



POLITICS

A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO GET YOU STARTED.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

DEMOCRACY

A form of government in which the common people hold political power and can rule either directly or through elected representatives.

REPUBLIC

A state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch.

NONPARTISAN

Free from party affiliation, bias or designation.

ON THE "LEFT"

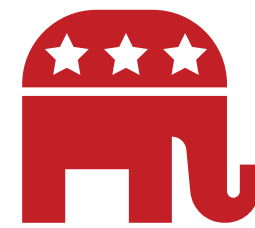
Left is referred to as having beliefs that align with the Democratic Party.

ON THE "RIGHT"

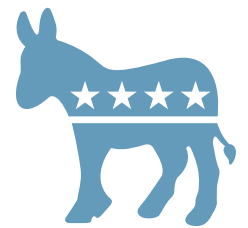
Right is referred to as having beliefs that align with the Republican Party.

SPEAKING OF PARTIES...

The United States has two major political parties: the Democratic and Republican parties. There are several minor political parties including the Libertarian, Green and Constitutional parties. The two major parties have won every United States presidential election since 1852 and have controlled the United States Congress to some extent since 1856, therefore creating what we commonly know as a two-party system today.



REPUBLICAN



DEMOCRAT

WHAT NEWS SOURCES CAN I TRUST?

We are unable to make recommendations on this. There is little consensus on what news outlets have an unbiased approach to reporting. With this in mind, here are some things to consider when seeking out information: Does the URL look legitimate? If it looks similar "www.XYZ.com.com" but not quite right, then you should do some more investigating.

Go beyond the headlines. Headlines are meant to capture your attention and may or may not accurately depict the whole story. Take a minute to read and not just glance. Are there quotations in the news story? If so, are they from a title (ex: Speaker of the House, Senator, Vice President, etc.) you recognize or can quickly be identified through a simple Google search?

Be aware of algorithms. It's good to keep in the back of your mind that you see what you search; most of our devices, browsing history, clicks, etc., are connected and algorithms are designed to show you more of what you are more likely to engage with. You may have to seek out sources and information beyond what you're being shown on your social media feeds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consider what you repost! As noted above, headlines are created to capture your attention. Before you determine to click the "share" option, make sure it's something you really believe to be true—and that may mean actually reading or perhaps one step further by checking on the validity of the source.

ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE

Don't just shut down a person who has different beliefs than you - take time to have a respectful conversation.

USE YOUR VOICE!

Make a plan to vote on election day and take others with you! TurboVote is a tool provided by Democracy Works, a non-partisan, non-profit that helps provide information to register to vote, stay up to date on changes in polling locations, laws, and upcoming elections.

[LEARN MORE AT TURBOVOTE.ORG](https://www.turbovote.org)