**Political Party Platforms 2016**

**Step 1:** Read each plank. If you agree with it, circle the number of the plank. If you disagree with it, put an ‘x’ through the number. If you don’t know or don’t have an opinion, leave it alone.

**Step 2:** Select a partner. One of you should check each plank against the Republican platform, the other against the Democratic platform. Place an ‘R’ or ‘D’ if it is in the platform that you are checking. If not, leave it blank.

**Step 3:** Review each plank with your partner to determine if it is Republican (R), Democratic (D), or both (B).

1. \_R\_ Supports a Constitutional Amendment to make abortion illegal. **Abortion**

2. \_D\_ Will guarantee Social Security benefits by taxing those who make more than $250,000. **Social Security**

3. \_B\_ Will work with allies in the region to defeat ISIS. **Terrorism**

4. \_D\_ Supports medical marijuana, and states’ right to decriminalize marijuana. **Marijuana Legalization**

5. \_R\_ Does not think Climate change is a priority, and opposes international agreements to reduce greenhouse

 gasses. **Climate Change**

6. \_D\_ Wants to raise the minimum wage from $7.25 an hour to $15 an hour. **Minimum Wage**

7. \_R\_ Does not believe the federal government should make college tuition free. **College Tuition**

8. \_D\_ Believes healthcare is a right, not a privilege, and supports the Affordable Care Act. **Healthcare**

9. \_D\_ Would abolish the death penalty. **Criminal Justice**

10. \_R\_ Denounces the Iran nuclear deal that it feels threatens the safety of the Middle East. **Iran**

11. \_R\_ Opposes same sex marriage and supports religious liberty laws that allow businesses to not serve same

 sex couples if it violates their faith. **LGBT Issues**

12. \_R\_ Believes allowing transgender people to use the restroom of their choice infringes on the rights of

 others. **LGBT Issues**

13. \_R\_ The corporate tax rate should be lowered to encourage companies to keep businesses in America **Trade**

14. \_R\_ Supports the death penalty. **Criminal Justice**

15. \_D\_ Supports stronger background checks for buying guns and will make large capacity bullet magazines

 illegal. **Gun Control**

16. \_D\_ Believes wealthier Americans and corporations should pay more taxes. **Taxes**

17. \_D\_ Supports the new nuclear agreement with Iran. **Iran**

18. \_R\_ Supports enforcing existing federal laws prohibiting marijuana use. **Marijuana**

19. D\_Supports “Dreamers” (children of illegal immigrants) right to remain in the United States. **Immigration**

20. \_B\_ Views North Korea as a threat and supports efforts to dismantle their nuclear weapons. **North Korea**

**More on back…**

21. \_B\_ Supports an offensive attack against Iran if Iran tried to develop nuclear weapons. **Iran**

22. \_D\_ Supports the Supreme Court’s decision legalizing same sex marriage. **LGBT Issues**

23. \_R\_ Opposes laws allowing gun makers to be sued by victims of gun violence. **Gun Control**

24. \_R\_ Supports building a wall between the US and Mexico.

25. \_D\_ Believes climate change is a real and urgent threat. **Climate Change**

26. \_R\_ Believes higher taxes on the wealthy hurts economic growth. **Taxes**

27. \_D\_ Wants to penalize companies that move their businesses overseas to avoid paying US taxes. **Trade**

28. \_D\_ Believes college tuition should be debt free for working families. **College Tuition**

29. \_R\_ Opposes tax increases to support Social Security. **Social Security**

30. \_R\_ Opposes raising the federal minimum wage, and believe states should set their own **minimum wages.**

31. \_D\_ Supports rights for transgendered people, like using the restroom of their gender identity. **LBGT**

32. \_R\_ Supports repealing the Affordable Care Act. **Healthcare**

33. \_D\_ Supports a woman’s right to a safe and legal abortion. **Abortion**

**Step 4:** Count up the total number of planks you agreed with for each party, and put that number in the space below. Ignore planks where both parties supported it: ‘B’.

Democratic planks you support: +\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Republican planks you support: +\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Step 5:** Count up the total number of planks you disagreed with for each party, and put that number in the space below. Ignore planks where both parties supported it: ‘B’.

Democratic planks you oppose: -\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Republican planks you oppose: -\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Step 6:** For each party, subtract the number of planks you oppose for each party from the number of planks you support for that party.

Democratic planks supported \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Republican planks supported \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Democratic planks opposed -\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Republican planks opposed -\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Total (+/-) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total (+/-) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_