

Date Printed: 06/16/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_75
Tab Number: 33
Document Title: Political Parties
Document Date: nd
Document Country: United States --
California
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE02061



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Political Parties

When you register (sign up) to vote, you may be asked if you want to join a political party.

What is a political party?

A political party is a group of people who share the same views about how the government should be run and what it should do. They choose candidates to run for office and work together to win elections. It does not cost anything to join a party.

How do I choose which party to join?

Choose a party that has the same general views that you do. You do not have to agree with everything the party says. You can also change which party you belong to just by filling out another form.

You can also choose to be "independent" and not join a party. This means you will not be able to vote on any party candidates in primary elections. However, anybody can vote for *any* candidate in general elections.

These are the political parties that have candidates in most states. There may be other parties in your state. We asked each national party what they stand for and what their priorities are. The parties are listed in alphabetical order.

Party

What They Stand For

Top Priorities

Democrat



The Democratic Party stands for the hard working American family who deserves the opportunity to buy a home, get a good education, live in a safe neighborhood, and have a good paying job.

This party believes the role of government is to provide safe neighborhoods, good schools, a clean environment and to expand job opportunities.

- Re-elect President Bill Clinton
- Keep our economy growing and creating jobs
- Increase access to higher education and improve our schools

For more information, call 202-863-8000.
E-Mail: dnc@democrats.org

Green



The Green Party stands for ten key values: The environment, democracy, non-violence, justice, community-based economics, respect for all living beings, responsibility, making government more local, cooperation and understanding, and future focus.

This party believes government should support these values in working toward a sustainable quality of life for everyone.

- Jobs at a living wage for all
 - Guaranteed minimum income for all
 - Health care for all
- For more information, call 607-756-4211.
E-Mail: gpusa@igc.apc.org

Libertarian



The Libertarian Party stands for a much smaller, less expensive government than we have now—without laws that stifle the economy, restrict personal responsibility, or control people's lifestyle choices.

This party believes the role of government should be limited to protecting the individual liberties of Americans. People should be free to live their lives, without government interference.

- Dramatically reduce taxes; let people keep their own money
- Eliminate laws that obstruct business and crush economic growth
- Defend the Bill of Rights

For more information, call 1-800-682-1776.

Web: www.lp.org/lp/

Political Parties

Party

What They Stand For

Top Priorities

Natural Law



The Natural Law Party stands for prevention-oriented government, conflict-free politics, and proven solutions designed to bring national life into harmony with natural law.

This party believes the role of government should be to prevent problems before they start through education to bring every citizen—and the whole nation—into harmony with natural law.

- Cut taxes deeply and responsibly
 - Natural health care programs to prevent disease and promote health
 - Proven educational programs that develop the creative genius of the student
- For more information, call 515-472-2040.
E-Mail: info@naturallaw.org

Reform



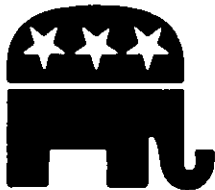
The Reform Party stands for economic growth and political reforms that will restore the American Dream for our children and grandchildren.

This party believes government should act in the best interest of the American people—not the special interest groups.

- Expand the economy and create more jobs for all Americans
- Pass a Balanced Budget Amendment to help put our financial house in order
- Involve more Americans in the political process to pass on a better, stronger country to our children

For more information, call
1-800-96-PARTY. Web: www.reformparty.org

Republican



The Republican Party stands for policies that promote personal responsibility over government power and authority—and individual freedom over government control. This party believes that government should be smaller, more effective and less involved in private lives. The Republican Party believes in a government that trusts the American people to decide what is best for them.

- Lower taxes within a simpler tax system
- Tougher law enforcement with stiff penalties and strict judges
- Smaller, smarter government that returns power to the people

For more information, call 202-863-8500.
E-mail: info@rnc.org

U.S. Taxpayers



The U.S. Taxpayers Party wants to end abortion, abolish the IRS, repeal quotas, strengthen U.S. defenses, slash Federal spending, stop foreign aid, and withdraw from the New World order.

This party believes in limiting government. They believe government should be a ministry of justice and a terror to evildoers. The first duty of the law is to prevent the shedding of innocent blood.

- The right to life
- The right to keep and bear arms
- Liberty of conscience

For more information, call
1-800-2-VETO-IRS.
E-mail: USTAXPAYERS@AOL.COM

These statements were collected by the Key to Community Voter Involvement Project with support from the National Institute for Literacy. The opinions expressed by the parties are their responses to the project questionnaire and no endorsement should be inferred. For more information about the Key to Community project, call Mara Wold at 408-294-5175.