

# In Your Heart, Are You a Democrat or a Republican?

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Political Parties: Their  
philosophies, objectives, and  
the consequences for the  
United States.

THIS BOOKLET CONTRASTS THE TWO MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES IN  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.  
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## INTRODUCTION

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There is nothing that has a greater impact on our lives, or the lives of our children, grandchildren, families, and relatives than who we choose to be the leaders of our country. Most United States Citizens cannot tell you the difference between the two major political parties: Republicans and Democrats.

We sometimes hear people say there is no significant difference between the parties. Their cynicism shows in statements such as Democrats and Republicans are both corrupt, both are only interested in power, both pander to their constituencies, or both make promises they don't keep. In addition, we sometimes also hear people say there is no need to learn about what the political parties stand for because in my family we have always been Democrats or we have always been Republicans. Further, we sometimes hear people say that the Democrats support the poor people and that the Republicans support the rich people.

If we follow this negativity we will erode our democracy and will keep us from choosing the best people to lead our country. As Hispanics—the fastest growing population group in the United States—we have a moral responsibility and obligation to vote. In addition, we should vote not just for the traditional party we have always voted for but for the individuals who are best qualified to lead our country regardless of race so that we can offer our children, grandchildren, families, and relatives a better future.

The following short descriptions are meant to give you a general picture of how the candidates from the two major parties in our country differ in their philosophies. Remember, these are generalizations and there are individual opinions that will differ. Please be sure to read the analysis that follows each description to gain a complete understanding. The important thing is to determine what party's candidates you believe in your heart are the ones that you identify the most with.

## **BASIC PRINCIPLES**

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Republicans are generally considered conservative or traditionalists in their philosophy. They believe that the country was founded by God on enduring principles that have created the opportunity for prosperity and an abundant life for its citizens. They believe that the United States has been a force for good in the world. They believe in smaller government, less federal control, and less government regulation. They believe that government closest to the people governs best. They believe in equal justice, individual rights, and responsibilities. They believe in providing educational opportunities to our children. They are committed to traditional morality—respect for life, strong families, and personal responsibility. They support religious symbols in public.

Democrats are considered liberal or secular progressives. They believe in large government in which the majority of power is centralized in Washington. They believe that government regulations are necessary and that large government bureaucracies are needed to carry out their policies. They believe that a more socialist government is

better. They believe in moral relativism and condemn religious symbols in public.

It is vitally important to understand the basics of these different philosophies, for the group that holds power will shape the outcome of the future for our children, grandchildren, families, and relatives, our own future, and the survival of our nation as we have known it to be.

## **THE CONSTITUTION**

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Republicans believe in the moral and ethical principles that have guided this country from its beginning and are documented in our Constitution. They want judges to be guided by the U.S. Constitution. They believe in equal justice under the law and that all people have the same opportunity to succeed.

Democrats believe that morals and ethics are fluid and change with the times. They want judges on the courts who will judge cases based on popular culture rather than on the U.S. Constitution. They want to give judges the power to decide cases, and impose sentences, based on a variety of factors outside of the U.S. Constitution. They believe that our Constitution is flawed in that it doesn't say what the government must do for the "special" people.

**ANALYSIS:** When cases are decided based on popular culture or other factors, rather than on the Constitution, the way is opened for wildly divergent and unequal judgments. It effectively takes away the people's right to decide and, in the case of federal judges, it gives the power to legislate law to unelected, appointed judges with lifetime job security. The United States is a stronger nation when law is based on constant principles

contained in the Constitution. It causes confusion and inequality when everything is open to differing opinions. Consistency provides us security. Inconsistency in the courts always leads to chaos, and disproportional justice. The Constitution was written to limit government and insure liberty to the people. When government exceeds their Constitutional authority and begins doing things for “special” people, they weaken society and encourage dependency.

## **THE BILL OF RIGHTS**

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Republicans believe that the Bill of Rights as created by our Founding Fathers of the United States should be protected and not changed. They believe that the freedoms established in the Bill of Rights are inalienable, they are our birthright, and come from God. They are not granted by government who can also take them away. Freedom of speech and freedom of religion are basic to our way of life. Republicans believe that with these freedoms come responsibilities and these include responsible, civil, and truthful speech, and religion that meets the standard for enhancing our humanity regardless of what religion you decide to follow.

