

Janet Kramer LWVBC Essay Contest 2023
First Place, Middle School Category
Logan Sallee

Political parties have been a central feature of the United States political system for centuries. However, there is a growing belief that political parties are bad for the country. Political parties are bad for the United States for several reasons, including the tendency to promote polarization and partisanship, the prioritization of party interests over the national interest, and the suppression of independent and diverse voices.

One of the major problems with political parties is that they tend to promote polarization and partisanship. When individuals align themselves with a particular party, they tend to adopt a rigid set of beliefs and attitudes that are often at odds with those of the opposite party. This results in a political climate that is marked by division, animosity, and gridlock. It becomes increasingly difficult for individuals to find common ground and work together to address the pressing issues facing the country.

Another issue with political parties is that they prioritize party interests over the national interest. Political parties are driven by the desire to win elections and gain power, and this often means that they are willing to compromise on important issues and pander to their base in order to secure votes. This can lead to policies that are detrimental to the well-being of the country as a whole, as party interests take precedence over the needs and desires of the broader population.

Finally, political parties can be harmful because they tend to suppress independent and diverse voices. When individuals align themselves with a particular party, they are often expected to toe the party line and conform to a set of prescribed beliefs and attitudes. This can stifle dissent and discourage individuals from speaking out against policies and actions they disagree with. It also makes it difficult for new and diverse voices to emerge and gain traction in the political arena.

In conclusion, political parties are bad for the United States because they promote polarization and partisanship, prioritize party interests over the national interest, and suppress independent and diverse voices. While it is unlikely that political parties will disappear entirely, there is a need to promote a more inclusive and collaborative political culture that values compromise, common ground, and the well-being of the country as a whole. This can only be achieved by encouraging individuals to think beyond party affiliations and work together to build a better future for all Americans.