

¹po·lit·i·cal *adjective* \pə-ˈli-ti-kəl, pō-\

- 1 a** : of or relating to government, a government, or the conduct of governmental affairs
- b** : of or relating to matters of government as distinguished from matters of law
- <*political* sovereignty>
- <*political* recognition of a new nation>
- compare [LEGAL 3a](#)
- c** : engaged in civil as distinguished from military functions
- <a *political* officer>
- see [POLITICAL AGENT](#)
- d** : of, relating to, or concerned with the making as distinguished from the administration of governmental [policy](#)
- 2 archaic** : [POLITIC 2](#)
- <whether it would be *political* to interfere — James Mill>
- 3 a** : of, relating to, or concerned with [politics](#)
- b** : of, relating to, or involved in party politics
- <*political* activity>
- <*political* party>
- compare [ADMINISTRATIVE](#), [NONPARTISAN](#)
- 4** : organized in governmental terms — see [POLITICAL UNIT](#)

Origin of POLITICAL

Latin *politicus* political + English *-al*

First Known Use: 1529 (sense 1a)

Pronunciation Symbols

© 2020 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated