

# THE INFORMED DEMOCRAT OF SWFL



## Why I am a Democrat

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Long before I was old enough to vote, I was a Democrat in spirit. Being from Massachusetts guaranteed one is a lifelong Red Sox fan and a Democrat. My dad was a member of the local Democratic party in the small town we lived in. He worked to get-out-the-vote for Ted Kennedy in Kennedy's first political campaign. This entailed bringing my sister and I to the town dump every Sunday morning after church (everyone in town went to the dump after church). My sister and I (ages 8 and 9) served coffee and Dunkin' Donuts to everyone while my dad talked up Ted Kennedy. Thus began my life as a Democrat. It strengthened a few years later when the assassination of JFK shattered our nation. In high school, Bobby Kennedy was my candidate in our mock political campaign in history class. Being a Republican never entered my mind.

When I attended college in San Francisco, my political science professor encouraged us all to work on a campaign. I threw myself into George Moscone's run for mayor of San Francisco. Democratic politics in San Francisco in the 70's was electric. The city was so diverse, and it seemed without boundaries. I was soon working on Harvey Milk's campaign for supervisor. Unfortunately, before I was 25, every candidate I endorsed, except Ted Kennedy, was assassinated. This only made me fiercer in my pursuit of promoting democratic ideals and platforms.

Although the candidates I supported were important to me, it was the ideals of the party that drew me to it. To me, the Democrats always stood for social equality, advocating the promotion of social justice and equality, including civil rights, LGBTQ+ rights and gender equality. In addition, Democrats often supported economic policies aimed at reducing poverty and income inequality (social welfare programs, higher minimum wages, progressive taxation) and to make healthcare more readily available to all Americans.

Additionally, the Democrats have embraced environmental protection, education, and immigration. Watching the current administration's assault on all three of these areas has greatly distressed me and strengthened my resolve to be the best Democrat I can be and help turn things around. I am the proud granddaughter of Irish and Italian immigrants. How we as a nation can turn our back on any immigrant is inconceivable to me. Our efforts in the past cleaned Boston's dirty water, healed the earth's ozone layer, and legalized abortion. We did it once and we will do it again. This is why I'm a Democrat.