



Democrats vs. Republicans and John Kerry vs. George Bush

Critical Differences on Important Issues

“I’m a Democrat because it’s the party that believes **every** American owns a part of the American Dream.”

Harold Ford Jr., DNC Convention 7/28/04

Don’t Believe the Hype: There Are Major Differences Between the Parties

You hear claims from people to the left of center, and to the right: the candidates and parties are too much alike. Maybe back in 2000 when George Bush was posing as a moderate, “compassionate” conservative, it was easy to forget the differences between the parties.

But the last four years have proven there are major differences. And what is equally important to note: George Bush is not an anomaly...he IS the Republican Party. Read the Republican Party’s platform. Whatever moderate face they showed to the nation at their Convention, it is the Party’s platform, and its leader, George W. Bush, that indicate what this Party stands for.

And it is dramatically different from the Democratic Party platform, principles and policies.

Critical Differences on Economic Issues

The Issue	The Democrat Position	The Republican Position
Tax breaks for top few	Maintain tax cuts for 98% of individuals (and 99% of companies). Roll back cuts for the top 2% to fund health care and education.	Make trillion dollar tax cuts for the wealthiest 2% permanent.
Off-shoring Jobs	Create tax incentives to keep jobs in the U.S., rather than sending them off-shore.	Satisfied with status quo and existing tax incentives to off-shore.
Minimum Wage	Raise the minimum wage to \$7.	Oppose raise to the minimum wage.
Unemployment Benefits	Extend them for victims of the recession.	Allowed them to expire.
Deficit spending	Restore “pay-as-you-go” rules for new government proposals.	Reject “Pay-as-you-go” rules.
Estate Tax	Raise limits so that they are only applied to estates worth over \$4M for couples and \$10M for family-owned farms/businesses.	Eliminate altogether, losing critical tax revenues, and disproportionately benefiting the wealthiest.

“Reward work, not wealth.”

-Senator John Edwards, Vice Presidential Nominee, Democratic National Convention, July 2004

The Republicans: The Party for the Few
The Democrats: The Party For YOU!

Santa Clara County Democratic Party | www.sccdp.org | 408-445-9500
Democratic Party Platform: <http://www.democrats.org/platform/index.html>
Republican Party Platform: <http://www.gop.com/media/2004platform.pdf>
<http://www.johnkerry.com/issues/economy/compare.html>

Critical Differences on Social Issues

The Issue	The Democrat Position	The Republican Position
The Right to Choose	Protect a woman's Right to Choose as defined in Roe v. Wade.	Overturn Roe v. Wade
Global Family Planning	Kerry pledges to reinstate family planning funding to overseas organizations on his 1 st day.	Bush rescinded family planning funding to overseas organizations on his 3 rd day in office.
Gun Control	Extend the assault weapons ban.	Let it expire.
The Environment	Restore environmental regulation and protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).	Rolled back the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Forest Protection. Drill in the ANWR.
Church and State	Maintain clear separation...the separation we have had since our country's founding.	Supports faith-based initiatives, prayer in school, and private school vouchers.
Civil Rights	Support civil unions.	Write bias IN to the Constitution.
Civil Liberties	Amend the Patriot Act to bolster protection of our civil liberties.	Extend Patriot Act, giving the government more invasive access.

Critical Differences on Foreign Policy

The Issue	The Democrat Position	The Republican Position
NATO involvement in Iraq military efforts	John Kerry proposed a stronger NATO role <i>months</i> ago.	George Bush finally saw the value of Kerry's NATO proposal.
Restoring Global Alliances	John Kerry will have the credibility and diplomacy to restore our global relationships.	George Bush has damaged our global relationships and squandered worldwide support.
U.S. dependence on Foreign Oil	A key Guiding Principle of Kerry's Plan for Iraq; Kerry plans to invest in energy technologies as a solution for our dependence on foreign oil AND to stimulate our economy.	George Bush sets no specific, measurable goals for alternate energy development and has under-funded initiatives, such as an initiative for cleaner coal.
How to Pay for the Iraq War	John Kerry favored a bill that paid for \$87 Billion in Iraq costs by reducing tax cuts for the wealthy and mandating that some of the costs be covered by loans repaid by Iraqi oil revenue.	George Bush threatened to veto any appropriations bill that was tied to defining how to pay for the appropriations.

"We want a government that stays off our backs, but stays by our sides."
 -Senator Daniel Leahy, Democratic National Convention, July 2004

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