

# A Sample of U.S. Political Parties: Where Do They Stand on Key Issues? (Updated 09/2012)

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<b>Greens</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Libertarians</b>
<b>Abortion</b>			
The Green Party supports full access to abortion, with funding, for all women.	The Democratic Party supports the right of all women to have access to safe, legal abortions if they can pay for it.	The Republican Party opposes abortions in all cases, including rape, incest, and when the mother's life is in danger.	Libertarians believe abortion should be left to each person's consideration, and government should be kept out of the matter.
<b>Death Penalty</b>			
Oppose the death penalty citing racial bias, failure to deter crime, errors, and humanitarian objections.	No official position. Focus on community policing, crime prevention, and gun control.	Mostly support the death penalty.	No official position.
<b>Free Trade</b>			
Oppose Free Trade agreements, which reduce government regulation of trade and which threaten labor, environmental, and human rights protections.	Although most supported Free Trade agreements in the past, opposition among Democrats is growing.	Mostly support Free Trade agreements.	Oppose all intervention by government into the area of economics.
<b>Gay Rights</b>			
Believe that same-sex couples should have all of the same rights as heterosexual couples and that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is a violation of civil rights.	Call for the repeal of DOMA and support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, prohibiting workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.	Support the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman.	Believe that sexual orientation should have no impact on marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration, or military service laws.
<b>Global Warming</b>			
Support renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power. Believe the Kyoto Protocol, which would limit the emission of greenhouse gases, falls short but is an important first step.	Obama rejected the Kyoto Protocol. The Democrats talk about a "green economy" and express concern about climate change but little has been done.	Believe industry will develop new technologies to replace fossil fuels. Oppose mandatory caps on greenhouse gas emissions, and many are skeptical that climate change is caused by human activity.	Libertarians do not support any international treaties and do not want the government involved in regulating private enterprise or the use of resources on private property.



<b>Greens</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Libertarians</b>
<b>Health Care</b>			
Demand universal health care: Single-payer national health insurance and choice of doctors and hospitals, with guaranteed treatment regardless of age, ability to pay, employment, prior medical condition.	Support “ObamaCare” which requires individuals to purchase private health insurance (with some government assistance for those who can’t afford it) and offers tax deductions to help offset the cost.	Believe individuals should purchase private health insurance if they want it. Support some government assistance for those who can’t afford it.	Oppose any government role in the provision of health care.
<b>Military Spending</b>			
Call for a sharp reduction in military spending with funds redirected into social and environmental needs.	Although Obama has called for cuts in military spending, his budget proposes the smallest post-war reductions of modern times.	Republicans are generally calling for increases in military spending.	Believe that the principle of non-intervention should guide relationships between governments and support decreases in military spending.
<b>Minimum Wage</b>			
Demand a living wage, usually defined as a wage high enough for full time workers to provide food, housing, health care, child care, and basic transportation for themselves and their families.	Propose raising the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$9.80 per hour over a two year period.	Generally oppose raising the minimum wage because wages should be set by the “free” market.	Oppose government regulation over wages.
<b>Taxes</b>			
Support progressive taxes (lower taxes for low-income and working people, higher taxes for wealthier people and corporations).	Democrats want to extend tax cuts for the middle class and raise taxes on the wealthy. They also support ongoing tax breaks for corporations.	Republicans support tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefit the top 1% of the income earners. They also support tax breaks for corporations.	Seek to lower all taxes by eliminating government services and programs and leaving them to be handled by the private sector.
<b>Voter Access</b>			
Oppose laws that suppress voting.	Oppose voter identification laws because they tend to disenfranchise young voters, people of color, low-wage earners, disabled people, and the elderly.	Support strict rules for voting such as requiring voters to have picture IDs.	Oppose laws that suppress voting.

Cynthia Peters is editor of The Change Agent. Sources: <[www.greens.org](http://www.greens.org)>; <[www.ctj.org](http://www.ctj.org)>; <[healthcare.gop.com](http://healthcare.gop.com)>; <[www.dnc.org](http://www.dnc.org)>; <[www.lp.org](http://www.lp.org)>; <[www.ctj.org](http://www.ctj.org)>; <[www.gop.com/rnc\\_counsel](http://www.gop.com/rnc_counsel)>; <[www.ontheissues.org](http://www.ontheissues.org)>.