Leading research on nominations for the House of Representatives reports that political parties are largely inactive and that candidate-centered politics has filled the vacuum. Nearly all research, however, is based on evidence gathered without visiting districts. In this presentation, I report results from a UCLA team that conducted on-the-ground interviews in 43 of the 55 winnable open seat nominations in 2013-14, including nominations for special elections. By “winnable” we mean a nomination for a party that has a reasonable chance of winning the general election. A key finding is that nearly all nominees and most runners-up based their funding-raising and volunteer-recruiting efforts in some pre-existing organization. The nature of these organizations varied widely, from local party, to chamber of commerce or union, to church congregation, but we found evidence of meaningful vetting of candidates within the various groups. The single most common form of organization was some type of local political party.