

Political Parties - Why they are a Bad Idea

By Erin Murphy

“George Washington was right - political parties are bad for representative government.”

As someone who isn't legally able to vote, my opinion is mostly based on debates I've witnessed. Just from what I've seen, I've learned there are a lot of flaws with the use of political parties.

While Political Parties can save time, they can also lead to uninformed voters. People expect the same thing from candidates belonging to the same party. People have to realize that everyone has a different style of leadership and this can greatly impact how well they can lead our country. As boring and useless as it sounds with the existence of news channels, people need to do their own research. This is because news stories have to have something that can catch an audience's attention, and negative stories tend to attract more viewers, “If it bleeds, it leads.”. A lot of these news stations also favor one candidate over another, they often exclude positives about the other side and negatives about their own side. This leads people to believe that they should vote for the favored candidate, opposed to conducting their own unbiased research.

Political parties can create a sense of community, however, they can also separate people from each other. This is due to the strong opinions of voters. When we believe in something, we can get very passionate about an idea. Take people from the Renaissance for example, most believed in the geocentric theory, and they had been for many years. They were so passionate about this, that they put Galileo, a believer of the heliocentric theory, on house arrest. Another problem due to strong opinions was the many wars that went on because of different religious beliefs, which are actually one of the biggest causes of war and oppression in history.

Since there are two main parties, the Republican side and the Democratic side, people like to put others in boxes. For example, if I said “I think we should limit government.”, you would assume that I am Republican, so then you would also assume something like I want to restrict labor unions. That

may be false, but since I voiced one opinion you assume that I belong to a group that you might dislike and that could lead you to shut down my ideas.

of that one idea while I could also have some messed up ideas that are completely opposite from the rest of yours.

In conclusion, it could possibly greatly benefit our country to abandon the idea of political parties. Maybe it would get people to pay better attention or work to understand what people are actually talking about.