

What Unites Progressives

To approach what unites progressives, we must first ask what divides them. Here are some of the common parameters that divide progressives from one another:

- **Local interests.** For example, you might come from a farming community, or a high-tech region, or a city with a military base, or a home base with a large racial or ethnic minority population—and you place the concerns of that region high on your priorities.
- **Idealism versus pragmatism.** As a pragmatist, you are willing to compromise and get the best deal you can; as an idealist, you may be unwilling to compromise. Idealists tend to accuse pragmatists of not having ideals (when they do, but can't realize them); pragmatists criticize idealists, saying “the perfect is the enemy of the good.”
- **Biconceptualism.** If you are mostly progressive but have some conservative views, total progressives will accuse you of being a conservative; biconceptuals tend to accuse total progressives of being dogmatic or extremists.
- **Radical change versus gradual change.** Radicals accuse gradualists of not being truly progressive; gradualists accuse radicals of being impractical and hurting their own cause by not using slippery slope tactics.
- **Militant versus moderate advocacy.** Militants are loud, aggressive, and punitive, and sometimes use strict father means to nurturant ends, and see moderates as being cowards or insufficiently caring; moderate advocates think that militancy offends people and causes a reaction against their cause.
- **Types of thought processes.** Progressive values can be weighted toward different areas of concern: socioeconomic, identity politics,