

Vocabulary – Chapter 8

political party	An organization that seeks to achieve power by electing its members to public office.
interest group	Any organized group whose members share a common goal and try to promote their interests by influencing government policymaking and decision making.
platform	A political party's statement of principles and objectives. The specific objectives or legislative proposals in a platform are known as planks.
two-party system	A political system in which two parties dominate the electoral process and control the government.
pluralism	The idea that political power should be distributed and shared among various groups in a society.
political action committee (PAC).	An organization that raises and distributes funds to candidates running for office. Corporations, labor unions, and interest groups form PACs to channel donations from their employees or members into political campaigns
lobbying	An organized effort to influence the policy process by persuading officials to favor or oppose action on a specific issue.
public policy	A plan or course of action initiated by government to achieve a stated goal.