**Political Ideologies Key Terms**

1. Political ideology – a coherent set of values and beliefs about the purpose and scope of government that is held by groups and individuals
2. Conservatism – an ideology that emphasizes preserving tradition and relying on community and family as mechanisms of continuity in society
3. Liberalism – an ideology that favors governmental involvement in the economy and in the provision of social services and which takes an activist role in protecting the rights of women, the elderly , minorities, and the environment
4. Split-ticket voting – a voter will cast a ballot for candidates of both the Republican and the Democratic parties
5. Political party – an organized effort by office holders, candidates, activists, and voters to pursue their common interests by gaining and exercising power through the electoral process
6. Party platform – a political party’s statement of its goals and policies for the next four years. The platform is drafted prior to the party convention by a committee whose members are chosen in rough proportion to each candidate’s strength. It is the best statement of what a party believes in
7. Political socialization – the process by which we develop our political values and opinions
8. Party realignment – dramatic shifts in partisan preferences that drastically alter the political landscape
9. Divided government – the situation that exists when Congress is controlled by one party and the presidency is controlled by the other
10. Laissez-faire – the hands-off stance of a government in regard to the marketplace. A French term meaning “ to allow to do, to leave alone”