

Political Ideology

Definitions

- **Ideology** - a body of ideas or views of the world that reflect the social needs, values, and ideas of an individual or group.

Conservatives

- Believe in personal responsibility, limited government, free markets, individual liberty, traditional American values and a strong national defense.
- Believe the role of government should be to provide people the freedom necessary to pursue their own goals.
- Conservative policies generally emphasize empowerment of the individual to solve problems.

Liberals

- Believe in government action to achieve equal opportunity and equality for all.
- It is the duty of the government to alleviate social ills and to protect civil liberties and individual and human rights.
- Believe the role of the government should be to guarantee that no one is in need.
- Liberal policies generally emphasize the need for the government to solve problems.

- **Moderate** - A person opposed to extreme views; one whose political attitudes are between those of a conservative and a liberal.

- **Radical** - A person with extremely liberal political views who favor rapid and widespread change to the current political and social order.

- **Reactionary** - A person with extremely conservative political views who favors the widespread changes necessary to return to an earlier government or society.

Belief: Abortion

Liberal	Conservative
<p>A woman has the right to decide what happens with her body.</p> <p>A fetus is not a human life, so it does not have separate individual rights.</p> <p>The government should provide taxpayer funded abortions for women who cannot afford them.</p> <p>The decision to have an abortion is a personal choice of a woman regarding her own body and the government must protect this right.</p> <p>Women have the right to affordable, safe and legal abortions, including partial birth abortion.</p>	<p>Human life begins at conception.</p> <p>Abortion is the murder of a human being.</p> <p>An unborn baby, as a living human being, has separate rights from those of the mother.</p> <p>Oppose taxpayer-funded abortion.</p> <p>Taxpayer dollars should not be used for the government to provide abortions.</p> <p>Support legislation to prohibit partial birth abortions, called the "Partial Birth Abortion* Ban</p>

Belief: Affirmative Action

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Due to prevalent racism in the past, minorities were deprived of the same education and employment opportunities as whites.</p> <p>The government must work to make up for that. America is still a racist society, therefore a federal affirmative action law is necessary.</p> <p>Due to unequal opportunity, minorities still lag behind whites in all statistical measurements of success.</p>	<p>Individuals should be admitted to schools and hired for jobs based on their ability.</p> <p>It is unfair to use race as a factor in the selection process.</p> <p>Reverse-discrimination is not a solution for racism.</p> <p>Some individuals in society are racist, but American society as a whole is not. Preferential treatment of certain races through affirmative action is wrong.</p>

Belief: Death Penalty

Liberal	Conservative
<p>The death penalty should be abolished. It is inhumane and is 'cruel and unusual' punishment.</p> <p>Imprisonment is the appropriate punishment for murder.</p> <p>Every execution risks killing an innocent person.</p>	<p>The death penalty is a punishment that fits the crime of murder; it is neither 'cruel' nor 'unusual.'</p> <p>Executing a murderer is the appropriate punishment for taking an innocent life.</p>

Belief: Economy

Liberal	Conservative
<p>A market system in which government regulates the economy is best.</p> <p>Government must protect citizens from the greed of big business.</p> <p>Unlike the private sector, the government is motivated by public interest.</p> <p>Government regulation in all areas of the economy is needed to level the playing field.</p>	<p>The free market system, competitive capitalism, and private enterprise create the greatest opportunity and the highest standard of living for all.</p> <p>Free markets produce more economic growth, more jobs and higher standards of living than those systems burdened by excessive government regulation.</p>

Belief: Education (charter and voucher)

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Public schools are the best way to educate students.</p> <p>Vouchers take money away from public schools.</p> <p>Government should focus additional funds on existing public schools, raising teacher salaries and reducing class size</p>	<p>School vouchers create competition and therefore encourage schools to improve performance.</p> <p>Vouchers will give all parents the right to choose good schools for their children, not just those who can afford private schools.</p>

