



Stewart For Liberty

Libertarians are socially liberal and individually tolerant. Both are hallmarks of traditional Democrat Party tenets. Libertarians are pro-peace, pro free-trade, and pro-choice on almost every issue. These are the hallmarks of Democrat precepts too.

The distinction is on economics -- libertarians prefer the free market to state force. Democrats once did too - they were the party of low tariffs, low barriers to business formation, and cheaper coinage that benefited small debtors over wealthy creditors. Now Democrat leaders prefer a state-controlled market to the free market. Notice I said "leaders". I contend the leaders are very out of step with the majority of Democrat voters. Democrat voters do not generally approve the restrictions leaders make on forming businesses, hiring good employees, buying the insurance you want, and restricting school growth.

Democrat leaders like these things because it gives them more power and sustained control. Many Republican leaders are of the same power-hungry ilk. So, here's how a Democrat can comfortably be libertarian --

Libertarians hold almost all the values you hold dear:

tolerance

civil rights for all

freedom of choice for all

freedom of association for all

rewards based on merit not on status.

Libertarians want to uplift the same people "small d" democrats do. Libertarians see private groups doing that uplifting BETTER than state-mandated rules and state bureaucrats. Private charity gets us the United Way; government forced charity get us urban blight. Private funding gets students to well-run schools; public funding forces children into schools where they have no choice and see worse educations.

For those who still crave a government run economic system, libertarians ALLOW IT. Libertarians in power give Democrats the choice to have their own education system, welfare system, health care system, and retirement system. This is a government of the willing. 45% or more seem to be happy in the wanting government categories - fine, they get no obstacle from libertarians. So long as you aren't forcing your will on others, do what you want.

At the federal level, Democrat leaders who want to use force are especially bad for younger voters. Their health plans make it hard to work a full time job because at 30 hours a week, an employer gets hit with taxes, so they offer only 29 hours. Building careers demands 40 hour work and (often) overtime work. Democrat protection for older workers makes it hard for younger workers, who are often more talented, to get a job in the first place. And their Social Security at all costs racket means that once working, they are extracting 15% of your salaries on a regressive system (Social security taxes the \$50,000 a year worker at 15.6% but only taxes the \$550,000 a year executive at 3.2%) that's ALSO unsustainable.

The leaders use force against youngsters who want to use recreational marijuana, and make it difficult for all who need medical marijuana.

The leaders are not acting wisely. When they position their party to make so many decisions based on race and not merit, and so many policies based on status and not individual qualities, they throw many voters into the hands of Donald Trump. When the leaders select the high-in-status but most compromised candidate EVER, over more popular rivals like Sanders and Biden, they helped get Trump elected in the first place.

Even if the leaders retain a small club, it's time Democrat VOTERS did what Jefferson sought: let individuals not dominated by an elite cadre control the policies of a not-so-domineering state. The libertarians within the Democrat party ("Demo-tarians") are pledged to restoring that ideal.