

What Would Be The Logical Extreme Toward Which Each Party's Current Platform Would Lead?

Democrat	Issue	Republican
Abortions should be available on demand for any reason and at any point in a pregnancy, and government funding should be available to any woman who wants one but cannot afford it.	Abortion	Abortions should be illegal with one exception: when a choice must be made between the life of the unborn child and the life of the mother.
Any two or more people should be able to enter into a marriage relationship, and that relationship should be no different than any other marriage, including its name.	Marriage	Marriage should be defined in all national, state and local statutes as being between one man and one woman.
We should have only enough military and intelligence capabilities to prevent external attacks on us.	Defense	We should have military and intelligence capabilities sufficient to proactively identify and destroy potential direct threats to us, and to make us the clear leader of international efforts toward world peace and security.
Every child in America should receive a college education, and government funding should be available to anyone who cannot afford one.	Education	Through high school: only minimum level-of-knowledge expectations should be set at the national level by a very small staff; all operational details, including approval of curricula, should be managed by local school boards. College: there should be no federal government involvement.
No changes should ever be made to the Social Security system that either reduce benefits or increase the age at which citizens can begin receiving them.	Social Security	Any adjustments to the Social Security system that must be made to project its solvency for at least 25 years into the future must be implemented unless cuts in other programs can be agreed to in order to balance the budget.
No changes should ever be made to the Medicare system that either reduce benefits or increase the age at which citizens can begin receiving them.	Medicare	Any adjustments to the Medicare system that must be made to project its solvency for at least 25 years into the future must be implemented unless cuts in other programs can be agreed to in order to balance the budget.
The Affordable Care Act should be retained as it is with no modifications regardless of its costs.	ACA [Obamacare]	The Affordable Care Act should be repealed and replaced with a program that is more sustainable and provides a reasonable way for current beneficiaries to transition to it.
All legislated programs must be funded under any circumstances, and deficit spending is acceptable if required to fund them.	Budget	There should be a Constitutional Amendment to require a balanced budget except in very limited special circumstances [e.g., a World War].
Law Enforcement is racially/ethnically biased, and there needs to be a federally-mandated program to address this issue.	Law Enforcement	Racial/ethnic bias in Law Enforcement has been grossly overstated by activist groups, and whatever issues do exist are being identified and addressed appropriately.
The death penalty should be completely abolished nationally.	Capital Punishment	The death penalty should be retained, and the current regulations determining its applicability in a given case are acceptable.

Suggestion for use of this table. ...

1. Write your one-sentence position on each of these issues.
2. Read the full party platform of **both** parties, particularly on these ideologically defining issues. For each of these issues, draw your own conclusion as to whether my "logical extension to the extreme" makes sense [and if not, draw your own conclusion].
3. Compare your positions with the extreme extensions of current platform "planks" in this table [or your modified versions of them].
4. Ask yourself this question: "With which of these platforms am I **mostly closely** aligned?". **[Note:** It is highly unlikely that you will feel in 100% alignment with either party's platform -- see my 9/28/16 blog post <https://usaparadigm.com/2016/09/28/binary-party-affiliation-choices-we-need-something-better/>].