

# Division in the Democratic Party

Research Report: SPAS-001 | July 10, 2020

## Background

Pundits have suggested that a divided Democratic party contributed to the “surprise” election of Donald Trump in 2016, and may contribute to his re-election in 2020. The analysis here was driven by the question, “are Democrats more divided than Republicans?” We surveyed American adults identifying with either the Republican or Democratic party, and asked them which political group they think has views most different from their own.

## Methodology

### Data Source

- Social and Political Attitudes Study (SPAS)
- A nationally representative sample that reflects the U.S. adult population in terms of educational attainment, ethnicity, gender, and household income.

### Participants

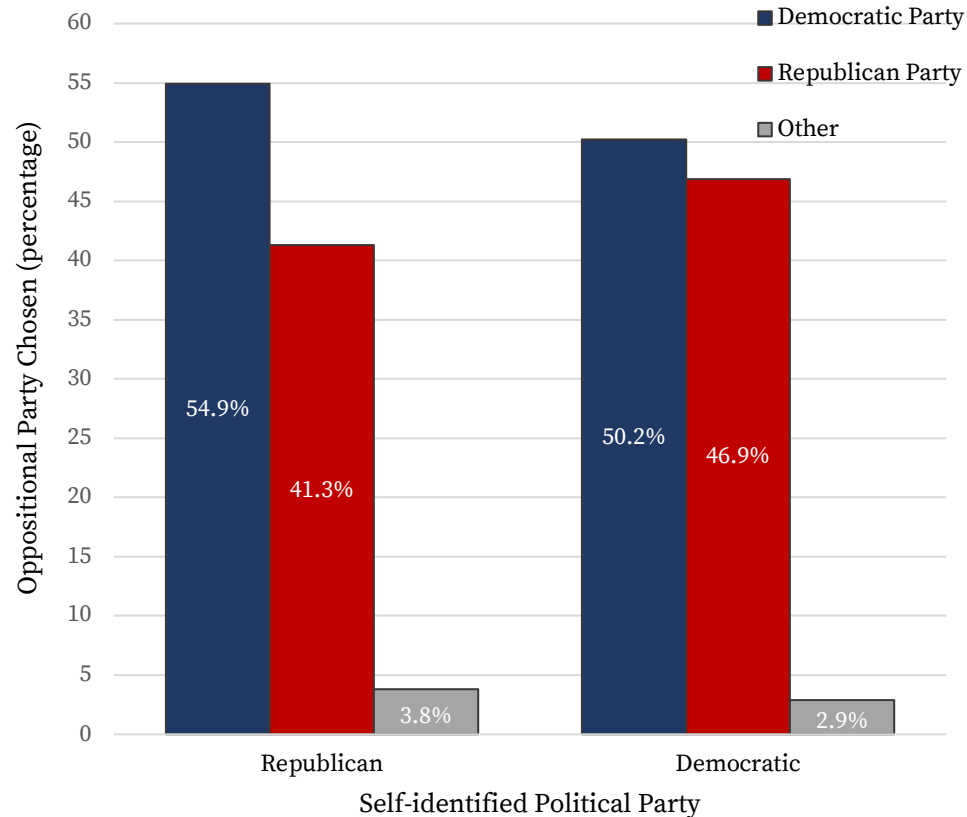
- 508 Republicans and Democrats
- 52% Male, 48% Female
- Average age = 48 years (range 18 to 85 years)

### Measures

1. *Self-identified Political Group*: which political group they identify with.
  2. *Oppositional Political Group*: which political group they think is most different/opposed to their own political views.
- For technical (e.g., statistical) information not included in this document, view the [supplemental page](#) for this report.

## Summary of Findings (see figure)

1. In answering the question: “If you had to choose, which political group do you think is most different/opposed to your own political views, currently?”
  - a. Democrats were statistically as likely to pick the Democratic party as they were to pick the Republican party.
  - b. Republicans, on the other hand, were more likely to choose the Democratic party as the political group that has views most opposed to their own.
2. This suggests a greater divide within the Democratic party compared to the Republican party.



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### Suggested Citation

Saide, A., & McCaffree, K. (2020). Division in the Democratic Party. Skeptic Research Center, SPAS-001.