

Chapter 12

Political Parties and Pressure Groups

The purpose of this chapter is to discuss two types of organizations that affect lawmaking. The first is the *political party*. Part one of the chapter presents a functional definition of the political party. It goes on to show how U.S. political parties help in elections, how they help legislators pass laws, and how they act as conduits for members of the collective to influence legislation. Besides the political party, another organization that helps individuals influence laws is the *pressure group*. Part two shows how voters in the U.S. influence legislators and political parties by organizing themselves into pressure groups.