

WHY SIGN UP AS A DEMOCRAT?

(TREE-ROOTS POLITICS)

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Not all Republicans are alike, but their votes all converge as one at the highest level. By the same token, not all progressives are alike. But when all their votes converge in the Democratic Party they can replace a regime in Washington that ignores our common good and defies the democracy of our allies.



In our national political system such convergence does not resemble the so-called grassroots process in which a single level of growth expresses the power. But it does resemble the life of a tree, where the roots converge to form a trunk of nourishing support for many branches of the body-politic, and a lofty diversity of economic and cultural interests.

If people of goodwill converge from their various roots of interest they can rise as an oak stronger and far more comprehensive than the pointed spruce tree of the Republicans that converges at the top. We can make a just society all the way up from the acorn to a wide spread of twigs and leaves.

But this purpose is defeated by those who vote for candidates exclusively on the strength of single issues or personal attractiveness. Every candidate is supported by a party, and every elected representative, at every level from local district to the presidency, whether or not agreeing with that party on every issue, is almost always going to act in support of that party. It's the party that wins or loses control of the all-important committees in Congress, as well

the executive power that largely determines the judicial power. Your particular interests, even if they are not particularly supported by a majority of your own party voters, can be carried to fruition by that same party, simply on the strength of being your family. So it has happened for much of our civil rights and environmental legislation.

Every vote with a party rises all the way up the tree like sap for foliage. That's the reason to **vote** for Democrats in the primaries as well as in the final elections.

The reason to **register** as a Democrat is that you can directly participate in the selection and fertilization of the roots themselves. Even if you already vote Democratic without identifying yourself as one of us, and even if you never come to a Democratic meeting or contribute a nickel to the Party, your name added to the City Clerk's rolls as a member of our Party will express your political values by impressing other voters with the viability of decent party politics.

The size of our partisan registration can also warn Republicans to back off in their attacks upon the past accomplishments of our truly constructive party. Keep reminding yourself of the Supreme Court.

Above all, a larger Democratic registration on the voting rolls will encourage Democratic office holders to be more outspoken in proclaiming and defending the values of our party, emphasizing what distinguishes us from Republicans.