

How to Choose a Political Party

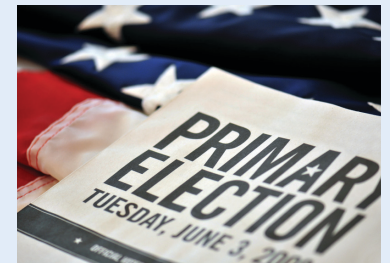
When you sign up to vote, you can join a political party. A political party is a group of people who share the same ideas about how the government should be run and what it should do. They work together to win elections. You can also choose not to join any of the political parties and still be a voter. There is no cost to join a party.

How to choose a political party:

- Choose a political party that has the same general views you do. For example, some political parties think that government should do more for people. Others feel that government should make it easier for people to do things for themselves.
- If you do not want to join a political party, mark that box on your voter registration form. This is called “no party preference.” Know that if you do, you may have limited choices for party candidates in Presidential primary elections.
- You can change your political party registration at any time. Just fill out a new voter registration form and check a different party box. The deadline to change your party is 15 days before the election.

If you are not registered with a political party and want to vote for a Presidential candidate from a party that lets you vote with their ballot, you must ask for that ballot when you go to your polling place on election day. If you plan to vote by mail, you must write on the application the name of the political party whose ballot you want to use.

Some parties require you to be registered in their party to vote for their candidates in a Presidential primary. If you want to vote for one of these candidates, fill out a new registration form to join that party by the registration deadline 15 days before the election. You can register to vote online through the Secretary of State’s website, registertovote.ca.gov.



No Party Preference

If you do not want to register with a political party (you want to be “independent” of any political party), mark “I do not want to register with a political party” on the registration form. In California, you can still vote for any candidate in a primary election, except for Presidential candidates. Each political party will decide before the election whether you may vote in their Presidential primary.



POLITICAL PARTIES

*The statements and priorities were written by the political parties for the 2020 issue of this publication.
The number of party members listed for each political party is from the Secretary of State's October 1, 2019 Report of Registration.*

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT

We believe in liberty and justice for all under God. We want to keep America independent and safe. We'll protect the family, marriage and work. We believe in individual responsibility and free enterprise. We must obey our Constitution and promote Declaration of Independence principles.

TOP PRIORITIES:

- Protect the right to life and strengthen families
- Secure the border and enforce immigration laws
- Balance the state budget

581,060 members / 707-359-4884 / aipca.org



DEMOCRATIC

The California Democratic Party believes the role of government is to ensure quality education, housing, and healthcare for all; ensure justice for every person; protect the rights of immigrants, women, workers, People of Color and the LGBT community; and create an economy that works for everyone.

TOP PRIORITIES:

- Reduce income inequality
- Address the Climate Crisis
- Protect and expand access to healthcare

8,956,480 members / 916-442-5707 / cadem.org



GREEN

Greens believe a better world is possible. We can live sustainable, healthier, safer, happier lives, if our government is part of the solution. The Green Party and our candidates take no corporate money, so we work for People, Planet, and Peace over Profits.

TOP PRIORITIES:

- Combat climate change and end wars for oil and profit
- Living wages, Medicare for all, free higher education, end student debt
- Strengthen democracy through electoral reforms

90,762 members / 916-549-6788 / cagreens.org



LIBERTARIAN

The Libertarian Party stands for personal freedom, economic freedom, and a non-interventionist foreign policy. If you're socially tolerant and fiscally responsible, you're a libertarian. You, not the government, should decide how to run your life, finances, education, and family.

TOP PRIORITIES:

- Increase individual liberty and responsibility
- Shrink government: reduce taxes and regulation
- Liberate education, commerce and personal choice

171,579 members / 916-446-1776 / ca.lp.org



PEACE AND FREEDOM

As Socialists, we can use our country's wealth for the good of all, not profit for the few. We want to protect our earth and halt climate change. Make peace instead of war. Ensure and expand the right to vote.

TOP PRIORITIES:

- Tax the rich and corporations to give health care, housing, and education to all
- Provide good jobs at union wages, and support unions for all workers
- Bring the troops home, and end occupation of other countries

90,121 members / 951-456-4595 / peaceandfreedom.org



REPUBLICAN

The California Republican Party is committed to making California affordable for everyone. We want to make California the land of opportunity again, with good-paying jobs, a high quality education system, affordable homeownership and safe communities.

TOP PRIORITIES:

- Solve California's homelessness crisis
- Address California's high cost of living & availability of high quality jobs
- Put students and teachers first to improve our education system

4,793,833 members / 916-448-9496 / cagop.org

