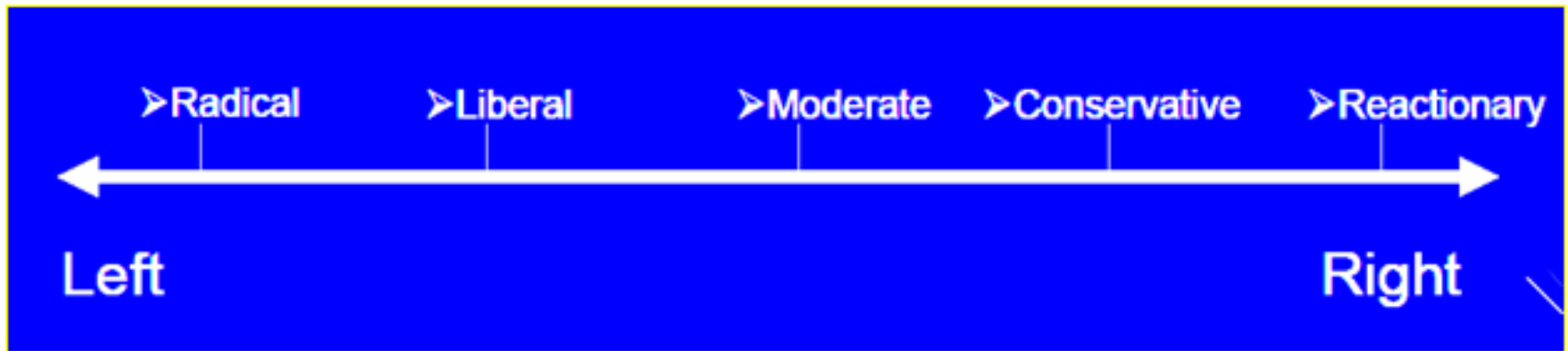


# POLITICAL SPECTRUM

# TWO “TESTS” OF YOUR IDEOLOGY

- **Role of Change** – How willing are you to accept change?
- **Role of Government** – How much do you want the government involved?

# The Political Spectrum



# “FAR LEFT” OF SPECTRUM

## **Radical – (“Far Left”)**

- Favor a **rapid, fundamental (overall) change** in the existing social, economic and/or political systems.
- Will use **extreme measures** (including violence) to achieve their goals. (example: Communists)

# LEFT OF “MODERATE”

## **Liberal – (“Left”)**

- Believe that the **government should take action to bring about social reform** (changes) to increase individuals’ well being.
- They are **for the idea of change *but work peacefully*** by using the existing political system. Examples include Democratic Party and the Green Party.

# MODERATE

## (“MIDDLE” OF SPECTRUM)

### **Moderate** – (“Middle”)

- Moderates are people who have **opinions between those of liberals and conservatives.**
  - They are generally **tolerant of many viewpoints.**
- They generally don't hold any extreme viewpoints.

# RIGHT OF “MODERATE”

## **Conservative – (“Right”)**

- **Government should stay out of the lives of** citizens and businesses, except on moral issues (items about such things as abortion).
- They are generally **for the status quo** (keeping things the way they currently are).
- They are often **hesitant to change**. They will work peacefully using the existing political system. (examples: Republicans, Reform Party)

# “FAR RIGHT” OF THE SPECTRUM

## **Reactionary – (“Far Right”)**

- Members of this group want a **return to a previous** social, political or economic that existed earlier in history.
- They will **use extreme measures** to achieve their goals, including violence. (dictatorships, monarchies, oligarchies)



**Democrat**

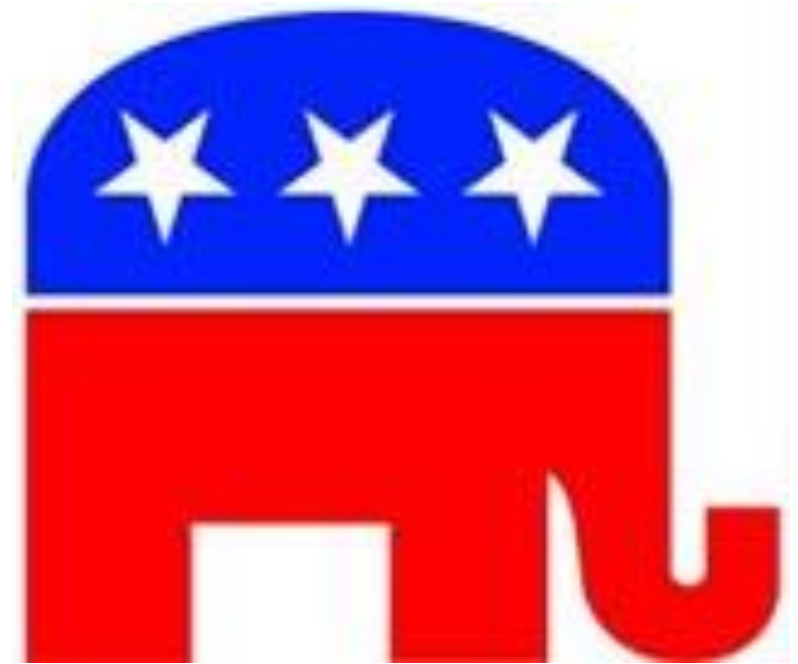
(LIBERAL)