Belief: Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Support the use of <i>embryonic stem cells</i> for research.</p> <p>It is necessary (and ethical) for the government to fund <i>embryonic stem cell</i> research, which will assist scientists in finding treatments and cures for diseases.</p> <p>An embryo is not a human.</p> <p>The tiny blastocyst (embryos used in embryonic stem cell research) has no human features.</p> <p>Experimenting on embryos/embryonic stem cells is not murder.</p> <p><i>Embryonic stem cells</i> have the potential to cure chronic and degenerative diseases which current medicine has been unable to effectively treat.</p> <p><i>Embryonic stem cells</i> have been shown to be effective in treating heart damage in mice.</p>	<p>Support the use of <i>adult and umbilical cord stem cells only</i> for research.</p> <p>It is morally and ethically wrong for the government to fund <i>embryonic stem cell</i> research.</p> <p>Human life begins at conception.</p> <p>The extraction of stem cells from an embryo requires its destruction.</p> <p>In other words, it requires that a human life be killed.</p> <p><i>Adult stem cells</i> have already been used to treat spinal cord injuries, Leukemia, and even Parkinson's disease.</p> <p>Adult stem cells are derived from umbilical cords, placentas, amniotic fluid, various tissues and organ systems like skin and the liver, and even fat obtained from liposuction.</p> <p><i>Embryonic stem cells</i> have not been successfully used to help cure disease.</p>

Belief: Energy

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Oil is a depleting resource.</p> <p>Other sources of energy must be explored.</p> <p>The government must produce a national plan for all energy resources and subsidize (partially pay for) alternative energy research and production.</p> <p>Support increased exploration of alternative energy sources such as wind and solar power.</p> <p>Support government control of gas and electric industries.</p>	<p>Oil, gas and coal are all good sources of energy and are abundant in the U.S.</p> <p>Oil drilling should be increased both on land and at sea.</p> <p>Increased domestic production creates lower prices and less dependence on other countries for oil.</p> <p>Support increased production of nuclear energy.</p> <p>Wind and solar sources will never provide plentiful, affordable sources of power.</p> <p>Support private ownership of gas and electric industries.</p>

Belief: Euthanasia & Physician-Assisted Suicide

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Euthanasia should be legalized.</p> <p>A person has a right to die with dignity, by his own choice.</p> <p>A terminally ill person should have the right to choose to end pain and suffering.</p> <p>It is wrong for the government to take away the means for a terminally ill person to hasten his death.</p> <p>It is wrong to force a person to go through so much pain and suffering.</p> <p>Legalizing euthanasia would not lead to doctor-assisted suicides of non-critical patients.</p> <p>Permitting euthanasia would reduce health care costs, which would then make funds available for those who could truly benefit from medical care.</p>	<p>Neither euthanasia nor physician-assisted suicide should be legalized.</p> <p>It is immoral and unethical to deliberately end the life of a terminally ill person (euthanasia), or enable another person to end their own life (assisted suicide).</p> <p>The goal should be compassionate care and easing the suffering of terminally ill people.</p> <p>Legalizing euthanasia could lead to doctor-assisted suicides of non-critical patients.</p> <p>If euthanasia were legalized, insurance companies could pressure doctors to withhold life-saving treatment for dying patients.</p> <p>Many religions prohibit suicide and euthanasia.</p> <p>These practices devalue human life.</p>

Belief: Global Warming/Climate Change

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Global warming is caused by an increased production of carbon dioxide through the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas).</p> <p>The U.S. is a major contributor to global warming because it produces 25% of the world's carbon dioxide.</p> <p>Proposed laws to reduce carbon emissions in the U.S. are urgently needed and should be enacted immediately to save the planet.</p> <p>Many reputable scientists support this theory.</p>	<p>Change in global temperature is natural over long periods of time.</p> <p>Science has not shown that humans can affect permanent change to the earth's temperature.</p> <p>Proposed laws to reduce carbon emissions will do nothing to help the environment and will cause significant price increases for all.</p> <p>Many reputable scientists support this theory.</p>

Belief: Gun Control

Liberal	Conservative
<p>The Second Amendment does not give citizens the right to keep and bear arms, but only allows for the state to keep a militia (National Guard).</p> <p>Individuals do not need guns for protection; it is the role of local and federal government to protect the people through law enforcement agencies and the military.</p> <p>Additional gun control laws are necessary to stop gun violence and limit the ability of criminals to obtain guns.</p> <p>More guns mean more violence.</p>	<p>The Second Amendment gives citizens the right to keep and bear arms.</p> <p>Individuals have the right to defend themselves.</p> <p>There are too many gun control laws – additional laws will not lower gun crime rates.</p> <p>What is needed is enforcement of current laws.</p> <p>Gun control laws do not prevent criminals from obtaining guns.</p> <p>More guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens mean less crime.</p>

