
Evaluation of Statements Supporting the Democratic Party Political Connection in America

Political Affiliation

"As there are many roads to Rome and many ways to skin a cat," Frank J Sorauf has written, "there are also many ways to look at a political party." I am here to look at the Democratic Party and persuade you to join our prestigious party. The Democratic Party is a political organization with a vision for millions of Americans. The Democrats are one of the oldest political parties today. Their ideals have appealed to many. Over the years, different types of campaign strategies have been implemented. The Democratic Party has remained strong by appealing to many people. Democrats work for the "little guy." We try to help out our veterans, as do the Republicans, and make sure that social security is reliable. America's reforms must come from within America. There are many other problems that should be addressed as well. One of the more recent problems is terrorism. Democrats want to fight terrorism through strong leadership. Diplomatic pressure on nations can work to flush out terrorism wherever it flourishes. The democrats have nearly devised the way to make America a better nation. As Sorauf concluded, the nature of a political party is somewhat in "the eye of the beholder."

Over two hundred years ago, our Party's founders decided that wealth and social status were not an entitlement to rule. They believed that wisdom and compassion could be found within every individual and a stable government must be built upon a broad popular base.

A classic study of national convention delegates found that the opinions of Democratic and Republican leaders diverged sharply on many important issues. What is more, these opinions were found to conform to party images: Republican leaders identified with "business, free enterprise, and economic conservatism in general," and Democrats were friendly "toward labor and toward government regulation of the economy."

Since 1932, in most presidential elections, the Democratic Party has, in spirit, been the party of Franklin D. Roosevelt. The vast social-welfare programs launched by the New Deal changed the face of America and gave the Democratic Party an identity that has persisted for many years. Truman's "Fair Deal," Kennedy's "New Frontier," and Johnson's "Great Society" were all patterned on Roosevelt's New Deal. All sought to harness federal funds and federal energies to solve national problems.

Republicans also have a clear and distinct opinion on some of the same issues as Democrats. Social Security, tax cuts and healthcare are just a few of the issues that have been raised in the last elections. The campaign offers voters a choice between competing political philosophies.

In political campaigns, Republicans like to label the Democrats as "spenders". On the whole, Democrats have been more willing to appropriate federal funds for social action. As a result of this political reality, the Democratic Party since 1933 has been the party of Social Security, The Tennessee Valley Authority, Medicare, and federal aid to education. It has, in short, often been the party of social innovation. The familiar Democratic charge that "the Republican Party is the party of Big Business" is partially accurate, just as it is true that, nationally, the Democrats have

traditionally been the party of organized labor.

The Republicans seem to be in favor of the war, while Democrats feel that this war is unfounded. Whether we like it or not, the war has begun and many of our young men and women have been killed and injured as a result of the Iraq war. We as Democrats feel the war could have been avoided and like most Americans, are completely fed up with the lives that are being destroyed as a result of the Iraq war.

I'm sure there are even some Republicans who do not agree with President George W. Bush and his determination to go over to Iraq in hopes of recovering weapons of mass destruction, which we found none of. Now after 2 years, our men and women in the military have had the struggle of trying to help the Iraqi people to come to grips with the fact that the United States have captured Saddam Hussein and that the people of Iraq now have a chance to vote in the upcoming election for a president who will be well suited for the people there. We as Democrats have fought hard over the years to ensure that democracy and liberty is in the forefront of our campaign styles. A majority of voters stand somewhere near the middle ground on many issues of American politics. The issue that we all share, whether Democrat or Republican, is the importance of leadership. Without leadership this country would fail. Not only is leadership important, but also communication and cooperation of both political parties. Terrorism is a part if hatred and we as people need to fight harder to abolish it. Both parties of the Democrats of Republicans are fighting this war on terror. In no way is this just one political party's problem or concern. The war on terror is everyone's problem and we have to work together to end the violent agenda of many terrorists groups across the world. I urge you to join us in this fight for democracy and equality of all people. The Democratic Party has always been a just group who has dedicated years to governing this country. Some of our greatest presidents over the history of elections have been Democrats.

Throughout most of the nation's history, two major political parties have been arrayed against each other, Democrats and Republicans. I believe the Democrats, in one appearance or another, have endured. During successive eras they have been challenged by the Federalists, The Whigs, and the Republicans. Minor or third political parties have joined the struggle, with greater or lesser effect, but the main battle has been, historically, a two-party affair. One way to perceive the differences between the two major parties, Democrats and Republicans, is to examine their images. It used to be suggested that the "typical" Democrat lives in a big city in the North. He or she is a member of a minority group or ethnic group-an African American, a Hispanic American, a Jew, or an Italian, for example. The imaginary Democrat drinks beer, belongs to a labor union, works on an assembly line, goes bowling, and has a relatively low income.

Republicans, on the other hand, have been generalized as, to live in hedge-trimmed suburbs. The imaginary Republican lives in a split-level house with a picture window, commutes to the city, and belongs to a country club that has no members from any minority groups. The male of the species is very likely a white Protestant. He drinks martinis and eats white bread. His wife drives a BMW. He owns his own company or is a corporate executive. He plays golf on the weekends. He is rich, or at least comfortable, equally at home, in the boardroom or the locker room. That, at any rate, has been the popular image of our major political parties. However, according to one study of shifts in the American electorate concluded that the Democrats' base "has changed somewhat from the New Deal era . . . They have lost ground among some of their old constituents, such as trade unionists, big-city whites, and Southern whites; while they have

made up for such losses with gains among the upper-middle class." It has been quoted, by political scientist Jo Freeman, that Democrats believe in "the inclusion of all relevant groups and viewpoints," while Republicans, in Freeman's view, see themselves as "insiders who represent the core of the American society and are the carriers of its fundamental values."

