

## **POLI 100B: Congress**

### **Agenda Topic 4: Ideology, Party, and Polarization in Congress**

#### **A. The Spatial (Geometric) Model of Voting and Party Competition: Theory**

- 1. The Median Voter Theorem**
- 2. Utility Functions and Indifference Curves**
- 3. Constraint: The Role of Ideology**

#### **B. Estimating Spatial (Geometric) Maps of Voting and Party Competition**

- 1. Roll Call Voting in Congress**
  - a. Driving Distances and Geographic Maps**
  - b. Disagreement Scores and Ideological Maps**
  - c. The *Unfolding* Problem**
  - d. The Spatial (Geometric) Model of Roll Call Voting**

#### **2. The Basic Space of American Politics**

#### **C. The Polarization of American Politics**

- 1. Political Party Means 1879 – 2008**
- 2. The Disappearance of Moderate Legislators**