

I am so tired of hearing people whining about how "democrats said this" and "republicans said that." I am also tired of people categorizing the politics of others in one of two ways: democrat or republican. The point is there are far more smaller political parties that make up far more than you would expect.

[A poll taken in January](#) found that a whopping 42% of voters were registered as independents. Of course this poll is entirely subjective and there are other polls that have had extremely different results, but the point is there are people who don't agree with (what we see as) our two main parties. For those of you who don't know, an independent is someone who doesn't agree with any political party enough to call themselves part of one. That isn't the only other political party out there though.

Other parties include libertarians and socialists (who are essentially opposites). Since everyone probably knows what a socialist is, I will give a brief explanation of libertarianism. Taking the economic freedoms of the republican party and the social freedoms of the democrat party, the libertarian party is based on (hence the name) liberty. It's all about freedom and minimal government involvement and whatnot. [14 percent of voters](#) are registered libertarians.

But why is it that people seem to only recognize democrats and republicans? Maybe that is just here, or maybe it's just people around my age group that think that. In California, I think that everyone acknowledges that our main political party is the democrat party. Something that is *not* specific solely to this area is that children will generally just blindly accept anything their parents tell them about politics. That is all fine and entirely excusable when you are a child, but once you reach your teen years, you need to get used to thinking for yourself. I am not saying that you will not end up agreeing with your parents in the end (which you may), but I am saying that it is ridiculous to assume that you would.

Look up minor political parties. Look up their views. Do they correspond with yours? Perhaps you'll find a new perspective and discover that your opinion, no matter how deeply rooted it is, can be swayed. Not saying you have to change your opinion, but I am saying that you have an obligation to, when or if you are 18, cast your *informed* vote. Informed meaning fully understanding all sides of whatever the issue you are voting on may be, not just the side that media is telling you that you "should" agree with.

Let's say you consider yourself a democrat. Now, let's say you have a problem with or disagree with the democratic party, whatever it may be. I can guarantee that there are thousands of other people who hold the exact same opinion.

However I have another reason entirely for writing this. Because we have two large political parties who make up the majority of the nation, it is easy to see that there are places throughout the nation that are politically lopsided; the prime examples of this would be California and Texas. As [stated by former President John Adams](#), "There is nothing which I

dread so much as a division of the republic into two great parties, each arranged under its leader, and concerting measures in opposition to each other. This, in my humble apprehension, is to be dreaded as the greatest political evil under our Constitution.” Various other prominent political figures have said similar things. The most famous of which being George Washington, and his famous Farewell Address. “The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism.”