



## The Democratic Party: Protecting America, Defending Her Freedoms



"In his first 100 days as President John Kerry will end the 'Era of John Ashcroft.' ... Kerry believes Ashcroft has violated civil liberties and abused his authority with invasions of privacy without justification, holding detainees indefinitely without cause, and refusing to provide information on how his Department is using the new authorities granted in the wake of 9/11."

[Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry Website](#)

The Democratic Party has led the fight to pass every major piece of Civil Rights legislation to come before Congress including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Just 45 days after the September 11 attacks, with virtually no debate, Congress passed the USA PATRIOT Act. Many parts of this sweeping legislation take away checks on law enforcement and threaten the very rights and freedoms that we are struggling to protect. For example, without a warrant and without probable cause, the FBI now has the power to access your most private medical records, your library records, and your student records...and can prevent anyone from telling you it was done.

The Department of Justice is expected to introduce a sequel, dubbed PATRIOT II, that would further erode key freedoms and liberties of every American.

[US Patriot Act, [American Civil Liberties Union](#)]

"With my signature, this law will give intelligence and law enforcement officials important new tools to fight a present danger,"

—George W. Bush Signing Patriot Act into Law, [White House Website](#)

*"I tell you, freedom and human rights in America are doomed. The U.S. government will lead the American people and the West in general into an unbearable hell and a choking life."*

[Wolf Blitzer Reports](#) CNN 1/31/02

- Through U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, the Bush Administration Crushes Americans Constitutionally Protected Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.
  - Created Unprecedented Powers to Spy on Americans: Obtain Personal Records, Conduct Secret Searches, Tap Phones without subpoena, and Email Snooping without potential terrorism or criminal link.
  - Created the Power to Legally Classify Traditional Political Dissent as 'Terrorism'.
  - Subjecting Immigrant Populations To The Fear Of Being Detained Indefinitely And Deported In Secret.

*"You're either with us, or you're with the terrorists."*

— George W. Bush, [White House Website](#)

- Four States and 279 Communities in 39 States Have Passed Resolutions Opposing Sections Of The USA Patriot Act: Calling to Protect Americans' Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.
  - Democrats Fight To Defend and Protect America's Freedoms, Roll Back Parts Of Patriot Act.
  - Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry: 'End the Era of Ashcroft.'
- For detailed information with sources, see <http://sccdp.org/civilrights>.

The Democratic Party:  
A History of Protecting and Expanding Civil Rights in America

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