Belief: Healthcare

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Support free or low-cost government controlled health care.</p> <p>There are millions of Americans who can't afford health care and are deprived of this basic right.</p> <p>Every American has a right to affordable health care.</p> <p>The government should provide equal health care benefits for all, regardless of their ability to pay.</p>	<p>Support competitive, free market health care system. All Americans have access to health care.</p> <p>The debate is about who should pay for it.</p> <p>Free and low-cost government-run programs (socialized medicine) result in higher costs and everyone receiving the same poor-quality health care.</p> <p>Health care should remain privatized.</p> <p>The problem of uninsured individuals should be addressed and solved within the free market healthcare system – the government should not control healthcare.</p>

Belief: Homeland Security

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Airport security – Passenger profiling is wrong, period. Selection of passengers for extra security screening should be random.</p> <p>Using other criteria (such as ethnicity) is discriminatory and offensive to Arabs and Muslims, who are generally innocent and law-abiding.</p> <p>Terrorists don't fit a profile.</p> <p><i>"...Arabs, Muslims and South Asians are no more likely than whites to be terrorists."</i> (American Civil Liberties Union ACLU)</p> <p>Asked on 60 Minutes if a 70-year-old white woman from Vero Beach should receive the same level of scrutiny as a Muslim from Jersey City, President Obama's Transportation</p>	<p>Airport security – Choosing passengers randomly for extra security searches is not effective.</p> <p>Rather, profiling and intelligence data should be used to single out passengers for extra screening.</p> <p>Those who do not meet the criteria for suspicion should not be subjected to intense screening.</p> <p>The terrorists currently posing a threat to the U.S. are primarily Islamic/Muslim men between the ages of 18 and 38.</p> <p>Our resources should be focused on this group.</p> <p>Profiling is good logical police work.</p> <p><i>"If people are offended (by profiling), that's unfortunate, but I don't think we can afford to take the risk that terrorism brings to us. They've wasted masses of resources on far too many people doing things that really don't have a big payoff in terms of security."</i> – Northwestern University Aviation Expert,</p>

Belief: Immigration

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Support legal immigration. Support amnesty for those who enter the U.S. illegally (undocumented immigrants).</p> <p>Also believe that undocumented immigrants have a right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-- all educational and health benefits that citizens receive (financial aid, welfare, social security and medicaid), regardless of legal status.-- the same rights as American citizens. It is unfair to arrest millions of undocumented immigrants.	<p>Support legal immigration only.</p> <p>Oppose amnesty for those who enter the U.S. illegally (illegal immigrants).</p> <p>Those who break the law by entering the U.S. illegally do not have the same rights as those who obey the law and enter legally.</p> <p>The borders should be secured before addressing the problem of the illegal immigrants currently in the country.</p> <p>The Federal Government should secure the borders and enforce current immigration law.</p>

Belief: Private Property

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Government has the right to use eminent domain (seizure of private property by the government--with compensation to the owner) to accomplish a public end.</p>	<p>Respect ownership and private property rights.</p> <p>Eminent domain (seizure of private property by the government--with compensation to the owner) in most cases is wrong.</p> <p>Eminent domain should not be used for private development.</p>

Belief: Religion & Government

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Support the separation of church and state.</p> <p>The Bill of Rights implies a separation of church and state.</p> <p>Religious expression has no place in government.</p> <p>The two should be completely separate.</p> <p>Government should not support religious expression in any way.</p> <p>All reference to God in public and government spaces should be removed (eg., the Ten Commandments should not be displayed in Federal buildings).</p> <p>Religious expression has no place in government.</p>	<p>The phrase “separation of church and state” is not in the Constitution.</p> <p>The First Amendment to the Constitution states “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”</p> <p>This prevents the government from establishing a national church/denomination.</p> <p>However, it does not prohibit God from being acknowledged in schools and government buildings.</p> <p>Symbols of Christian heritage should not be removed from public and government spaces (eg., the Ten Commandments should continue to be displayed in Federal buildings).</p> <p>Government should not interfere with religion and religious freedom.</p>

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Belief: Same-Sex Marriage

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Marriage is the union of people who love each other.</p> <p>It should be legal for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals, to ensure equal rights for all.</p> <p>Support same-sex marriage.</p> <p>Opposed to the creation of a constitutional amendment establishing marriage as the union of one man and one woman.</p> <p>All individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, have the right to marry.</p> <p>Prohibiting same-sex citizens from marrying denies them their civil rights.</p> <p>[Opinions vary on whether this issue is equal to civil rights for African Americans.]</p>	<p>Marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Oppose same-sex marriage.</p> <p>Support Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), passed in 1996, which affirms the right of states not to recognize same-sex marriages licensed in other states.</p> <p>Requiring citizens to sanction same-sex relationships violates moral and religious beliefs of millions of Christians, Jews, Muslims and others, who believe marriage is the union of one man and one woman.</p>

