

Why I Chose to Be a Democrat

by Olivia North

My sophomore year at Conner High School, I began seriously formulating my political beliefs while following the 2016 elections. Unfortunately, during that presidential election I also learned that following an election passively is not enough. A few thousand votes in a few states sent our political landscape to the far fringes of what I consider normal and decent. To prevent this from happening again, I chose to become an activist aligning myself with the agenda of the Democratic Party.

Being a Democrat in a conservative area like Boone County is not for the fainthearted. But that has not deterred me from being a vocal member. Although I experience so many overtly and sometimes even hostile kids at my school, I have never allowed it to quell my voice for Democratic principles. On January 21, 2017, I travelled to the United States Capitol to attend the Women's March on Washington to advocate for women's rights and the "Me Too" movement. When I returned to school I was met with jeers and mean spirited criticism from fellow classmates, but I've never backed up and inch from what I know to be moral and just for all Americans.

I want to be a member of the Democratic party, because I want to give my voice to those who do not have one. I want healthcare to be a right not a privilege to those who can afford it. I want the teachers not to be robbed from their hard earned pensions and other benefits. I want to protect the press from those who are viciously attempting to discredit the media. I want to be a part of a party that recognizes the crimes against humanity that is taking place at the border. I want to be a part of a party that does not feed off of fear to push its agenda. I want to be part of an institution that values morality for all Americans equally.

As I begin my next journey to earn a chemical engineering degree from University of Cincinnati, I look forward becoming an agent for change in my college and local Boone County community. While the presidential election outcome was actually unfathomable, change begins at home and there is enormous room for gains in Boone County on all political levels.