Older Americans are more Democratic than Republican in their party affiliation, while younger people are about equally divided between the parties. And as has long been true, younger people also are substantially less likely to identify with any political party. In addition to its lead among older Americans (those age 65 and older), the Democratic Party holds a clear edge among the early Baby Boomers people in their middle 40s to late 50s. But younger Baby Boomers and those in Generation X (roughly ages 30-44) are somewhat more Republican. The parties are virtually even among the youngest cohort of citizens today.

These general patterns hold for both men and women, but there is also a big gender gap in party affiliation, as there has been since the early 1980s.

Women in every age group are more Democratic than Republican, with the largest gaps occurring among those age 60 and older. But Democrats also have a big advantage among young women (ages 18-24) and Baby Boomers. Among men, Republicans outnumber Democrats even among the Boomers, and indeed among every age group except those aged 70-74. In addition to the gender gap, there is also a substantial marital gap in party affiliation. Married people with children tilt more Republican than those who don't have children. Among people who are not married or who are separated, those with children are less Republican than those without kids.

I urge you to look at the past and present of the Democratic Party and make a decision that will not affect you, but every one in our country. We, the people of the United States, have the right to elect who we choose and we have a right to choose which, if any, political organization we would like to belong to.

Parity in partisan affiliation is a relatively new phenomenon in American politics. For most of the period between the late 1930s through the beginning of the 21st century, the Democratic Party held an advantage often-sizable over the Republicans in party identification. Democratic lead in party identification was modest through the 1940s but grew dramatically in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The Democratic advantage narrowed in the mid-1960s, but remained substantial.

In the late 1970s, fallout from the Watergate scandal again boosted the Democrats while depressing Republican support. In 1977, more than half of the public (51%) identified themselves as Democrats, compared with barely one-in-five who called themselves Republicans (21%). The advantage was short-lived, however, as discontent with the economy coupled with internal divisions among Democrats increased the popularity of the Republican Party in the electorate. With Ronald Reagan in office, the parties drew nearly even by the end of the 1980s.

The Democrats held a small edge with the public in the early 1990s, but public unhappiness with Bill Clinton and a successful campaign by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich helped boost the Republicans ahead of the Democrats for a short time in 1995. Following the government shutdowns in 1995, Democrats once again took a small lead in party affiliation through the remainder of the 1990s. In Pew polls conducted during 1997 and 1998, 33% of

adults said they thought of themselves as Democrats, with 28% calling themselves Republicans. This division persisted through the presidential campaign period of 2000 and the post-election period in 2001.

I believe that all people are created equal. I believe that the goal of government is to protect and expand as many individual freedoms as possible while staying as small and un-intrusive as possible. I believe that the Constitution of the United States of America is a wholly unique and remarkable document, which, if followed, would produce a vibrant and successful society.

In contrast, the members of these two parties have actual beliefs to which they adhere. The majority of both political parties seem to hold views that could be called 'centrist.' Both political parties would like lower taxes, more efficiencies in Government, reasonable environmental controls, and individual freedoms protected by law. There are several defining issues, such as Abortion, which divide the parties along fairly precise lines. Most of these issues can be boiled down to the individual persons view of morality. Those who believe that there is an objective Right and Wrong tend to be Republicans. Those who believe in moral relativism tend to be Democrats. It's not a perfect yardstick, but it's pretty darn good. The large majority of each party resides in the middle and has values, which largely coincide. Battles over abortion, gun control and other cultural values are dramatically reshaping the voting behavior of the American electorate, turning longtime working-class white Democrats into Republicans and moving many affluent whites from the GOP to the party of Roosevelt. The transformation of voting patterns over the past three decades has weakened the long-standing link between income and voting among whites. Racial issues such as busing and affirmative action have pushed blue-collar voters into the GOP, at the same time that cultural issues, especially abortion rights, have built Democratic allegiance among white professionals.

In the past decade, the rate of change has accelerated, influencing voting in contests at every level, and fracturing the traditional stereotype that pitted a Democratic Party of the working man and woman against a GOP of the rich. For advocates of a revived populism in the Democratic Party, the steady erosion of support among lower-income whites is a growing threat. A poll by Democrat Stanley Greenberg for the Institute for America's Future showed that whites without college degrees had significantly more positive feelings toward the Republican Party than toward the Democratic Party.

Republicans nationwide are most optimistic about how Bush will handle the economy and the situation in Iraq. They also have high expectations for what he will do if there are openings on the Supreme Court, the survey found. On the other hand, what this administration might do on Iraq and the economy scares majorities of Democrats, who rank those issues with the future of Social Security as their greatest fears for the next four years.

The appeal I put before you is to look at the bigger picture. No matter which political party you choose to belong to, the fight for justice and equality remains the same. I urge you to look past your ancestor's election process, and look for change in the future for whatever party you decide to join. Whether or not you decide to join the Democratic Party, the Republican Party or any other minor affiliation such as the Liberalists and the American Independent party, is truly your choice. The choices we make in electing our future president has a lot to say about where we want this country headed. I am Very happy to be involved in such a political party who wants to help the working-class man and also the rich. We have to treat all people the same and make sure that everyone has the same rights and equalities that they deserve.

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