**Political Party Platforms**

**OK, you may affiliate with one particular political party, but be honest -- are you really aware of where the party stands on all the issues? Or for that matter, where the opposition stands? Check out our handy table below for a list of your political party platforms.**

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| **Issue**  | **Republican Party** | **Democratic Party** | **Libertarian Party** |
| Social Security | Social security should be privatized (not to be confused with private savings accounts, but rather, private investments).  |  Social security should remain a government sponsored insurance plan for retirees. |  Believe in an "opt out" policy in which one can choose to privately invest (they believe this to be the better option) or go with a government sponsored social security plan. |
|  Jobs |  Pro small business. Supports giving small businesses tax incentives so that more jobs can be created. |  Encourage businesses to keep jobs here and not outsource them overseas. Supports unions and advocates for the rights of low income workers. |  Free market should dictate the job market. |
|  Economy |  Supports free market competition and entrepreneurship, corporate deregulation and cutting entitlement spending. |  Increase taxes to cut deficit. Believes large deficit negatively affects government services and that low deficits stimulate the economy. |  100% Free Market. |
|  Security/Defense |  Believe in a proactive military and defense. Supports building weapons and technology that serve to protect our nation. Believe that peace is achieved through strong defense. Increase defense and research budget. |  Believe in a limited missile defense. Oppose nuclear buildup in the U.S. Believe that peace is achieved through worldwide relationship building. |  Believe in reducing nuclear arms in the U.S. Military should be used to protect people's livery and property only. |
|  Legal/Tort Reform |  Supports tort reform and limiting victims compensation, especially for frivolous lawsuits. |  Oppose tort reform and oppose limiting liability of doctors and/or businesses. |  Generally does not support tort reform. |
|  Tax Reform |  Supports tax cuts, low interest rates and the repeal of the death tax penalty in effort to stimulate the economy. |  Generally supports raising taxes on the wealthy, lowering taxes for the middle class. |  Stridently opposes all government imposed taxes and employer withdrawal of employees money for tax purposes. |
|  Immigration |  Generally supports closed or tight borders and tracking system for foreign travelers. |  Support illegal alien's ability and right to become citizens and giving them more protections under the law. |  Support open borders. |
|  Faith |  Religion strongly associated with Republican party. Advocate free exercise of religion. |  Strict adherence between the separation between church and state. Promote secular issues and a more secular nation. |  Strong belief in separation of church and state and by contrast, Libertarians hold a strong belief in freedom of religion. |
|  Education |  Promote school choice/vouchers and homeschooling. Supports voluntary student supported prayer in school. Opposes gender and race quotes in colleges. |  Oppose vouchers. Increase NCLB federal funding. Enact new taxes to decrease class size and hire new teachers. |  End government financial support of public schools, believe that all public schools should be privatized with tax credit for tuition. |
|  Abortion |  Generally pro-life with emphasis on promoting alternatives to abortion. |  Generally pro-choice owning the mantra, "Safe, legal, rare." |  Adamantly pro-choice but oppose any government financial aid to subsidize abortions. |
|  Energy |  Oppose Kyoto treaty. Support tax incentives for energy production. |  Wish to find environmentally friendly energy sources and solutions. Oppose increased drilling, especially in the U.S. |  Supports deregulation and believes all government energy resources should be turned over to private ownership. Opposes government conservation of energy. |
|  Heathcare |  Keep healthcare private. Would like to impose caps on malpractice suits. Supports reformed medicare to give seniors more choices. |  Supports more federally funded healthcare programs. |  Strongly supports a complete separation of healthcare and state. Supports the deregulation of the healthcare industry. |
|  Foreign Policy |  Spread Democracy. Supports UN reform. Wants to stop WMD proliferation countries. Believe that nations who support terrorist are just as bad as the terrorist themselves. | Strongly supports worldwide coalitions and multi-national programs. Supports aid for disadvantaged countries. Supports the UN. |  End all foreign aid because it's the same as welfare for nations. Believes that aid perpetuates independence on your government. |
|  Campaign Finance Reform |  Generally support soft money contributions from individuals but supports limiting it from corporations. Also supports full disclosure. |  Favor more regulation with spending limits on individuals and corporations. |  No restrictions on contributions form any legal resident. Believe that politicians holding an office should not be able to run for another seat until term is over. |
|  Environment |  Supports privatizing federal land. Believe in cap and trade market based air pollution reductions and that the market should regulate itself. |  Generally puts the interest of the environment over business. Wants to maintain federal land under government control. |  Believes that land and animals should be sold to private organizations or ranchers and taken out of the hands of the government because private citizens will care for it better. |
|  Guns | Limited gun control. | Strict gun control. |  No control whatsoever. |
|  Gay Rights | Oppose gay marriage. Supports constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. |  Generally supports gay marriage although Democrats remain largely divided on the issue, as some only support civil unions. | Pro private choice and equality including marriage. |