Democrats believe that certain rights should be amended, or redefined according to changes in the culture. They want more government controls on religion. They want government regulations to control businesses of all kinds hindering the entrepreneurship that it is innate in all of us. They believe that government’s role is to protect businesses from their own bad choices at the cost of the people’s welfare. They believe that the people need government control in order to establish a just society.

**ANALYSIS:** The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution in order to protect individuals from an overreaching, powerful government. The Founders of the United States had experienced the power of England on the colonists as many of our ancestors experienced the power of Spain on them in Latin America. The Founders were keenly aware of how any government that grew large could become dictatorial and despot. The ideals provided in our founding documents have guided the United States to achieve the greatest prosperity, individual freedoms and creative endeavors ever established on the planet. To redefine, reinterpret, or rewrite these documents is to denigrate our Founders and risk everything that our culture holds dear. To protect people from their own bad choices will necessarily restrict their freedom. It also prevents learning valuable lessons from their bad choices and treats them as children. Altering the meaning of our Constitution and Bill of Rights, takes away the foundation on which our country was built. When you rip out the foundation, the rest of the country will crumble.

## **TAXES & THE ECONOMY**

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Republicans believe in keeping taxes low for everyone. They believe that by keeping more of the money in the hands of those who have earned it, the incentive for people to work hard is increased. This is totally in line with the hard-working attitude of Hispanics who are willing to work two or three jobs to earn enough money to take care of their families and their relatives instead of just expecting the government to take care of them. Republicans believe that private ownership of business and property creates wealth and a strong economy. This is Capitalism. Republicans also believe in reducing or eliminating capital gains taxes and inheritance taxes. They

believe in offering individuals incentives for investing in their own retirement, and contributing to charity. They believe in free trade between individuals and businesses without government interference, as this will produce more jobs and more prosperity than any other system. It also encourages self-sufficiency contributing to a healthy society.

Democrats believe that taxes should be raised on those that work hard to give money to those who are not willing to work to earn their living to be able to cover their expenses. This wealth redistribution is Socialism. Democrats believe that the government should be in charge of how money is distributed. They want to take more of the people's earned money to fund projects and entitlements for those who are not willing to take a job because it is too hard or because they do not like to do that kind of work. They believe government spending stimulates the economy.

**ANALYSIS:** It has been proven by the tax cuts of Presidents John F. Kennedy in the 60's, Ronald Reagan in the 80's and George W. Bush in 2001 that when taxes are reduced, more money comes into the treasury. Before the Reagan tax cuts in the 1980's, the top tax rate was seventy percent. When that tax rate was cut to twenty-eight percent, income into the treasury actually increased as investment grew. It was found that with more money in the hands of hard-working people, the economy is boosted, investment is heightened, and the consequence is that more tax revenue will come into the treasury. Thomas Jefferson said, "The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not."

Taxing the wealthy for the benefit of those who are not willing to work to earn money to cover their expenses is not good for society, is not good for the individuals, and just doesn't work in practice. At present, the wealthiest 1 percent of the U.S. population earns 19 percent of the income but pay 37 percent of the income tax. The top 10 percent pay 68 percent of the total income tax in the United States. This level of taxation hurts many small business owners whose business income is taxed at the individual rate. Therefore, this system of taxation is hurting the Hispanic community in the United States because Hispanics are starting and growing small businesses at a faster rate than any other ethnic group in the country. Republicans believe that for small businesses to grow, they must put most of their income back into their organization. So high taxes both hurt the small business owners in the United States, who are, in a large percentage, Hispanics as mentioned above, and may also drive them out of business.

On the other hand, Democrats want to tax both the highest earners and small business owners even more. The unintended consequences of this plan are that businesses and investments move out of high-tax states and countries to low-tax states or other countries where taxes are not so punitive. When inheritance taxes are too high, people set up trusts off shore causing tax revenue to diminish. Then the government will have to raise taxes even more to make up for the lost revenue.

When the government controls the wealth, it leads to corruption, buying votes and a diminished power of the people. When taxes become punitive for being so high, it leads to the destruction of the work ethic and the incentive to work is crushed or at least diminished. We

have often heard people saying: “Why should I work overtime when the government is going to take in taxes the extra money I will earn?” It is better to lower the taxes to provide incentives for people to be willing to work harder than to let the government bureaucracy take more from people in the form of taxes to give to those who are not willing to work. It is also better to encourage investment within the country with low capital gains taxes, low inheritance taxes (or none at all). Money that is taxed does not produce anything. Government spending with money we do not have does not stimulate the economy as proven by the nearly one trillion dollar stimulus bill passed in 2009. On the other hand, government can create the atmosphere with fixed policies that will give businesses the confidence to hire workers and expand. Remember, the only jobs government can create are government jobs that only take money out of the economy.

