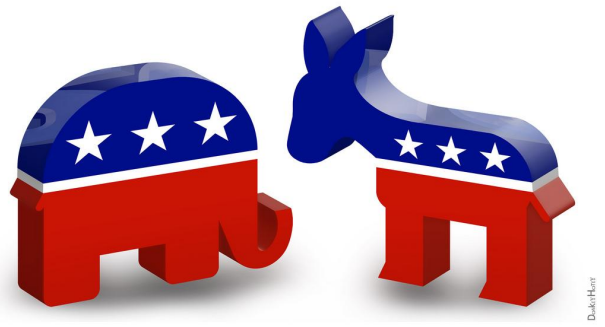


So...Which party *are* you? This is a hard question to answer. Approximately 30% of all Americans call themselves either Democrat or Republican and approximately 40% of the nation are undecided or are not affiliated with a political party.

In this assignment you're going to read the following statements/assessments about each of the two main political parties.



Select **four** issues and explain how you feel about those issues. Do you agree more with the Republican or Democratic point of view? Explain why. Please write in complete sentences. Minimum two sentences per issue. Based on your answers, are you more of a Democrat or a Republican?

*****Complete the assignment in your notebooks – Due Oct. 31 when you get to class!*****

Democrats/Liberals generally believe...

- The government needs to act to help all achieve equality
- It is the government's job to provide programs and assistance to those who need it to help them maintain a living
- It is the duty of the government to reduce social ills and to protect civil liberties and individual and human rights
- The government should be to help that no one is in need of basic goods and protections
- Liberal policies generally emphasize the need for the government to *solve* problems
- More government = more help and aid to the citizens who need it

Republicans/Conservatives generally believe...

- Let the people do as they please –If they work hard, they will be more successful – though this is not always the case
- Stop regulating businesses and creating laws that limit a business from making more money
- Social changes such as LGBTQ and racial issues are not the most important issues
- A strong military, strong borders, and strict immigration laws are essential to keep Americans employed
- The role of government should be to provide people the *freedom* necessary to pursue their own goals, not to help people out
- Government assisted programs cost taxpayers money and it is the responsibility for the individual to work hard and earn their way in society
- Conservative policies generally emphasize empowerment of the individual to solve problems.
- Less government = more power for people and states to do as they please

Below is a basic overview of how the parties feel about the following issues...

Issue	Republicans	Democrats
Taxes	-Lower/modify as many taxes as possible, -Lower taxes for big businesses -More tax cuts/reforms/changes	Taxes should be higher, but particularly on the wealthier & larger businesses – They should pay their fair share
Healthcare	<i>Private</i> healthcare is better than government funded/provided -Generally want to defund Medicare & Medicaid -Less government control of healthcare	Passed a national healthcare law in 2010, want both public & private healthcare to compete for citizens, want to protect Medicare & Medicaid
Second Amendment	Favor second amendment & freedoms to gun ownership	Create gun law reforms and modifications to limit the ability to obtain firearms/guns
Economy/ Business	<i>-Laissez-Faire -- Hands off...</i> -Let the businesses do as they please -Private businesses helps economy because they hire people, make goods, etc.	Raise minimum-wage -Shrink difference between middle & upper class -Big companies should provide more benefits for their employees
Environment/ Science	-Generally dispute climate change as a big deal -Propose more oil drilling -Alternative energy is not a priority	-Firmly believe in climate change -Call for a need of alternative energy sources -Reject oil drilling & pipelines bc of environmental concerns, -Limit and regulate oil/drilling companies
National Security	-The bigger the military, the better -Favor larger military & defense -Refugees and immigrants hurt more than help the nation -Protect the borders militarily -Deport <i>all</i> illegal immigrants -Keep the citizenship process a hard one to	-Close Guantanamo Bay – A military prison -Welcome immigrants, but we welcome them legally -Those immigrants brought against their will should generally be granted citizenship -Building a wall sends the message “keep out” of here -Military & defense is important, but not the the biggest priority
Energy	-Oil, gas and coal are all good sources of energy and are abundant in the U.S. -Oil drilling should be <i>increased</i> both on land and at sea. -Increased production creates lower prices and less dependence on other countries for oil. -Support increased production of nuclear energy. -Wind and solar sources will never provide plentiful, affordable sources of power. -Support private ownership of gas and electric industries.	-Oil is a depleting resource, we need to find other sources -Other sources of energy must be explored. -The government must produce a national plan for all energy resources and subsidize (partially pay for) alternative energy research and production. -Support increased exploration of alternative energy sources such as wind and solar power. -Support government control of gas and electric industries -We should try to wean ourselves off of domestic and foreign oil