

Definitions From Black's Law Dictionary, Sixth Edition.

1. **Political Questions.** Questions of which courts will refuse to take cognizance, or to decide, on account of their purely political character, or because their determination would involve an encroachment upon the executive or legislative powers.

"**Political Question Doctrine**" holds that certain issues should not be decided by courts because their resolution is committed to another branch of government and/or because the issues are not capable, for one reason or another, of judicial resolution.

A matter of dispute which can be handled more appropriately by another branch of government is not a "justiciable" matter for the courts. However, a state apportionment statute is not such a political question as to not render it nonjusticiable. *Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S. 186, 208-210, 82 S.Ct. 691, 705-706, 7 L.Ed.2d 663 (Black's Law 6th Ed., p. 1158).

Note, see also: *Luther v. Borden* 7 How. (48 U.S.) 1 (1849). In *Luther v. Borden*, the Supreme Court established the doctrine that questions arising under this section [Article 4, Section 4—Republican Form] are political, not judicial, in character and that "it rests with Congress to decide what government is the established one in State...as well as its republican character." (U.S.C.A. West Publications 1986, p.894).

2. **Political.** Pertaining or relating to the policy or administration of government, state or national. Pertaining to, or incidental to, the exercise of the functions vested in those charged with the conduct of government; relating to the management of affairs of state, as political theories; of or pertaining to exercise of rights and privileges or influences by which individuals of a state seek to determine or control its public policy; having to do with organization or action of individuals, parties, or interests that seek to control appointment or action of those who manage affairs of state. *State ex rel. Maley v. Civic Action Committee*, 238 Iowa 851, 28 N.W.2d 467, 470 (Black's Law 6th Ed., p. 1158).

3. **Political Offenses.** As a designation of a class of crimes usually excepted from extradition treaties, this term denotes crimes which are incidental to and form a part of political disturbances; but it might also be understood to include offenses consisting in an attack upon the political order of things established in the country where committed, and even to include offenses committed to obtain any political object. Under extradition treaties is an offense committed in the course of and incidental to a violent political disturbance, such as war, revolution and rebellion; an offense is not political character

simply because it was politically motivated. *Escobedo v. U.S.*, C.A.Fla., 623 F.2d 1098, 1104. See *also* Political crime (Black's Law 6th Ed., p. 1158).

4. **Political Crime.** In general, any crime directly against the government; *e.g.* treason, sedition. It includes any violent political disturbance without reference to a specific crime (Black's Law 6th Ed., p. 1158).

5. **Political Law.** That branch of jurisprudence which treats the science of politics, or the organization and administration of government. More commonly called "Political science." (Black's Law 6th Ed., p. 1158).

6. **Political Party.** An association of individuals whose primary purpose are to promote or accomplish elections or appointments to public offices, positions, or jobs. A committee, association, or organization which accepts contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of influencing or attemptation to influence the election of presidential or vice presidential electors or of any individual whose is presented for election to any federal, state, or local elective public office, whether or not such individual is elected. Cal.Rev & Tax Code Section 22434 (b)(1)(c) (Black's Law 6th Ed., p. 1158).

7. **Political Trial.** Term loosely applied to trials in which the parties represent fundamentally different political convictions and in which parties or one of them attempts to litigate their political beliefs (Black's Law 6th Ed., p. 1159).

8. **Politics.** The science of government; the art or practice of administering public affairs (Black's Law 6th Ed., p. 1159).

9. **Polity.** The form of government; civil constitution . (Black's Law 6th Ed., p. 1159).

10. **Political Rights.** Those which may be exercised in the formation or administration of the government. Rights of citizens established or recognized by constitutions which give them the power to participate directly or indirectly in the establishment or administration of goverment . (Black's Law 6th Ed., p. 1159).

11. **PAC.** Political Action Committee. Committees, clubs, associations or other groups of persons formed to receive contributions for use in election campaigns. The organization, registration, reporting, and other activities of such organizations is regulated by federal and state laws. See *e.g.* 2 U.S.C.A. section 431 et seq. (Black's Law 6th Ed., p. 1108).