**vs.**

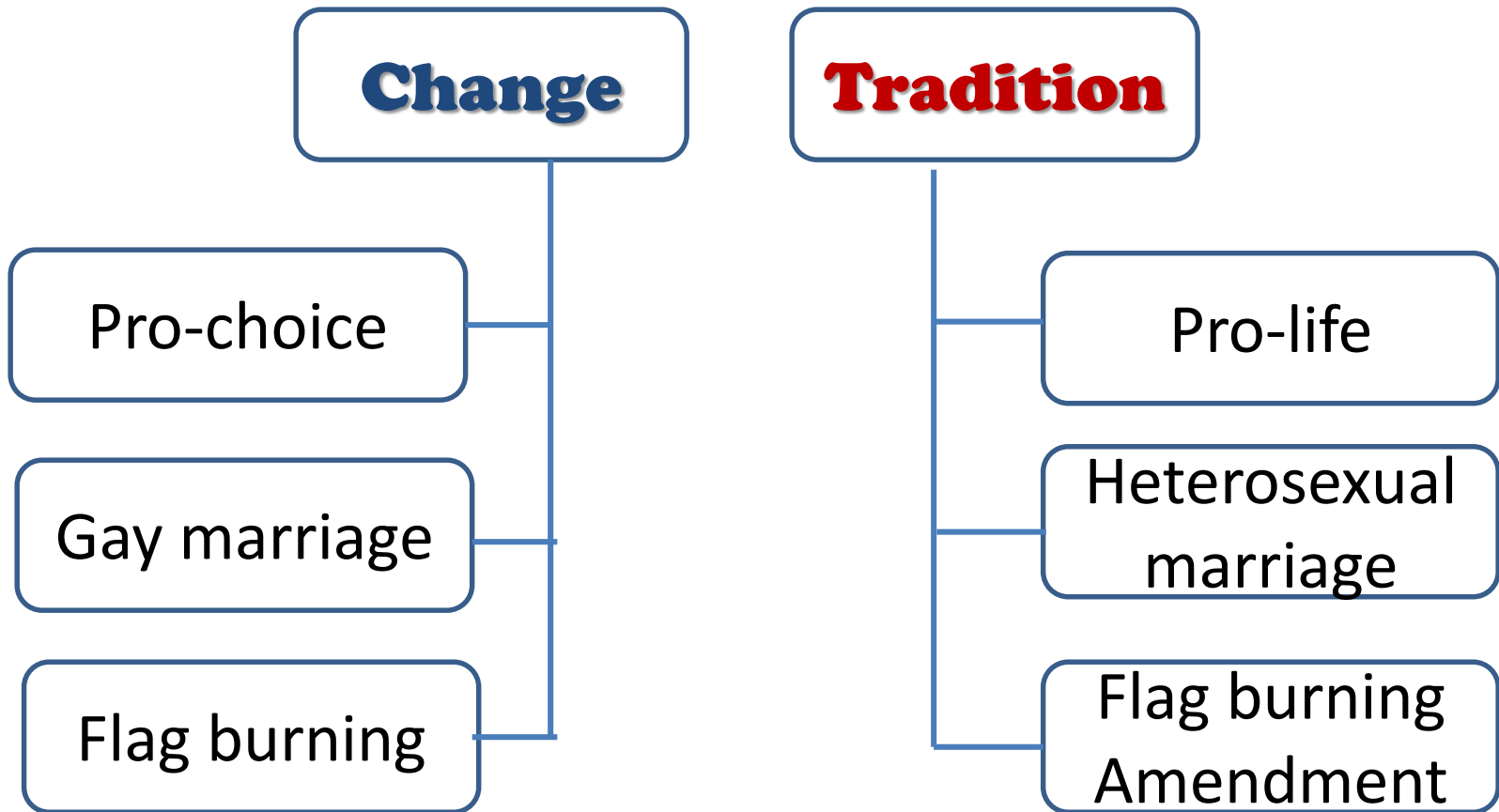
**vs.**

**Republican**

(CONSERVATIVE)



# IDEOLOGY APPLIED TO ISSUES



# PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY

## **circumstantial**

Welfare programs

Health care  
for all

Drug rehabilitation  
programs

## **Individual**

Welfare limits

Private health  
care

Tough on  
crime

# ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN SOCIETY

## **Gov't responsible for social reform**

Education  
funding

Assistance  
Programs

Environmental  
Programs

## **Gov't should be less involved**

School  
Vouchers

Charity Tax  
Deductions

De-regulation

# EQUALITY - FREEDOM

## **Social Equality**

Anti-discrimination

Gender Equity

Affirmative  
Action Programs

## **Individual Freedom**

The Right to  
Hire

Merit Pay

Competition

# THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

## Human Rights

Environment

Assistance  
Programs

Crime  
Prevention-  
Rehabilitation

## Property Rights

Pro-business

Tax Cuts

Tough on Crime  
Death Penalty

# MORALITY

## **Relative Values**

Pro-choice

Gay Rights

Legalize Drugs

## **Moral Absolutes**

Pro-life

Traditional  
Family

Criminalize  
drugs

