



## 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.

If you want to be able to vote for a Presidential candidate from a political party that does not let you vote with their ballot, you need to fill out a new registration form and choose to join that party. Send it to your County Elections office by the registration deadline 15 days before the election.



### 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

## 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 state budget



397,000 members / 530-329-8345 / [www.aipca.org](http://www.aipca.org)

## DEMOCRATIC

Democrats believe the role of government is to provide quality education for all citizens, protect their rights, including a woman's right to choose, and ensure a stable, prosperous, safe nation with a strong, expanding economy benefiting all Americans.

**TOP PRIORITIES:**

- Expand jobs through economic reinvestment
- Improve access to affordable health care
- End wars in Iraq and Afghanistan



7,553,000 members / 916-442-5707 / [www.cadem.org](http://www.cadem.org)

## GREEN

Greens stand for peace, social and economic justice, nonviolence, grassroots democracy, respect for diversity, women's rights and protection of the environment. Greens advocate valued practices that protect the planet, its people and promote peace.

**TOP PRIORITIES:**

- Living wages; health care; education for all
- Clean energy and environment
- Election reform and accountability



113,000 members / 707-882-1818 / [www.cagreens.org](http://www.cagreens.org)

## LIBERTARIAN

The Libertarian Party is your best choice for reasonable government. If you're socially tolerant and fiscally responsible, you're a libertarian. You, not the government, should decide how to run your life, checkbook, education and family.

**TOP PRIORITIES:**

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



87,000 members / 818-782-8400 / [www.ca.lp.org](http://www.ca.lp.org)

## PEACE AND FREEDOM

We stand for equal rights and a good standard of living for everyone. We want to protect our earth, promote peace, and defend our rights. Let's practice democracy and cooperation. We can use our country's wealth to make life better for everyone.

**TOP PRIORITIES:**

- Bring all troops home now
- Provide good jobs at higher pay
- Tax the rich to give health care, housing and education to all



57,000 members / 916-422-5395 / [www.peaceandfreedom.org](http://www.peaceandfreedom.org)

## REPUBLICAN

The Republican Party is committed to improving our quality of life in every part of California. We are working to achieve this by creating jobs, improving schools, keeping communities safe, and improving the state's health care and environment.

**TOP PRIORITIES:**

- Promote an economy that creates new jobs
- Reform education and pension systems
- Protect taxpayers—force government to be accountable



5,228,000 members / 916-448-9496 / [www.cagop.org](http://www.cagop.org)