




## Part I: Thematic Primary Source Set

**Topic/Big Idea:** Political Cartoons as representations of the United States Political Party System

**Grade Level and Subject Area:** 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Virginia and United States Government

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Thumbnail Image of Source	Bibliographic Information (Title, Author/Creator, Date, URL)
	<p>Title: "As yet, I have found no difficulty in standing upon my own platform"            Creator(s): NA            Date Created/Published: 1866.</p> <p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/item/2008661695/">http://www.loc.gov/item/2008661695/</a></p>
	<p>Title: Soliciting a vote            Creator: Magee, John L            Date Created/Published: New York, 1852</p> <p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2008661542/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2008661542/</a></p>
	<p>Title: Two candidates at the door of nomination            Creator(s): Hoppin, Augustus and Thomas Strong            Date Created/Published: N.Y.: Pub.at the Office of Yankee Notions, 1852.</p> <p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2008661543/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2008661543/</a></p>

## Part II: Classroom Activity Plan

**Essential/Investigative Question:** How do political parties become organized to win elections?

**Objective(s):** GOVT.6 The student will demonstrate knowledge of local, state, and national elections by

- a) describing the organization, role, and constituencies of political parties.
- b) describing the nomination and election process.

**Standard(s) Addressed:** VA Govt. 6a and 6b (see above)

This activity will be used after the class has been introduced to the basics of the political party system and election campaign process.

**Procedure(s):**

1. Students will be divided into groups.
2. The images will be copied as well as projected on the whiteboard in the classroom.
3. The students will be given the primary source analysis link:  
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/primary-source-analysis-tool/>
4. The groups will report/discuss their analysis.
5. A discussion/investigation will follow on how the cartoons relate or do not relate to present day “party platform”; “soliciting votes”; and “party nominations.”