Belief: Social Security

Liberal	Conservative
<p>The Social Security system should be protected at all costs.</p> <p>Reduction in future benefits is not a reasonable option.</p> <p>[Opinions vary on the extent of the current system's financial stability.]</p> <p>Social Security provides a safety net for the nation's poor and needy.</p> <p>Changing the system would cause a reduction in benefits and many people would suffer as a result.</p>	<p>The Social Security system is in serious financial trouble.</p> <p>Major changes to the current system are urgently needed.</p> <p>In its current state, the Social Security system is not financially sustainable.</p> <p>It will collapse if nothing is done to address the problems.</p> <p>Many will suffer as a result.</p> <p>Social Security must be made more efficient through privatization and/or allowing individuals to manage their own savings.</p>

Belief: Taxes

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Higher taxes (primarily for the wealthy) and a larger government are necessary to address inequity/ injustice in society (government should help the poor and needy using tax dollars from the rich).</p> <p>Support a large government to provide for the needs of the people and create equality.</p> <p>Taxes enable the government to create jobs and provide welfare programs for those in need.</p> <p>Government programs are a caring way to provide for the poor and needy in society.</p>	<p>Lower taxes and a smaller government with limited power will improve the standard of living for all.</p> <p>Support lower taxes and a smaller government.</p> <p>Lower taxes create more incentive for people to work, save, invest, and engage in entrepreneurial endeavors.</p> <p>Money is best spent by those who earn it, not the government.</p> <p>Government programs encourage people to become dependent and lazy, rather than encouraging work and independence.</p>

Belief: United Nations

Liberal	Conservative
<p>The UN promotes peace and human rights.</p> <p>The United States has a moral and a legal obligation to support the United Nations (UN).</p> <p>The U.S. should not act as a sovereign nation, but as one member of a world community.</p> <p>The U.S. should submit its national interests to the greater good of the global community (as defined by the UN).</p> <p>The U.S. should defer to the UN in military/peacekeeping matters.</p> <p>The United Nations Charter gives the United Nations Security Council the power and responsibility to take collective action to maintain international peace and security.</p> <p>U.S. troops should submit to UN command.</p>	<p>The UN has repeatedly failed in its essential mission to promote world peace and human rights.</p> <p>The wars, genocide and human rights abuses taking place in many Human Rights Council member states (and the UN's failure to stop them) prove this point.</p> <p>History shows that the United States, not the UN, is the global force for spreading freedom, prosperity, tolerance and peace.</p> <p>The U.S. should never subvert its national interests to those of the UN.</p> <p>The U.S. should never place troops under UN control.</p> <p>U.S. military should always wear the U.S. military uniform, not that of UN peacekeepers. [Opinions vary on whether the U.S. should withdraw from the UN.]</p>

Belief: War on Terror/Terrorism

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Global warming, not terrorism, poses the greatest threat to the U.S., according to Democrats in Congress.</p> <p>Terrorism is a result of arrogant U.S. foreign policy.</p> <p>Good diplomacy is the best way to deal with terrorism.</p> <p>Relying on military force to defeat terrorism creates hatred that leads to more terrorism. Captured terrorists should be handled by law enforcement and tried in civilian courts.</p>	<p>Terrorism poses one of the greatest threats to the U.S.</p> <p>The world toward which the militant Islamists strive cannot peacefully co-exist with the Western world.</p> <p>In the last decade, militant Islamists have repeatedly attacked Americans and American interests here and abroad.</p> <p>Terrorists must be stopped and destroyed.</p> <p>The use of intelligence-gathering and military force are the best ways to defeat terrorism around the world.</p> <p>Captured terrorists should be treated as enemy combatants and tried in military courts.</p>

Belief: Welfare

Liberal	Conservative
<p>Support welfare, including long-term welfare.</p> <p>Welfare is a safety net which provides for the needs of the poor.</p> <p>Welfare is necessary to bring fairness to American economic life.</p> <p>It is a device for protecting the poor.</p>	<p>Oppose long-term welfare.</p> <p>Opportunities should be provided to make it possible for those in need to become self-reliant.</p> <p>It is far more compassionate and effective to encourage people to become self-reliant, rather than allowing them to remain dependent on the government for provisions.</p>