



## OPINION

### America is no longer clearly split between two main political parties

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By TAUREAN SMALL

For a while, the two dominant parties in our political system have been a misrepresentation of Americans' opinions.

Many say Democrats have become too conservative in an attempt to appease everyone and Republicans have become power-hungry and only want to appease themselves. A recent poll by the Washington Post and ABC News found that a small percentage of Americans still align themselves with these major parties.



"Only 20 percent of adults identify themselves as Republicans. little changed in recent months, but still the lowest single number in Post-ABC polls since 1983," reports the Washington Post.

Democrats' numbers, although larger than Republicans', were not strong either. According to the poll, only 33 percent of Americans identified with the party.

An interesting note from the poll alluded to the rise of the minor political parties. "Political independents continue to make up the largest group, at 42 percent of respondents."

If this is the case, why have we not seen a substantial change in our political system? One could say dramatic change is a feared thing in America, despite President Barack Obama's campaign slogan in the 2008 elections. Is America soon to be a true multi-party system, or will the fears of change prohibit the true ideals of Americans from being projected?

Many people feel that the problem with the American political system is that the current opposition is not strong enough to counter the Democratic Party, especially considering they had no one to fulfill the role as the forefront leader after John McCain's loss in the

2008 elections.

The next speculated person in line to run for office is Sarah Palin, but she has received much flack, even from her own party. The party's recent approach to politics had a lot of criticism without much of an alternative. From the radical cynicism of Republican political pundit Rush Limbaugh to the juvenile outburst from House of Representatives member Joe Wilson, their behavior toward Obama, particularly, has been nothing less than deplorable, consequently causing them to lose much support from voters.

With a loss of support for the opposition, the Democratic Party should be invulnerable, right? Wrong, due to the mountains of criticism Obama has received in only his first year of office.

Some of his party feels he has become too conservative, while Republicans feel he is not getting his job done quickly.

"Now hardcore liberals are griping about a Democratic president who isn't dependably liberal," wrote Ruben Navarrette Jr., nationally syndicated columnist for CNN.com, in his commentary titled: "Left finds Obama not liberal enough." He continued, "The complaints are getting so loud that there is talk, leading up to the 2012 election, of Democrats running a candidate against their own president from the left on the grounds that the incumbent isn't liberal enough and is too eager to seek compromises with Republicans."

With the behavior shown by both of these parties, it should be expected that voters fall out of favor with the current political system. So, what will this mean for comparably smaller parties such as the Independent Party?

"There's a lot of dissatisfaction out there," said David Boaz, executive vice president of The Cato Institute, in an interview for "The Big Question: Will we see the rise of a viable third party?" from the Washington D.C. newspaper The Hill. "So it seems like the time might be right for outsider candidates or even parties." Many political commentators believe it is inevitable for these smaller parties to rise in America, especially the Independent Party, for they have more power than we might assume.

"If you just look at the recent elections, you see that wherever the independent vote shifts, the balance of victory shifts — that's the critical difference", said Stephen F. Lynch, member of the House of Representatives, in the same article for The Hill.

If you, independents, have so much power, why not overthrow a system you do not believe in?

Maybe the answer will be heard during the next elections, or maybe the threat presented by this question will force the two major parties to get their acts together.