## **PRIVATE PROPERTY**

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Republicans believe that the right to private property is basic to maintaining freedom and promoting prosperity. They believe that it is essential to a free society that government respect the rights of the citizens to own property, and that government cannot take that property without an overwhelming need to promote the public good. This means the need for a major road, a hospital, or a school. Republicans also believe that the owner of the property must be well compensated for it when the government’s need is proven. They believe that individual rights to property must be protected from government power.

Democrats believe that individual rights to private property are subject to the needs and desires of

government. They believe, for example, that it is okay to take someone's property in order to build condos or a shopping center, because that will bring in more tax money than the homeowner of a small older home that has been on the property for many years. You have seen that this has happened to many Hispanic homeowners. Democrats believe that the individual is not as important as the community he is a part of and can be forced to sell at whatever price the government deems appropriate. They say that what is good for the collective trumps individual rights. They insist on government control over how property is used, restricting access in many cases, and using environmental laws that harm property owners.

**ANALYSIS:** The first step that totalitarian regimes take is to confiscate private property. Economic freedom is ended when governments go down this road. There is no incentive to work hard, or create businesses unless individuals have the security that what they build will not be taken away from them. There is no incentive to plan, save, or invest for the future if people cannot depend on the protection of their efforts from the government. Property rights are basic human rights, and the idea that individuals must give up their property for commercial benefit stands in stark contrast to what our Founders designed and to our Hispanic values. When landowners must give over a portion of their property to the government in order to obtain a permit for improving their property, (as required by the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan) we the people have lost freedom and security.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Republicans believe in punishment for criminals and that punishment should fit the crime. They believe that getting murderers, rapists, drug dealers, and child predators off the streets and behind bars will make law abiding citizens safer, keep our children protected, and create an environment that provides the greatest opportunity for the pursuit of happiness. They believe the rights of the accused must be protected.

Democrats believe that punishment does not work. They want rehabilitation for these dangerous criminals. They believe that violent criminals can change into productive citizens through counseling, therapy, and monitoring. Many advocate for felons being given the right to vote. They believe that stringent controls must be placed on the police and all other law enforcement personnel. They do not want mandatory sentences or the death penalty for dangerous criminals.

**ANALYSIS:** An example of the liberal view to criminal justice is illustrated by liberal judges in Vermont and other states who have let child rapists off with probation. Statistics prove that most pedophiles cannot be rehabilitated and will continue to molest children throughout their lives. Democrats claim that homosexuals cannot change their sexual preferences because they are born that way. Why, then, do they think a person who is attracted to children can change? Liberal laws have tied the hands of the police and federal law enforcement officials. In trying to protect the rights of the accused, they have gone too far and hampered the legitimate investigation and prosecution of crime. They have made excuses for criminal behavior that encourages light sentences or no sentence at all. The consequences of the

liberal approach were shown in the sixties and seventies with a huge increase in crime and the complete failure of rehabilitation with these hardened criminals. It was only after stricter enforcement in the eighties that the crime rate went down.

New York was one of the worst crime ridden cities in America. When Rudy Giuliani became mayor and he forced a greater enforcement of the law, New York soon became one of the safest cities in the United States. When the three strikes law was passed in California that put criminals behind bars for life after the third serious felony, the crime rate was reduced substantially. Democrats have fought to get this law rescinded, they have fought building new prisons to alleviate the overcrowded conditions, and they have fought moving prisoners to other states where the cost of housing them is much less than in California. Their solution to overcrowding is early release of these hardened criminals. When Democrats control the courts and the government, crime increases, and our cities and towns become less safe.

## **EDUCATION**

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Republicans believe that parents should have choice when it comes to the education of their children. They believe that parents who cannot afford to send their children to private schools should be given vouchers to move their children out of failed public schools and into private schools. They believe that competition will spur the public schools to improve.

Democrats are totally against giving vouchers to parents who want the option of private school for their children. They are concerned that this will bring an end to

government schools in the United States. They support teachers unions that demand tenure and reject merit pay. They want the decision of what will be taught to rest with the educational bureaucracy and not with parents. Democrats do not want money taken out of public school budgets directed to public schools.

