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### Political Party Websites

The first political party that I chose to write about was the Democratic National Committee. This is a party that I chose because I follow and agree with their policies the closest. Since I've become more invested in politics since the 2016 election, I believe they are working towards building up a progressive American and trying to fix what Donald Trump has done to undermine us as a nation. When you go to their homepage, you will see a large image of Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris. This is due to Vice President Biden being the democratic candidate for President in the upcoming 2020 election, and Senator Kamala Harris being his selection for Vice President. They got here after a hectic primary season that turned 20+ democratic candidates for president into one. A few strong issues they are listing are COVID-19 relief, achieving universal health care, and reforming the criminal justice system. All of these issues have come out as problem areas, especially this year, given the pandemic and race tensions rising from the extrajudicial killings of black Americans. As stated earlier, issues that they are currently tackling as a party are issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. This issue is something that is current because we are in the middle of the worst pandemic in over 100 years. It is killing so many people and they are making it a key issue to give relief to families and businesses that are struggling during these times. Other parties, such as the Republicans in congress are sparring a lot over this issue, this comes from Republicans not wanting to balloon the deficit and "bailout"

people and business because they see that we are on the other side of the pandemic (I am not trying to generalize every Republican, I am more so characterizing what I see in the Senate and House). I believe the American people need a bit more financial relief from the pandemic, especially the low income families where they cannot afford to miss a paycheck, and with the economy still struggling and so reactive to it, we need more relief. Another core issue displayed on their website is achieving universal and affordable health care. This has been a hot topic since the Affordable Care Act was brought forth from the Obama administration. They have been fighting for universal health care to allow people to get the care they need without paying a fortune. There is also the fact that they are fighting to get There is some backlash with Republicans who view it more of a socialist way of doing health care. I think a generalized public opinion of this issue is that we want to be able to choose our health care, but for it to at least be guaranteed and not have to worry about footing over the entire bill for hospital visits. Learning more about Democrats, is that the DNC was founded in 1848, but they are different from the Democratic Party, and they are simply the governing body that centralizes the party. Something positive that I like about them and their website is the big button to enable the website in Spanish, it allows the site to be more accessible and give people the option to read it in their language if they like. However, it seems they focus too much on tearing down Republicans in a few of the descriptions of their issues rather than focusing solely on their own ideas. I think in visiting their website, it won't change too many peoples' ideas and preferences. Given the current political climate, I think it is hard to sway people, and I think attacks on their Republican counterparts is not an attractive trait of their website. I think this was an issue in 2016 that lost Hillary the election - focusing too much on trashing Trump that she didn't build up and make the argument for herself enough. I think they definitely catered their website to their

own and prospective Democrats in that they show their organization efforts and give arguments for them. Goals for the party might also be to build up and educate the college/younger population in getting them involved and by linking directly to College Democrats' website.

The next party that I have chosen to write about that is the counterpart to my beliefs is, unsurprisingly, is the Republican National Committee. Currently I have a fairly negative view of them as their party and representatives, even putting aside their issues, it seems like they have tied themselves too much to "Trumpism" and not focusing on their own ideas. The candidate that they support is Donald Trump for reelection, however, in contrast to the DNC's website, they display 2 pictures of Biden and more images of others rather than their own candidate. On their homepage, they are listing Democrats trying to steal the election as an issue, calling the media coverage of the "bogus voter suppression narrative". Other issues they list as part of their platform are budgeting, government accountability, health care, and the economy. One issue commonly argued and advocated with the Republicans are issues surrounding the economy. It is important to them because they want to create a strong American work force and create lots of jobs. They also want to focus on bringing jobs back to the United States and bring innovation back. They also want to cut taxes for the American family. I think many parties and lots of people advocate for bringing jobs back to America and focusing on unemployment numbers and such, but I think they differ in the ways where they go about it. Republicans seem to want to cut trade and pull away from deals that they are not directly profiting from. Another core issue on the GOP agenda is the issue of immigration. They firmly stand that we need to put American citizens first, and allow documented and legal immigrants in second. They state that immigrants undeniably make great contributions, but we need to put the interests of our own citizens first. Other parties can have views that it is essential to our economy to let immigrants in and they are

a big part of who we are, so they support less restrictive immigration measures, but seem to hold similar views, just different execution. I've learned from the GOP website for their 2020 update for their platform, they reused their 2016 without any amendments, they copied it verbatim. One good thing I can say about them is that they put Americans at the forefront of their issue resolutions, and want us to prosper over the rest of the world. However, they seem to focus too much on bringing down the opponent, Joe Biden, and should showcase Trump and their platform more. It was difficult to find their exact positions on things without having to download their old platform PDF. Visiting their website did not change my mind and in fact swayed me a bit more left. I'm not sure if it would change anyone else's mind, but I feel like centrists or left-leaning centrists could be put off at the fact they spend most of their homepage tearing down the opposing candidate rather than taking that space to explain their rhetoric and goals. If they wanted to garner more support from their website, I think they should make the small section of Trump's victories much larger, and showcase Trump himself rather than 2 images of Biden, a Fox News video, etc. The party definitely designed their website to rally their base. The base seems to prosper around media narratives and not focus on what their candidate is doing. They work really well in solidifying their base. One other goal they seem to have is to push Fox News as a reliable news platform as they showcase a clip from that channel right on their homepage.

The final party that I don't know too much and haven't formed much of an opinion on is the Libertarian Party. I picked this party because I always see it on the ballot as a third party, and one of my old coworkers identified as a Libertarian. Their main candidate that they showcase is their selection for president, Dr. Jo Jorgenson. Their main issue and goals is that they want a world where all individuals are sovereign over their own lives. This means they want small government and a lot of individual rights. They also support the first amendment, separation of

church and state, privacy, and essentially repeal any crimes with “victimless” crimes. All these issues stem from big government and them believing the government has too much power, and that power should be delegated to the citizens. One more issue that they want to tackle that I think is interesting is what they call, economic liberty. They believe each person holds themselves economically accountable, and regularizes businesses. This is an interesting concept because would that allow, say restaurants, to run without regulation and become more unsafe? Or would they prosper without that regulation. Other parties usually incorporate some sort of oversight, but the Libertarian party is fundamentally against it. Before visiting the site, I thought that the Libertarian party would follow more closely with conservative views, however, I think they did a good job of creating their own positions. Something positive I can say about the party is that they did a minimal amount of tearing down and name-calling candidates, something the previous two parties aforementioned had a hard time getting away from. However, it was still present on their site, so I think taking that down would be beneficial. Visiting their website actually helped a lot. I realized that I follow MANY of their views and support them. I think it definitely can change people's minds who don't really like the idea of our current two-party state and are looking at a third option. If they wanted to change more people's minds, it could showcase more of their views and their platform on their homepage rather than news articles, it feels more like a blog than a political party website. I think they designed their website towards people who are tired of a two-party state. They show how the two candidates we have right now aren't great, celebrating how they are on the ballot everywhere, and are ready for the election. If they bring in more votes, they are giving themselves more attention and can push a third party option, however if they are brought on the national stage, they need to be ready and organized like the DNC and RNC are, because they will face lots of opposition.