

Why I support the Democratic party

The 2016 Democratic Party platform preamble begins by quoting a core belief first stated by our Founding Fathers: “Out of many, we are one”. While as a country we still may give lip service to this founding principal, we seem to have strayed far from it. We currently have a president that encourages stereotypes, offers support to white supremacists and has divided us as a nation. My support of the Democratic Party begins with this statement as it completely aligns with my personal beliefs and with my hopes for the future of our nation.

The platform goes on to list the many programs, policies and governing principals of the party, and again, these align with the values I personally hold. I have grown up in a very politically aware family where political discussions are a part of our daily life. We discuss issues such gun control, voting rights, LGBTQ rights, separation of church and state, worker’s rights, and the Democratic Party’s historic stance on these issues. While I don’t agree 100% on the approach to every issue, and feel that even more can and should be done, I find that the Democratic Party most closely aligns with my beliefs and values.

An issue that I have been very focused on is the Black Lives Matter movement. The Democratic Party gives this movement a platform to speak from and a base which they can rely on to support them. Historically the Democratic Party has fought for the ending of discrimination based on race, as well as sexual orientation, religious affiliation, ethnic origin or disability. Supporting the Black Lives Matter movement seems to be a natural outgrowth of these values. Ensuring equality for everyone is the biggest drawing factor for me when considering what political party to support. “Out of many, we are one.” America is a place where people should worry about what sports team is going to win, not whether or not they will be safe walking down the street.

The topic of Black Lives Matter perfectly leads into my most passionate concern, gun violence prevention. I recently traveled to D.C. to march alongside tens of thousands of students in the March For Our Lives. This experience showed me that our voices can be heard, and upon viewing the responses from legislators to the movement, it is very apparent that the Democratic Party is the only one that is willing to listen to what people are saying, and is willing push for meaningful reform. A few years back, I traveled to D.C. to personally lobby my Kentucky Representative and Senator about supporting a gun violence prevention bill; It’s been three years since that trip and no change has been made, and worse yet, it seems that our current Kentucky Republican congressional representatives are completely unwilling to go against the NRA on this critical issue of our times. This is why I firmly believe that the best, and frankly with how our current political system is, only way of having significant change occur is through supporting the Democratic Party.

The foundation of the Democratic Party is supporting people and creating strong communities. Rather than putting money into the hands of those who are already wealthy, Democrats help to bring our citizens out of poverty and work to help families who really need it. Democrats know that the way to make America great again isn’t through putting more money into the military, or through tax cuts to corporations and the extremely rich, it’s by putting money into resources that are essential, such as our educational system, health care, helping families in need put food on the table and promoting policies to combat climate change. Because of my belief in helping others, I am proud to call myself a Democrat.