**ANALYSIS:** Schools should be held accountable for the education of the children in their care. When schools fail to meet certain standards or do not provide a safe environment, parents should have the choice to move their children into schools that will help them to succeed. Imagine if you were given a voucher to be able to send your children to private schools. Would you use it or would you leave your children in public schools? However, this is not currently an option for low-income parents. The powerful school unions that favor Democrats oppose this option. For this reason, most Hispanic families are stuck with public schools as the only choice for their children despite the fact that Republicans have tried to give parents options as to where to send their children to school.

And results speak for themselves. Almost half of all Hispanic students do not graduate from high school. This, in turn, has caused the adult Hispanic be the least educated ethnic group in the United States. In 1980, the percentage of Hispanics 25 years old and over who had completed four years of college or more was 7.9 percent. By 2008, that benchmark of Hispanic educational attainment had reached only 13.3% well below the 19.6 percent for African Americans, the second worst educated ethnic group in the United States. And this is happening despite the fact that Hispanic parents tend to pass onto their children their hard-work ethic, and their desire to have their children do better in life. However, just desire is not good enough. A great educational system and/or a

choice to select where to send our children to school are the solution.

It has been proven that private schools show better results with less money. However, Democrats fight to keep the status quo. Parents are given no choice in what is taught to their children, and even when lessons taught conflict with the parents' personal views they have to accept it because public schools are controlled by the unions. These Public Employee Unions exist primarily to improve teacher pay and benefits and are not in the business of improving education. These unions are among the largest contributors to the Democratic Party. This tells us that these two giant organizations work together to achieve an agenda, and that agenda is liberal ideology taught as undisputed truth that it is affecting the entire United States and, particularly, the Hispanic community.

When competition and the free market are allowed to operate, the product is greatly improved. Whether it is private school, home school or public school, the education received by students will be better when parents are given the choice. Schools that are not doing their job will go away and better schools will take their place. When President George W. Bush secured passage of the landmark *No Child Left Behind* Act of 2001 he ensured that no child is trapped in a failing school.

## **RELIGION**

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Republicans believe that the Bill of Rights should be our guide in matters of religion. They believe that religion can play a vital role in promoting morality which leads to a healthier society. They understand that from the early writings of Washington, Adams and others, and from the ideas expressed in our founding documents, that the Founders of the United States intended that religion play a

role in public life. They also believe that individual thought and belief must be protected.

Democrats reject the influence of religion upon the country and believe passionately that religion has no place in the public arena. They want the country guided strictly by a humanist approach which says our values should be based on human interests apart from a belief in God. They reject the words, “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance, they would like to eliminate any reference to God in schools, in government buildings, and in every aspect of public life.

**ANALYSIS:** The United States of America was conceived within a framework provided by the Judeo-Christian Philosophy. Everywhere we look in the capitol in Washington, D.C., we see reminders of the great influence that Christianity had in the nation’s founding. There are some who want to remove all religious symbols from public property because the sight of a cross or a nativity scene offends them. The Bill of Rights does not include the right not to be offended. Democrats speak of the separation of church and state as though that phrase were in the Constitution. These words, however, come from a sentence in a private letter written by Thomas Jefferson and in no way were meant to stifle religion and prohibit it from public places. Democrats’ passionate endorsement of the separation of church and state deprives citizens of the rich history of our country.

The first amendment begins with the following: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof....” John Adams, the second president of the United States said, “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any

other.” Religion can influence people to live their lives according to such a moral code.

## **TEACHER UNIONS**

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Republicans believe that teachers’ jobs should not be unionized. They believe that teachers’ jobs are so important to the public welfare that unionization results in the public and the education of our children being held hostage to the demands of the unions. They want the free market to determine their salaries, pensions, and benefits. They want supervisors to have the ability to fire lazy and incompetent teachers. They want the taxpayers to be protected from outrageous demands from school union bosses that can bankrupt a city or a state.

Democrats believe that the right to unionize should be available to school teachers. They are untrusting of business and the free market system. They believe that government must protect teacher unions. They believe that schools should not have the right to fire school teachers without going through a litany of paperwork, documentation, and overwhelming evidence of incompetence or illegal behavior on the job. They support teacher unions.

