**PARTY PLATFORMS IN THE USA**

TheDemocratic Party usually has more liberal views and supports more government intervention and social programs in order to help out society, but at the cost of higher taxes and less freedom.

The Republican Party usually has more conservative views and supports less government intervention and lower taxes, giving people and businesses more freedom at the cost of fewer social programs to help out society.

**OUR POLITICAL SPECTRUM:**

Socialists Democrats Republicans Libertarians

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***Part A: Two Party System.*** *For each statement below, identify which of the two major political party’s values would match the best. Write a “****D****” for the Democratic Party or an “****R****” for the Republican Party. You will use each* ***FIVE*** *times.*

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| **PARTY?** | **PLATFORM ITEM** |
| Democratic | 1. Climate change is real. We need government rules, or regulations, to protect the environment and to put these above business interests. |
| Republican | 2. The government should reduce taxes for the wealthy so that they can hire more workers to help the economy. |
|  | 3. We need to protect the free expression of religion in our community, and faith-based initiatives (or religious-based programs) are often the best way to assist those in need or who require help. |
|  | 4. The government should increase the minimum wage and offer more funding for impoverished citizens. |
|  | 5. Government programs like Social Security and Affirmative Action should be limited. People should be mostly responsible for themselves. |
|  | 6. The government should make stricter rules to regulate businesses so that they are more fair to consumers. |
|  | 7. Illegal immigrants should be prevented from entering the country, and stronger border security is needed. |
|  | 8. The government should help provide affordable health care for its citizens. |
|  | 9. Gun rights are guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment. The government should not limit the rights of gun owners. |
|  | 10. The death penalty should be abolished or never used; no matter what or how bad the crime is, no one should lose their life for committing it. |

**THIRD PARTIES**

The Socialist Party believes in using the government to promote and enforce equal opportunity for people in society by taking over or heavily regulating (or making rules for) big businesses and providing government-run programs like free health care, but at the price of very high taxes.

The Libertarian Party wants to reduce the size of the government and to encourage freedom in society by eliminating many taxes, government programs, and pursuing an isolationist foreign policy.

**OUR POLITICAL SPECTRUM:**

Socialists Democrats Republicans Libertarians

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***Part B: Third Parties.*** *For each statement below, identify which of the Third Party’s values would match the best. Write an “****S****” for the Socialist Party or an “****L****” for the Libertarian Party. You will use each* ***FOUR*** *times.*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PARTY?** | | **PLATFORM ITEM** | | |
| Libertarian | | 1. People should be free to spend their money however they want to spend it, so most taxes should be eliminated or cut back. | |
| Socialist | | 2. The government should greatly increase the minimum wage and offer more funding and assistance for impoverished citizens. | |
|  | | 3. The government should raises taxes to create a public (or government-run) health system and provide affordable health care for its citizens. | |
|  | | 4. Gun rights are guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment. The government should not limit the rights of gun owners at all. | |
|  | | 5. Government programs like Social Security and Affirmative Action should be eliminated. People should be responsible for themselves and should plan ahead for their own retirement. | |
|  | | 6. Our society should have strict rules protecting equality, such as making sure that men and women get paid exactly the same. | |
|  | | 7. Big businesses like Amazon and Wal-Mart take advantage of people; the government should create strict rules (or regulations) in order to make them more fair, or the government should just take them over and run them to benefit the people, rather than make a profit. | |
|  | | 8. The United States should not send its military around the world to fight in other countries’ wars; we should focus on our country first. | |
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