



The Political Parties

Most U.S. citizens belong to a political party, or group that shares the same ideas about government. Political parties try to get people from their party elected to government so that their ideas can be put into action. There are two main political parties in the United States: the Democratic Party and the Republican Party.

The Democratic Party generally believes that the federal government should take care of needy citizens. Democrats usually want to raise taxes so that they can pay for government programs to help people. Overall, Democrats think that more federal government control of things is better.

The Republican Party generally believes that state government and local government should be able to take responsibility for their citizens. Republicans usually want to lower taxes and reduce the number of federal government programs. Overall, Republicans think that less federal government control of things is better.

There are several smaller political parties, called third parties or minority parties, that have come and gone throughout the years. Today, some of those parties are the Green Party, the Reform Party, the Libertarian Party, and the Independent Party. These "third" parties usually do not have enough supporters or money to get candidates elected to the presidency.

Write the correct word in each sentence below.

1. A political party is a group of citizens with the same _____ about government.
2. There are _____ main political parties in the U.S.
3. The _____ Party generally believes that less federal government control is better.
4. The _____ Party generally believes that more federal government control is better.
5. Democrats usually want to _____ taxes.
6. Republicans usually want to _____ taxes.
7. Republicans believe that more power should be given to _____ governments.
8. Democrats believe that the federal government should pay to take care of _____ citizens.