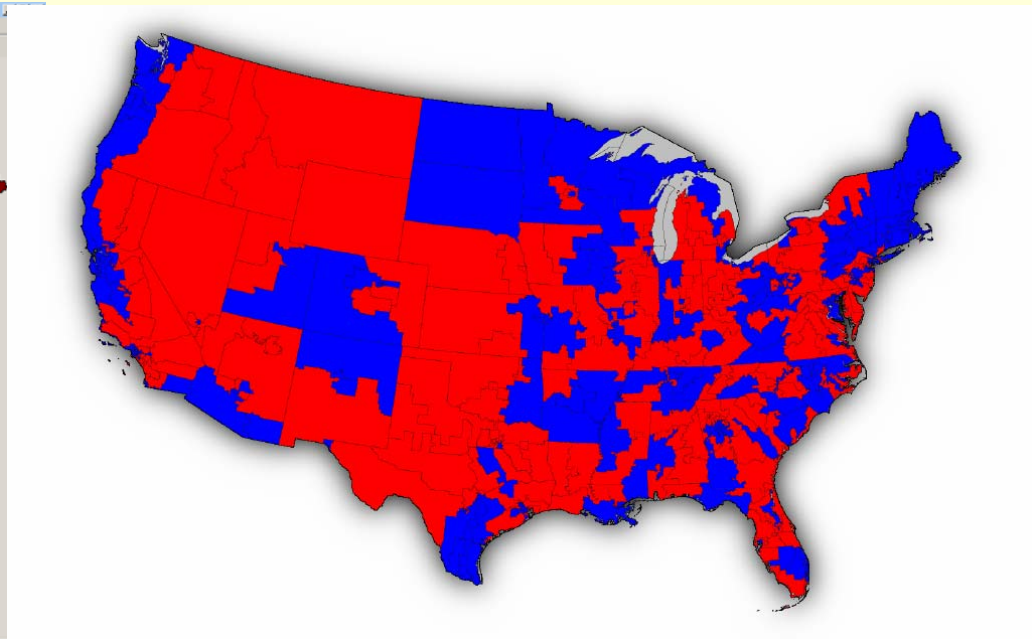
# Loss of regionalism in parties

80<sup>th</sup> Congress  
(1947-1948)



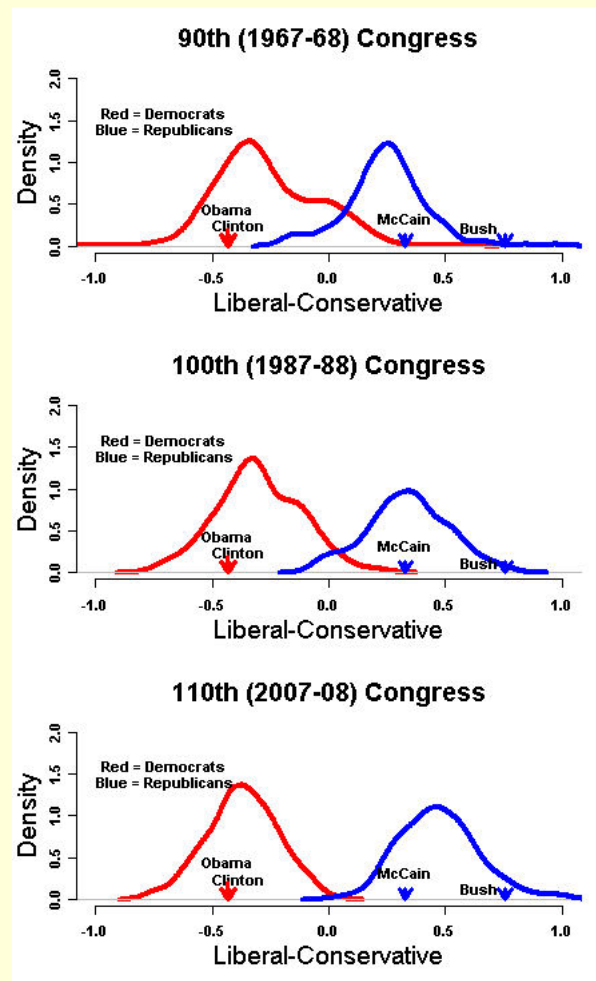
Source: Voteview program

106<sup>th</sup> Congress  
(1999-2000)



Source: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~mejn/election/2006/>

# Ideological separation of parties



# New Electoral Environment?

## New Organizational Environment?

- Election
  - Voters more partisan
  - Districts more partisan
  - Party committees play greater role
- Organization
  - Party leaders more prominent & partisan
  - Committee membership more partisan
    - Chairs
    - Seats
    - Link to finance