POL 111 Political Party Report
Fall 2020

Introduction

In my POL 111 (Intro to United States politics) class, we were given information and lectured on political parties and how they relate and are implemented in our current political system. After discussing and giving us information pertaining to political parties in the United States, we were given an index of current and active political parties in the US and had to choose three to research and answer questions about. To do this I chose one political party that I normally side with, found a party that I usually disagree with, and one that I generally have no opinion about. Those parties were the Democratic National Committee, the Republican National Committee, and the Libertarian party, respectfully. I used research skills learned through my HONR 201 course to complete this assignment.

What I did

During this assignment, I was tasked to write roughly 500 words on each political party regarding their key issues and how they got out their vote. In doing this, I had to learn how to use primary sources to get the facts on each party and what they represent. I also learned to bring together factual information in a very polarized subject area. I started from primary sources on each party's websites, and cross referenced that information from other websites such as news sources and articles. One of the main ways I went about doing this was to research claims about certain parties. If the DNC made a claim regarding the diversity of their elected officials, I would be able to look that up in online encyclopedias.

That helped me generate a report on each political party to the best of my ability from credible websites and articles. This task is hard given the current political climate and mass amounts of misinformation. For each party, I discussed what I knew about them, key issues and people within the party, issues they put at the forefront of their to-do list, and how they effectively communicated their message and swayed voters to vote for them. The methodology I used to determine which issues I would talk about in the paper, was mostly

centered around issues that I thought most people would know about. For example, most people know Democrats typically stand for more social issues, Republicans stand for more fiscal issues, and the Libertarians seem to be a bit of both, however centered around smaller government. I then put all of this into a report and turned it in for credit within the class. From this report I found very polarizing subject matters and statements on the Republican National Committee (RNC) and Democratic National Committee (DNC) websites, whereas the third party platform more focused on themselves and building up their messages, which was an interesting find.

What I can do from here

This report, as stated before, has really exercised finding credible and unbiased information in a field filled with discredit and disinformation. Going forward, I will utilize this research experience to find unbiased and factual data. From here I got a solid understanding on how to work through biased information, but I want to work on applying that skill towards research in a mathematical and computer scientific way. To do this, I will be connecting with faculty on campus to start working on my research paper, and utilize the skills learned from this paper to find correct and unbiased data.