**Creation of the Two-Party System Key Terms**

* Caucus – a meeting of all members of the political party in one chamber in which they elect leaders, approve committee assignments, and elect committee chairpersons
* General Election – an election that determines which candidates win the offices being sought
* Majority Rule – the idea that in a democracy only policies with 50 percent plus one vote are enacted, and only candidates that win 50 percent plus one vote are elected
* Party Identifiers – individuals who identify themselves as a member of one party or the other
* Party System – the categorization of the number and competitiveness of political parties in a polity
* Political Action Committees (PACs) – a group that raises and spends money to influence the outcome of an election
* Political Machines – a party organization that recruits voter loyalty with tangible incentives and is characterized by a high degree of control over member activity
* Primary Elections – an election in which voters choose the party’s candidates who will run in the later general election
* The Electoral College – a group of people elected by votes in each state to elect the president and the vice-president
* Winner-Take-All – an electoral system in which the candidate who receives the most votes wins that office