





# A Sample of U.S. Political Parties: Where do they Stand on Key Issues?

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<b>Greens</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Libertarians</b>
<b>Abortion</b>			
Support full access to abortion, with funding, for all women.	Most support abortion rights.	Most oppose abortion. Bush ordered a ban on U.S. funds for overseas agencies that offer abortion. Supported South Dakota statewide ban.	Believe the question of abortion should be left to each person's "conscientious 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, widespread errors, and humanitarian objections.	No official position. Focus on community policing, crime prevention, and gun control.	Overwhelmingly support the death penalty.	No official position.
<b>Free Trade</b>			
Oppose Free Trade agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which reduce government regulation of trade. Greens oppose the power of these agreements to overturn 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>Global Warming</b>			
Support converting to renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power. Believe the Kyoto Protocol falls short but is an important first step.	Some support the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which would limit the emission of greenhouse gases.	Believe industry will develop new technologies to replace fossil fuels. The Bush administration has refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and generally opposes mandatory caps on greenhouse gas emissions.	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, with guaranteed treatment and medicine regardless of age, ability to pay, employment, prior medical condition, including choice of doctors and hospitals.	Support health care policy based on individuals purchasing private health insurance (with some government assistance for those who can't afford it) and tax deductions to help offset the cost of health insurance.	Support health care policy based on individuals purchasing private health insurance (with some government assistance for those who can't afford it) and tax deductions to help offset the cost of health insurance.	Oppose any government role in the provision of health care.
<b>Iraq War</b>			
Call for an end to the Iraq war. Call for a sharp reduction in military spending with funds redirected into social and environmental needs.	Do not have a united position.	Believe the Iraq War is making the world safe from terrorists.	Believe that the principle of non-intervention should guide relationships between governments.
<b>Minimum Wage</b>			
Demand a living wage (pay that people can live on)—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. Recently, a living wage of \$10.64 per hour was set in Los Angeles, California.	Support incremental minimum wage increases. In July 2008, the federal minimum wage will be \$6.55 per hour. Working full-time with no vacation, a minimum wage worker would earn \$13,624. Poverty level is considered to be about \$21,000.	Generally oppose raising minimum wage.	Oppose government regulation over wages.
<b>Taxes</b>			
Support progressive taxes (lower taxes for low-income and working people, higher taxes for wealthier people).	Want to repeal Bush's tax cuts, which mostly benefit the wealthy, but at the same time many Democrats support ongoing tax breaks for corporations.	Support tax cuts, which overwhelmingly benefit the top 1% of the income earners.	Seek to lower all taxes by eliminating government services and programs that can be handled by the private sector. Oppose redistribution of wealth through income-based taxation.

*Cynthia Peters is editor of The Change Agent. Sources: <[www.greens.org](http://www.greens.org)>; <[www.gp.org/platform/2004](http://www.gp.org/platform/2004)>; <[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.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)>; <[www.massdems.org](http://www.massdems.org)>; <[www.ctj.org](http://www.ctj.org)>; and <[www.ontheissues.org](http://www.ontheissues.org)>. All the Parties listed were contacted to confirm that their views are accurately represented.*