

# POLITICAL PARTIES

## *Easy Voter Guide*

There are seven qualified political parties in California. The EasyVoter Organization asked each one what they stand for. You can use what the parties say about themselves to help you decide which one to join. Or, you can mark “Decline to State” on your voter registration form if you do not want to join a party.

- What is a political party?

When you register to vote, you are asked if you want to choose a political party.

POLITICAL PARTY - *Fill in one oval*

<input type="radio"/> American Independent Party	<input type="radio"/> Libertarian Party	
<input type="radio"/> Democratic Party	<input type="radio"/> Republican Party	
<input type="radio"/> Green Party	<input type="radio"/> Peace and Freedom Party	<input type="radio"/> Decline to State a Political Party

A political party is a group of people who share the same ideas about how the government should be run and what it should do. Parties work to win elections and change laws.

- It does not cost anything to join a party. You do not have to do anything for the party that you choose.
- In the June Primary Election, parties pick candidates to run for office in the November General Election.
- If you choose a political party, you can vote on candidates from that party in the spring Primary Election. In the fall General Election, you can vote for any candidate – even if they are with a different party than yours.

There are seven “qualified” parties in California, which means they have enough members to run candidates for office. New political parties can be started if they get enough people to be members. The parties are listed below in alphabetical order.

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## Party Responses and their Priorities

### American Independent Party



This party has about 311,000 members in California. For more information, call 619-460-4484 or visit [www.aipca.org](http://www.aipca.org).

The American Independent Party stands for traditional moral values and the God-given rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

This party believes government should uphold the United States Constitution, including protection of life and property, and provide a strong national defense, free of waste.

- End illegal immigration.
- Balance the state budget.
- Address levee repairs/state water problems.

### Democratic Party



This party has about 6,748,000 members in California. For more information, call 916-442-5707 or visit [www.cadem.org](http://www.cadem.org).

The Democratic Party stands for working families. Democrats want better schools, affordable health care, a woman's right to choose, safer streets, a cleaner environment, targeted tax cuts, and a strong economy.

This party believes the role of government should be to educate its citizens, while protecting their rights and ensuring a stable and prosperous nation.

- Quality education, especially full access to higher education.
- Economic stability.
- Safe communities.

### Green Party



This party has about 146,000 members in California. For more information, call 916-448-3437 or visit [www.cagreens.org](http://www.cagreens.org).

The Green Party stands for these values: social and economic justice, nonviolence, grassroots democracy, respect for diversity, women's rights, personal and global responsibility, and protection of the environment.

This party believes government should represent the will of the people and provide leadership to develop sustainable practices that protect the planet and society for future generations.

- A living wage, health care and education for all.
- Clean energy and environmental protection.
- Election reform.

## Libertarian Party



This party has about 83,000 members in California. For more information, call 1-877-884-1776 or visit [www.ca.lp.org](http://www.ca.lp.org).

The Libertarian Party is as American as apple pie. Like you, we have jobs, businesses, families and dreams. If you describe yourself as socially tolerant and fiscally responsible, you're a Libertarian!

This party believes that you – not the government– should decide how to run your life, checkbook, education and family.

- Reduce taxes. Keep more of what you earn.
- You decide how to educate your children.
- Make our streets safe again.

## Peace and Freedom Party



This party has about 59,000 members in California. For more information, call 510-465-9414 or visit [www.peaceandfreedom.org](http://www.peaceandfreedom.org).

The Peace and Freedom Party stands for democracy, cooperation and sharing. They want to organize and educate the public to work together to meet human needs.

This party believes the role of government should be to make sure that everyone has jobs, housing, education, health care and equal rights.

- Bring all troops home now.
- Double the minimum wage.
- One system of free, quality health care for all.

## Republican Party



This party has about 5,483,000 members in California. For more information, call 818-841-5210 or visit [www.cagop.org](http://www.cagop.org).

The Republican Party stands for helping everyone in Californian realize the American Dream by expanding employment and business opportunities that create greater prosperity for all families.

This party believes government's role is to provide quality education for our children, safe communities and a pro-jobs environment so that every worker can find a job.

- Make schools accountable so that all children receive a quality education.
- Make it easier for businesses to create jobs.
- Improve the quality of life for families.

## Decline to State

You don't have to choose a political party when you register to vote. You can just check the box "Decline to State." Registered voters who do not choose a party are sometimes called "independents" or "nonpartisans."

Source: [www.easylvoter.org](http://www.easylvoter.org) in cooperation with the political parties in California