

Political parties in the United States



In the United States of America (USA), there have always been two main parties. Since the 1860's, these two main parties have been the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. The current President of the United States Barack Obama is a Democrat and the Democrats are also the largest party in the Senate. The Republican Party has the most seats in the House of Representatives.

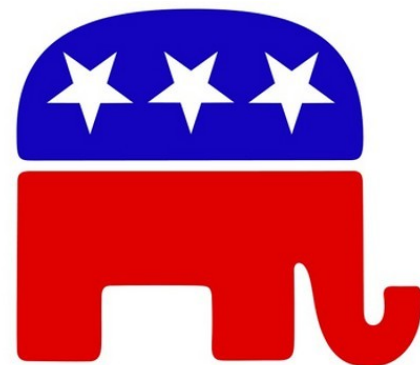
Democratic Party

- * Many support a progressive income tax (rich people paying at higher rates than poor people).
- * Many are pro-choice (meaning that they believe women have the right to have an abortion).
- * Many support stem-cell research to cure sickness.
- * Many support withdrawing U.S. troops out of Iraq.
- * Many support more government funding for education and infrastructure (road building).
- * Many consider minority groups (such as women and blacks) disadvantaged.
- * Many support gun control (which means that there should be strict rules about who can own guns and where they can use them)
- * Many believe in global warming and want the government to do something about it.
- * Many believe in health care reform (some believe in universal health care)
- * Many believe that the economy should be regulated more.



Republican Party

- * Many believe abortion should be illegal.
- * Many are against gun control
- * Many support the death penalty, rather than a life sentence (which sentences people to death if they do big crimes).
- * Many support the U.S. having a strong military.
- * Many support the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- * Many are against illegal immigration.
- * Many want the government to control the economy less.
- * Many want the government to spend less money.
- * Many want taxes to be lowered.
- * Many oppose health care which is run by the government.
- * Many support a school voucher system (the government giving money to parents who send their kids to private school).
- * Many believe the federal government should have less power over the states.



Survey: Are you a Republican or a Democrat?

QUESTION	YES / NO	SCORE
1. A strong military is very important.	_____	_____
2. Healthcare for everyone is important, even if I have to help pay for it.	_____	_____
3. High taxes are okay because they help pay for roads, schools, social security, etc.	_____	_____
4. A woman should be allowed to have an abortion.	_____	_____
5. Gays and lesbians should be allowed to marry.	_____	_____
6. People without jobs should receive money from the government, even if I have to help pay for it.	_____	_____
7. Environmental protection is very important.	_____	_____
8. The war in Iraq was the right decision.	_____	_____
9. Fighting terrorism is more important than fighting cancer.	_____	_____
10. Marijuana should be legal.	_____	_____
11. The government should have greater control over economic issues (ie taxes, business, employment, worker's rights).	_____	_____
12. The government should have greater control over moral issues (ie abortion, religion, sexuality, drugs).	_____	_____
13. The government gives too much money to poor people.	_____	_____
14. My country is more important than other countries in the EU.	_____	_____
15. Immigrants should be allowed to live and work in my country.	_____	_____
16. The death penalty is an acceptable form of punishment.	_____	_____
	TOTAL:	_____



Are you a Republican or Democrat?

1. A strong military is very important	Yes: 1, No: 0
2. Healthcare for everyone is important, even if I have to help pay for it.	Yes: 0, No: 1
3. High taxes are okay because they help pay for roads, schools, social security, etc.	Yes: 0, No: 1
4. A woman should be allowed to have an abortion.	Yes: 0, No: 1
5. Gays and lesbians should be allowed to marry.	Yes: 0, No: 1
6. People without jobs should receive money from the government, even if I have to help pay for it.	Yes: 0, No: 1
7. Environmental protection is very important.	Yes: 0, No: 1
8. The war in Iraq was the right decision.	Yes: 1, No: 0
9. Fighting terrorism is more important than fighting cancer.	Yes: 1, No: 0
10. Marijuana should be legal.	Yes: 0, No: 1
11. The government should have greater control over economic issues (ie taxes, business, employment, worker's rights).	Yes: 0, No: 1
12. The government should have greater control over moral issues (ie abortion, religion, sexuality, drugs).	Yes: 1, No: 0
13. The government gives too much money to poor people.	Yes: 1, No: 0
14. My country is more important than other countries in the EU.	Yes: 1, No: 0
15. Immigrants should be allowed to live and work in my country.	Yes: 0, No: 1
16. The death penalty is an acceptable form of punishment.	Yes: 1, No: 0

SCORING: 0 - 6 Democrat, 7 - 9 Undecided, 10 - 16 Republican

(Survey found at www.ielanguages.com)

