

Minor parties or a common feature of united states politics

[Countries](#), [United States](#)



Minor Parties (third parties) have been a common feature of United States Politics

a. Describe the point of view expressed about minor parties in the political cartoon above.

b. Identify and explain how two rules of the United States electoral system act as obstacles to minor-party candidates winning elections.

c. Minor parties make important contributions to the United States political system in spite of the institutional obstacles to their candidates' success.

Describe two of these contributions.

a) Describe the point of view expressed about minor parties in the political cartoon above.

The political cartoon depicts Ralph Nader addressing America's "throw away mentality". Meanwhile a citizen in the background is casting her vote by dropping a ballot into a trashcan. This is a fairly pessimistic view on voting for third parties, as the cartoonist is showing that votes that are going for third parties are worth nothing. Because the vast majority of the country votes for major party candidates, third party candidates rarely become elected.

b) Identify and explain how two rules of the United States electoral system act as obstacles to minor-party candidates winning elections.

The United States style democracy is winner take all. The majority, however slight, maintains all the say. Basically the "Tyranny of the Majority".

Minor parties have to overcome ballot laws, which are state laws that determine who may appear on ballots and who may not. Parties without enough money or enough support will not be able to appear on the ballot. Presidential debates often do not include third parties. This may be because the Commission on Presidential Debates is a private company created by Democrats and Republicans. c) Minor parties make important contributions to the United States political system in spite of the institutional obstacles to their candidates' success. Describe two of these contributions.

Third party candidates running for public office realize that they have slim chances of being elected, so their primary purpose is to call attention to ignored, misrepresented, or little known issues.

Eugene Debs with worker rights and Ross Perot with the national debt

Majority parties often adapt their own policies to include popular third party stances, so third party voters may in fact get what they want even though a majority party wins.