



## REPUBLICAN vs. DEMOCRAT PHILOSOPHIES

### Fundamental Beliefs

Within the two major political parties, sharp differences exist on the specifics of various national and local issues. This occasionally causes people to wonder what holds Republican and Democrats together – what prevents fragmentation into innumerable splinter parties.

The answer is the two party system relies on adherence to fundamental beliefs. As an American voter, you should examine these philosophical principles carefully.

The main theme of the Democrat Party philosophy is the expansion of the “general welfare” clause of the powers of the Federal government, everything interpreted as dealing with the general welfare of the people. The New Deal, Fair Deal, New Frontier, and Great Society are all essentially concepts of federal paternalism - direction and control of the lives of all citizens from Washington. To implement this philosophy effectively the concept of three coordinate branches of the Federal government is rejected in favor of domination by the Executive Branch.

#### **The Republican philosophy is firmly based upon acceptance of the concept of restraint of power:**

1. The limited, delegated powers of the Federal government set forth the Constitution;
2. The balance of power among the three coordinate branches of the Federal government;
3. The freedom of the states and their people to promote their own welfare within the spirit and letter of the Constitution, with only such assistance of regulation by the Federal government as may be necessary in the best interests of all the people, or essential under the Constitution.

### Republican Record Individual Initiative

Republican Party philosophy is rooted in a belief in individual rights and responsibilities. Maximum power to determine their destiny should lie in the hands of the people and governmental power and resources should be kept close to the people, rather than monopolized from a distance by officials in Washington, D.C. Local government, local education and community life belong to the people themselves.

Democrat administrations have pushed for more and more centralized power in Washington, with only secondary consideration for the rights of individuals and communities. This has meant increasingly tighter federal control and regimentation, often at the hands of unelected bureaucrats, and an erosion of grass roots government across the country.

It is significant that once some Democrats talked of returning to a concept Republicans have not abandoned but altered – that state and local governments are best suited to solving the country’s major problems.

For many years Republican administrations have kept faith by meeting the Nation’s needs without abandoning our basic belief in the kind of governments that permits the greatest flowering of individual initiative. The Republican Party has demonstrated – by performance – government competence on a high scale, compassion for the interests of all in the community, the less fortunate as well as those who have prospered under our free society; and, most of all, Republican did these things in furtherance of the belief that the primary purpose of government is to free each individual to develop the best that is in that person – so long as she or he does not prevent others from doing the same thing. This should be the goal of government everywhere.

Past Republican administrations have worked to continue the Republican Party's guarantees of economic freedoms for all Americans:

- The freedom to work (the creation of jobs and the increase of wages);
- The freedom to enjoy the fruits of one's labor (guaranteed protection from the burdens of excessive government borrowing, spending, and taxing);
- The freedom to contract, to own, and control one's property (protection of possessions and ideas);
- The freedom to participate in a free economy (working to enhance rather than hinder private economic growth).

Domestic tranquility and unity are Republican hallmarks. Our laws provide rules which all must respect, and they also provide restraint and penalties for those whose behavior is a threat to the freedom and rights of others.

**The preservation of our nation and the security of our citizens depend upon the Constitution, the laws and courts, and respect for them is the responsibility of every citizen.**

### **Financial Responsibility and Elimination of Over-Government**

Democrats promote an economic order dependent upon, and control-led by Federal government planning and regulation. They embrace as "new" the idea of a powerful central government taking our tax money to spend in our behalf, and regulation much of our lives. Far from being "new", this idea is the old European monarchic idea which our founders rejected in the beginning. The Democrats believe that government, given enough money, can solve everything.

Republicans believe in fiscal responsibility, a searching scrutiny of every new spending program as to its needs and costs. Democrats plunge into visionary, untested experiments unmindful of the danger of inflation as a result of government extravagance and debt, and unwilling to reassess and adjust the programs to changing times. Once started, a Democrat program is rarely retrenched.

### **Foreign Policy**

Republicans believe that only a strong America can remain a free America. Further, Republican philosophy stresses that it is absolutely essential to maintain a strong national defense posture in order that we may at all times negotiate from a position of strength, not weakness, in our continuing efforts toward world peace and friendship.

Democrats on the other hand, have a tendency to deplete and weaken our military resources which could mean vulnerability even during these rapidly changing times.

*(National Federation of Republican Women)*