



# What Did Our Framers Say?

Examine the statements made by one of our Framers about political parties. Use the Annotation Station strategies to better understand its meaning. Work as a team to restate the Framer's statement in your own words and determine whether he was in support of or against the formation of political parties.

## Annotation Station

○ Circle words you don't know, and take a moment to find the definition.

Highlight in **YELLOW** phrases that confuse you. Use context clues to try and figure out their meaning.

Highlight in **RED** any references to the negative outcomes of having political parties.

Highlight in **GREEN** any references to the positive outcomes of having political parties.

☆ Star the phrase or line that you find most important.

## Exhibit A

*"There are two passions which have a powerful influence on the affairs of men. These are ambition and avarice; the love of power, and the love of money.... Place before the eyes of such men a post of honor, that shall be at the same time a place of profit, and they will move heaven and earth to obtain it. The vast number of such places... renders the British government so tempestuous... [and is the true source] of all those factions which are perpetually dividing the nation [and] distracting its councils."*

Benjamin Franklin, Constitutional Convention speech on June 2, 1787

**We think our Framer is saying:**

**Does your Framer support political parties? YES or NO**

**We think our Framer DOES or DOES NOT support political parties because:**



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### Exhibit B

*“All civilized societies would be divided into different sects, factions, and interests... of rich and poor, debtors and creditors... the inhabitants of this district or that district, the followers of this political leader or that political leader, the disciples of this religious sect or that religious sect. In all cases where a majority are united by a common interest or passion, the rights of the minority are in danger.”*

James Madison, Constitutional Convention speech on June 6, 1787

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**We think our Framers DOES or DOES NOT support political parties because:**



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## Exhibit C

*“By a faction, I understand a number of citizens, whether amounting to a majority or a minority of the whole, who are united and actuated by some common impulse of passion, or of interest, adversed to the rights of other citizens, or to the permanent and aggregate interests of the community.*

*There are two methods of curing the mischiefs of faction: the one, by removing its causes; the other, by controlling its effects.*

*There are again two methods of removing the causes of faction: the one, by destroying the liberty which is essential to its existence; the other, by giving to every citizen the same opinions, the same passions, and the same interests.*

*It could never be more truly said than of the first remedy, that it was worse than the disease. Liberty is to faction what air is to fire, an ailment without which it instantly expires. But it could not be less folly to abolish liberty, which is essential to political life, because it nourishes faction, than it would be to wish the annihilation of air, which is essential to animal life, because it imparts to fire its destructive agency.”*

Written under the pseudonym Publius (later revealed to be James Madison), Federalist 10,  
published Friday, November 23, 1787

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## Exhibit D

*“I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the State, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view, and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally.*

*This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but, in those of the popular form, it is seen in its greatest rankness, and is truly their worst enemy.*

*The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty.”*

President George Washington, Farewell Address, published September 17, 1796

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**We think our Framer DOES or DOES NOT support political parties because:**