**ANALYSIS:** When teacher unions make it so difficult to fire non-performing school teachers, incompetence, corruption, and sloth are encouraged. When school union bosses demand huge salaries and unbelievably generous retirement packages, state and city budgets are swollen to the point that other high priority services have to be cut and eventually taxes need to be raised just to cover these entitlements. However, when the free market determines the salaries and benefits, competition for good school

teachers will provide decent wages and reasonable benefits. If wages are too low in one school, school teachers will move to other jobs or schools that pay more. When schools cannot find enough competent school teachers, they will raise wages in order to attract the school teachers they need.

## **ENERGY POLICY**

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Republicans believe that it is a matter of national security to get off of our dependency on foreign oil. Whether it is drilling for oil in the United States, building more refineries and nuclear power plants, or developing alternative energy sources, Republicans believe the United States must do whatever it is needed in order to become energy independent. In other words, Republicans do not believe we should sacrifice our economy and our national security.

Democrats also believe that we should become energy independent but they are not willing to drill in the United States, or to build more refineries or nuclear power plants. Democrats want to solve our energy crisis using only alternative sources of energy, such as sun and wind. They do not believe that our economic or national security concerns are very important to us and that they should take precedence.

**ANALYSIS:** Switching to alternative sources of energy such as wind, solar and ethanol is not feasible in the near future. These sources will not be available to meet the immense need for many years, if ever. They can supplement our energy sources but it is questionable whether they alone can ever replace our dependence on oil.

The consequences of being foreign-oil dependent is that we are at the mercy of foreign governments who could cut off our oil supply. Should these foreign governments decide to stop supplying us with oil, they would disrupt dramatically our economy and our way of life. Buying oil from countries who are not friends of the U.S. is helping to fund our enemies. It has been proven that, in many cases, the oil money we send to foreign countries ends up in the hands of terrorists and terrorist organizations.

There is no good reason to forbid drilling in our own country and off our own shores. The drilling in Prudhoe Bay in Alaska has proven that it will not harm the environment. The drilling off shore in Louisiana proves that this type of drilling can be done safely even when a hurricane comes through. Accidents like the BP oil spill happen but, as in the case of an airplane accident, we do not ground all aircrafts. Similarly, we should not shut down oil drilling after an accident occurs in this industry. Years of experience with nuclear energy has proven that this is a safe and effective source of energy when safety guidelines are followed. Getting rid of our need for foreign oil is a matter of national security and politics needs to be put aside while we are trying to solve this problem.

## **THE MILITARY**

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Republicans believe in a strong American Military to protect our country. They recognize that our freedoms were hard fought for by American men and women in our military services. They believe that the military is what stands between us and the enemies of this country. They believe we should always give our military, support and gratitude for the job they do.

Democrats distrust the American Military and want its influence diminished. Democrats believe that all problems can be solved with diplomacy. They believe that by appeasing the enemy and giving him things, our enemies will leave us alone.

**ANALYSIS:** Appeasement has been tried in the past and has failed to stop maniacal tyrants. It is a naïve position. It failed during the World War II when Britain's Neville Chamberlain signed a peace agreement with Hitler and when President Clinton agreed to give North Korea nuclear technology, oil, and aid in exchange for an agreement to halt their weapons program.

## **CONCLUSION**

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The United States of America is facing the greatest threat to its Democracy since its founding. Western Culture—the culture that has produced the greatest form of government that the world has ever known—has become weak due to liberal, progressive ideology. Indeed, the gravitation of Western thought has evolved into a suicidal mission of self-destructive attitudes, beliefs, and laws. These so called sophisticated, righteous attitudes such as political correctness and social welfare have been forced on the United States by well-meaning Democrats who have not understood the law of unintended consequences. Nowadays these positions of the Democrats are jeopardizing the stability and economic growth of our own country and of our Hispanic community.

The next few years will set the course for the rest of this century. Therefore, every Presidential election will be

vital to the future of our country. Consider very carefully before you vote. The candidate you select should be a person of exemplary character, a problem solver with great experience behind him/her, a person of conviction who must stay true to our founding principles and who will lead according to what is best for the country and not what is popular or politically motivated.

Choose wisely and be informed because the future for our children, grandchildren, families, and relatives, our own future, and the survival of our nation as we have known it will depend on your vote.

Think for a minute about the content of this book and determine: **In your heart, are you a Democrat or a Republican?**

**Notes:**