**Political Parties: Comparison Chart (Teacher)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Philosophy** | [Liberal](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Conservative_vs_Liberal), [left-leaning](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Left_Wing_vs_Right_Wing). | [Conservative](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Conservative_vs_Liberal), [right-leaning](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Left_Wing_vs_Right_Wing). |
| **Economic Ideas** | Minimum wages and progressive [taxation](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Category%3ATaxation), i.e., higher tax rates for higher income brackets. Born out of [anti-federalist](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Anti-Federalist_vs_Federalist) ideals but evolved over time to favor more government regulation. | Believe taxes shouldn't be increased for anyone (including the wealthy) and that wages should be set by the free market. |
| **Social and human ideas** | Based on community and social responsibility | Based on individual rights and justice |
| **Stance on Military issues** | Decreased spending | Increased spending |
| **Stance on Gay Marriage** | Support (some Democrats disagree) | Oppose (some Republicans disagree) |
| **Stance on Abortion** | Should remain legal; support [Roe v. Wade](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Roe_vs_Wade) | Should not be legal (with some exceptions); oppose Roe v. Wade |
| **Stance on Death Penalty** | While support for the death penalty is strong among Democrats, opponents of the death penalty are a substantial fraction of the Democratic base. | A large majority of Republicans support the death penalty. |
| **Stance on Taxes** | Progressive (high income earners should be taxed at a higher rate). Generally not opposed to raising taxes to fund government. | Tend to favor a "flat tax" (same tax rate regardless of income). Generally opposed to raising taxes. |
| **Stance on Government Regulation** | Government regulations are needed to protect consumers. | Government regulations hinder free market [capitalism](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Capitalism_vs_Socialism) and job growth. |
| **Healthcare Policy** | Support universal healthcare; strong support of government involvement in healthcare, including [Medicare and Medicaid](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Medicaid_vs_Medicare). Generally support Obamacare. | Private companies can provide healthcare services more efficiently than government-run programs. Oppose Obamacare provisions like (1) requirement for individuals to buy health insurance or pay a fine, (2) required coverage of contraceptives. |
| **Stance on Immigration** | There is greater overall support in the Democratic party for a moratorium on deporting - or offering a pathway to citizenship to - certain undocumented immigrants. e.g. those with no criminal record, who have lived in the U.S. for 5+ years. | Republicans are generally against amnesty for any undocumented immigrants. They also oppose President Obama's executive order that put a moratorium on deporting certain workers. Republicans also fund stronger enforcement actions at the border. |
| **Traditionally strong in states** | California, Massachusetts, New York | Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas |
| **Symbol** | Donkey | Elephant |
| **Color** | Blue | Red |
| **Founded in** | 1824 | 1854 |
| **Website** | www.democrats.org | www.gop.com |
| **Senate Leader** | Harry Reid | Mitch McConnell |
| **Chairperson** | Tom Perez | Ronna Romney McDaniel |
| **Famous Presidents** | Franklin Roosevelt (FDR), John F. Kennedy, Bill Clinton, Woodrow Wilson, Jimmy Carter, Barack Obama | [Abraham Lincoln](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Abraham_Lincoln_vs_George_Washington), Teddy Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Richard Nixon |
| **Seats in the Senate** | 44/100 | 54/100 |
| **Seats in the House of Representatives** | 188/435 | 245/435 |
| **Governorships** | 18/50 | 31/50 |
| **Membership** | 43.1 million (as of 2012) | 30.7 million (as of 2012) |
| **2016 Presidential Candidates** | [Hillary Clinton](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Donald-Trump-vs-Hillary-Clinton), Bernie Sanders, Martin O'Malley | [Donald Trump](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Donald-Trump-vs-Hillary-Clinton), Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Ben Carson, Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Carly Fiorina, others. |