Fact sheet - 'Republican Party (U.S.)'



➔ **Chairperson:** Reince Priebus

➔ **Senate Leader:** Mitch Mc Connell

➔ **Founded:** 1854

➔ Often called Grand Old Party (GOP)

- One of the two major contemporary political parties in the U.S.
  - ⇨ The other major contemporary political party is the Democratic Party
- The platform generally reflects American conservatism (in contrast to the Liberal Democrats)
- Holds a majority of seats in the House of Representatives
- And also a majority of seats in the Senate

History

- Founded in 1854 by anti-slavery activists
- Became quickly the principal opposition to the dominant Democratic Party
- First Republican president: Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865)
- The term "Grand Old Party" (GOP) is a traditional nickname for the Republican Party, a commonly used designation
- The traditional mascot of the party is the elephant

Ideology and political positions

- Republicans emphasize the role of free markets and individual achievement as the primary factors behind economic prosperity
- A leading economic theory advocated by modern Republicans is supply-side economics
- Republicans support school choice and school education
- Most of the Republicans favor capital punishment and strict punishment as a means to prevent crime