

**Janet Kramer LWVBC Essay Contest 2023**  
**Second Place, Middle School Category**

**United We Stand**  
By Elayna Stanley

The United States of America. In our country's very name, we convey the values and goals of our nation through just one word. United. "United we stand, divided we fall" stated John Dickinson, founding father and member of Congress. But, the question must be asked, are we really United? Over the past few years, this has become a common question, and political parties constantly seem to be at each other's throats. Political parties do not help our country in its goal of being united, this is proved through today's children, the January 6th attack on the Capitol, and politicians refusing to cooperate and work together.

Kids in today's world have it much different than twenty years ago. Kids are gathering their own opinions about politics from a young age, commonly from their parents. In a more political world, kids are having to find where they stand on matters at young ages. This can cause arguments in learning environments. During the 2020 election between Joe Biden and Donald Trump, it was not uncommon to hear arguments break out during the school day over the preferred president and/or political party. Though having our own opinions is important, when kids start feeling like they have to take sides and argue with their friends at such a young age, it begs the question: Will they ever learn to consider another way of thinking? Or will this next generation further divide our country?

The January 6th attack on the Capitol was a day our country will never forget. Not only was our Capitol attacked, invaded, and wrecked by citizens of our own country, but it showed how passionate people can become when it comes to their personal political beliefs. According to the National Public Radio, "Five people died during or soon after the riot, and more than \$2.8 this attack is inexcusable, and can make one contemplate if the constant push and pull between our political parties is really worth it. If a political party from our country resorts to attacking its own Capitol to argue their beliefs, then maybe those parties are taking it too far.

Politicians in today's world commonly fall under one of the two parties, Democrats or Republicans. Our country has come to the point however, that politicians commonly refuse to compromise with someone from another party other than their own. Governing.com explains, "Bipartisanship is mostly a thing of the past because so many Democrats and Republicans now view their political opponents as enemies and even evil." This political bias affects our country's ability to stand united and work to achieve a common goal. If the people representing our country are unable to be united, what does that show the rest of the world?

Though some might argue political parties help others cultivate one's beliefs or provide accountability within the governing body, there are too many reasons why our country could be stronger without these parties. The division of our children, the attack on the Capitol, and arguing politicians are just a few of the many ways our country is affected with this constant disagreement between our political parties. In order to live up to our country's name and stand

United, we need to work together. The involvement of political parties in our society simply tears us apart. If we eliminate them, we will live up to John Dickinson's words, and stand United.

#### Works Cited

"Governing: State and Local Government News and Analysis." *Governing*, 2023, [www.governing.com](http://www.governing.com).

"NPR - Breaking News, Analysis, Music, Arts and Podcasts." *NPR*, 30 Mar. 2023, [npr.org](http://npr.org).