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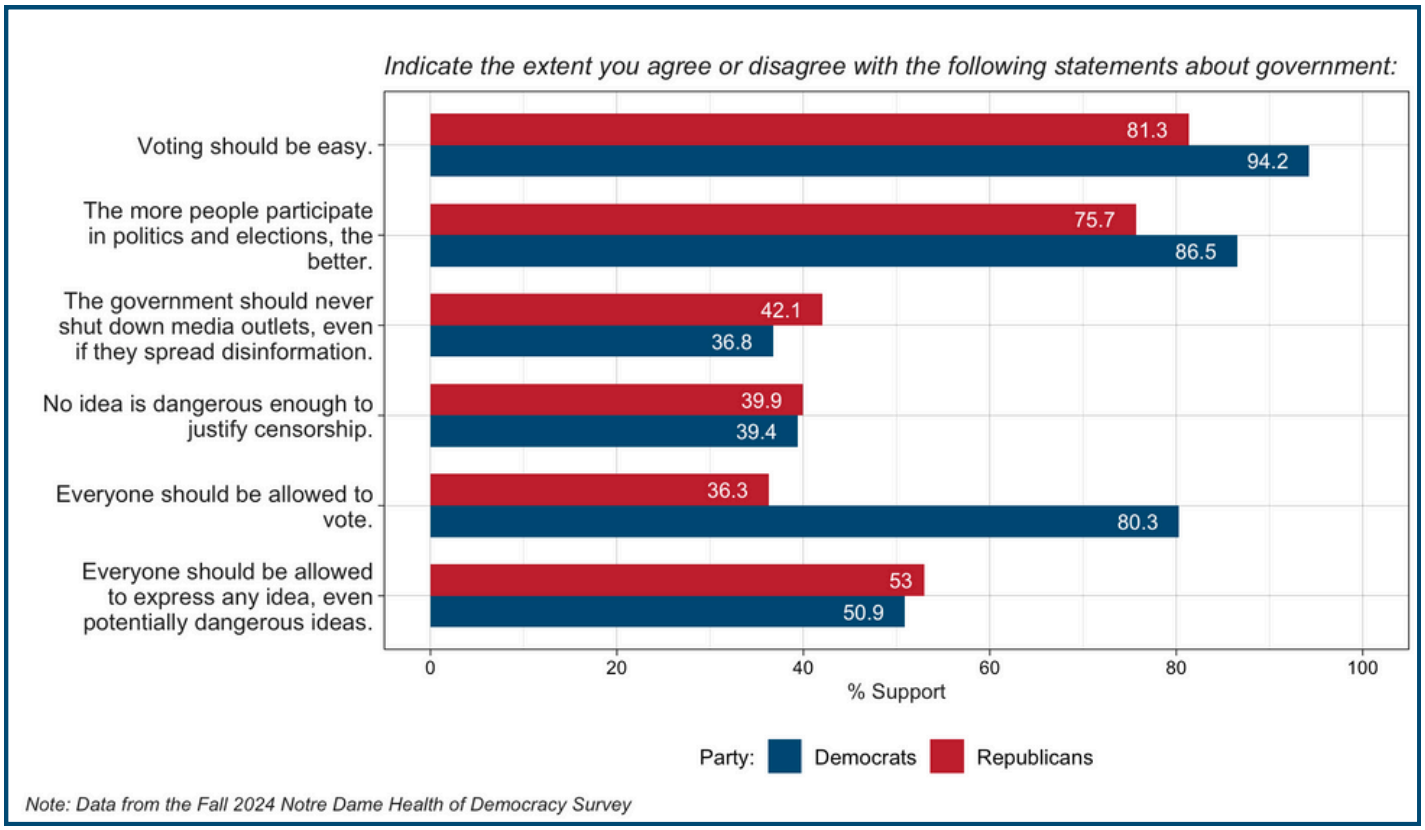
DEMOCRACY IN THE BALANCE: PARTISAN PERSPECTIVES ON SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC VALUES

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OCTOBER 11, 2024

Various anti-democratic events and trends in American politics have prompted a closer examination of everyday Americans' beliefs in democracy. Although Republicans and Democrats are often quick to blame each other for undermining democratic principles, our data from the Fall 2024 Health of Democracy Survey provide a more nuanced understanding of when partisans support democratic values and when they do not.

Free expression is central to American democracy, but not all Americans support this value. In general, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to support this important aspect of democracy. For example, **42% of Republicans** believe that the government should never be allowed to shut down a media outlet, compared to only **36% of Democrats** who shared this view. Additionally, **53% of Republicans** feel it is acceptable for individuals to express dangerous ideas, whereas just **50% of Democrats** agree with this sentiment. In contrast, Democrats are more supportive of voting rights, a fundamental aspect of American democracy. Over **80% of Democrats** agree that everyone should be allowed to vote, compared to just **36% of Republicans.** Furthermore, **94% of Democrats** believe that voting should be easy, while only **81% of Republicans** share this perspective.



The Notre Dame Health of Democracy Survey shows that the challenges to democracy are not exclusive to one party; both Republicans and Democrats demonstrate weaknesses in supporting core democratic principles. Instead of placing blame on one another and accusing others of being anti-democratic, all Americans—including Independents who will be featured in the next Rooney Report—should take a moment to examine their own roles in fostering a healthy democracy.