

Voting for the President

1. On a ballot, when voting for President, why are political parties often listed as the main subject with a candidate's name in parenthesis?

Democratic Party (Kerry)
Republican Party (Bush)
Green Party (Nader)
Reform Party (Buchanan)
Social Democratic Party (Brown)
Socialist Party (Debbs)
Communist Party (Lenin)
Independent (Perrot)

2. **Electors** and **Electoral Votes** put a "person" in the office of President, the public does not "directly" vote for the President... Explain:
(by state, number of electoral votes per state, how a party gets to use a state's electoral votes, splitting electoral votes?.....)

* When you vote for President, you are actually voting for...

3. Why, then, put a person on the ticket next to the party name?
(Goes toward why it **feels** like we are voting for an actual person.)

4. How can a person become his party's man for the Presidency?

5. Why do it all this convoluted way?

6. How do you know where the parties stand on the issues? What if they have change their mind on an issue over the past four years to get your vote? How would you know?

7. In the following areas, where do the two parties **generally** stand?

	Democrat	Republican
- government regulation of business practices		
- taxing the rich more		
- trust the public to regulate businesses with their pocketbooks		
- use of federal tax dollars for more services for environment, schools, and healthcare		

* So, sum up the main philosophies of the two main parties:

Leaving behind the topic of electing the President, lets look at political parties and other positions in government: We elect Sheriffs, U.S. Congressmen, representatives to our state legislature, Governor, local judges, County Commissioners, Mayor, City Counsel members, and more.

8. Thus, for the average voter who is not a card-carrying member of any political party, why is it that having party labels next to candidates' names can be a big help?