

Differences between Democrats and Republicans*

Core beliefs, health care, economy, taxes and government spending, national defense, immigration, (as of June 2014)

Democrats, left leaning ideology, liberal	Republicans, right wing ideology, conservative
Core Beliefs	
<p>For the last 100 years, the Democrats have tended to be the more left-leaning or liberal party in U.S. government. They believe in a broader range of social services because society is better served with expanded role of government to include entitlement programs such as social security and Medicare, Medicaid, universal healthcare, food stamps, free public education, unemployment benefits, strong environmental laws, and other regulations on industries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low income urban minorities are more likely to support a Democratic agenda because it's in their best interest. 	<p>People on the right believe that the best outcome for society is achieved when individual rights and civil liberties are paramount and the role — and especially the power — of the government is minimized. Conservatives would favor market-based solutions to the issues that these government programs aim to tackle. For example, encouraging a freer marketplace for healthcare driven by consumer choice to drive down costs. Or privately held retirement accounts instead of government-guaranteed Social Security. Lower taxes and regulations on businesses; reduced government spending; balanced budget;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle and upper class rural citizens (whites and minorities alike, in many cases) are more likely to gun for Republicans because their agenda is friendlier to these types of citizens.
Health Care	
<p>Believe that access to healthcare is one of the fundamental rights of all citizens. Support universal healthcare, the Affordable Care Act, expansion of Medicare and Medicaid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In favor of abortion rights, and stem cell research. • Democrats support reproductive rights; should be free • Keep elective abortion legal. 	<p>Oppose government-provided universal healthcare and the Affordable Care Act. Favor competition to Medicare from private insurance companies; oppose Medicaid expansion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many (but by no means all) Republicans oppose the right to an abortion, as well as the use of human embryos for biological research • Republicans support reproductive rights; but leave it up to individual and not part of federal law and spending . Many believe Roe v. Wade should be overturned
The Economy	
<p>Income equality; higher tax rates on the wealthy; government spending on social programs and</p>	<p>Lower taxes and regulations on businesses, reduced government spending, balanced budget</p>

infrastructure; stronger regulations on business.	
In favor of gun control laws like background checks or waiting periods before buying a gun; banning automatic weapons; and disallowing concealed weapons in public places.	Republicans strong supporters of 2nd Amendment (the right to bear arms) gun ownership rights.
Taxes and Government Spending	
Minimum wages and progressive taxation, i.e., higher tax rates for higher income brackets.	Republicans tend to believe that lower tax rates promote spending that leads to a strong economy. Republicans also generally believe that personal and corporate responsibility keep the work force motivated and lead to economic prosperity.
National Defense In the past 10 years, Democrats have advocated for scaling down our military and reducing the money spent on military intelligence. Democrats believe that true security comes from negotiations with foreign nations, even if they harbor or have financial ties to terrorist groups. Democrats believe that we must ask other nations for permission before we act to protect our own security.	Dominant foreign policy. Republicans usually favor a strong military and currently favor the spreading of democracy in unstable regions such as the Middle East. (Note it is a sad fact of history since the beginning of time that the weak have been stepped on.)
Education	
Favor expanded free, public education. (CORE)	Parents who want to home-school their kids or send them to private school should be able to get vouchers for opting out of the public school system.
Democrats support legislation to protect gays and lesbians against discrimination. Some, but not all, believe same-sex marriage should be legal.	Republicans tend to oppose same-sex marriage.
Immigration	
Pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants; moratorium on deportations or prosecutions of undocumented immigrants who are young adults and have no criminal record.	Secure our borders. No "amnesty" for undocumented immigrants; stronger border patrol and fence to check illegal immigration.
Against voter ID laws citing undue burden on lower income groups causing them to be disenfranchised.	For voter identification laws to combat voter fraud.

* Gleaned from multiple internet websites

Sharp Ideological Divides in Interest in Donald Sterling, Nigeria, Benghazi

% very closely following each story

	Total	Conserv Rep %	Liberal Dem %	Conserv- Lib Diff %
Sterling comments	21	18	47	-29
Nigerian kidnapping	28	28	48	-20
Benghazi committee	19	38	15	+23
Russia-Ukraine	24	31	25	+6
Malaysia plane	25	23	27	-4
Midterm elections	13	20	17	+3
MERS lung disease	13	16	16	0
N=	1000	178	110	

Survey conducted May 15-18, 2014

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The Pew numbers reflect a broader trend that has accompanied the fracturing of the mainstream media over the last decade-plus. And that is silo-ing of media

consumption where liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans can read, watch and listen to only viewpoints similar to their own. As a result,

different segments along the ideological spectrum have not just different views on the same issue but entirely different palettes of issues that attract their attention.

So, if it seems like the parties' bases are talking past one another, it's because they are.

From our National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW), a request that we educate and understand the differences between Republicans and Democrats.

Below is a tool to create an "elevator speech", i.e., 30 seconds or less about why I am a Republican Woman, and what is most important to me.

Three reasons why I am a Republican are as follows:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

