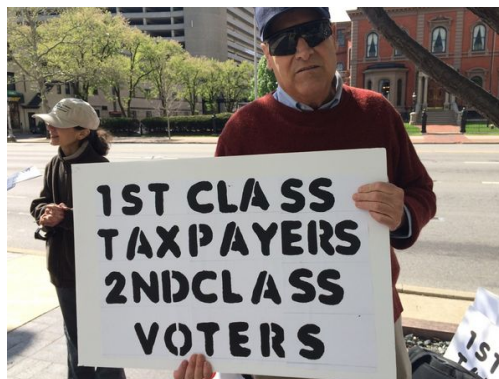


Voting Rights Are Primary Campaign Kicks Off

Independent Ohio and **North Carolina Independents** kicked off the **Voting Rights Are Primary** campaign being nationally coordinated by IndependentVoting.org. **Jackie Salit** will be speaking with the activists who led these efforts on her next conference call, Wednesday, May 28th.

Ohio: First Class Taxpayers, Second Class Citizens

Independents picketed the Secretary of State's office in Columbus, OH on primary day May 6th, as part of the nationally coordinated **Voting Rights Are Primary** campaign. **Cynthia Carpathios** and **Rick Robol** of [Independent Ohio](http://IndependentOhio) led the group in protesting and talking to passersby. The Columbus ABC affiliate and the Cleveland Plain Dealer reported on their action. *The Plain Dealer* went one step further by adding a poll to their website asking readers if they supported nonpartisan open primaries.



To set the stage, Cynthia wrote a [letter to the editor](#) about the intended protest that was picked up by five newspapers and did [a radio interview](#). **Carol McFall** chipped in a [letter to the editor](#) on the broader topic of nonpartisan primaries. After protesting, Cynthia briefed her state representative about the need for structural reform.

North Carolina Independents Demand Voting Rights



[North Carolina Independents](#) mobilized a group of students from UNC-Greensboro and NC A&T and community members to participate in a primary day protest starting at the historic Woolworths in Greensboro, NC where the first lunch counter sit-ins took place during the civil rights movement. They marched to the Court House with signs that read "Non-Partisan Government for the People, Not the Parties" and "First Class Taxpayers, Second Class Voters" speaking to people en route, and conducted a short survey on ways the electoral process is organized to restrict independent participation.

In the run up to the picket [WXII-TV did this news piece](#) and [WUNC radio \(NPR\)](#) interviewed **Dr. Omar Ali** on the growth of independents in North Carolina.

Independent Leaders to Meet in Las Vegas this Weekend



Independent voter activists from Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Utah will gather for a full-day [Western Regional Meeting](#) on Saturday, May 17th to develop their network and strategies for making the concerns of independents more visible. The event -- which takes place in Nevada where indies are barred from voting in the primaries -- will include an afternoon practicum on grassroots organizing with attendees hitting the streets for a Las Vegas style informational picket to showcase the discrimination independents face through the **Voting Rights are Primary** campaign. **Catana Barnes**, founder of Independent Voters of Nevada said: *"We are looking forward to getting together, learning together and growing our networks together."*

Calling For Open Primaries in New Mexico

Albuquerque's [ABC affiliate](#) did this story on the exclusion of independents in the New Mexico primary after local activist **Tisha Le Rose** alerted her networks about the **Voting Rights are Primary** campaign and asked them to tell journalists about it. Over 200 people have signed a petition posted by Le Rose on Moveon.org's website calling for Top Two Open Primaries in New Mexico. New Mexican residents can [sign the petition here](#).

More News

California's [IndependentVoice.org](#) is on a mission to make sure that every independent in the state knows that they can now vote in the primaries. **Don Adams** wrote a letter to the editor published in the *Auburn Journal* stating, "According to polls and focus groups, 75 percent of independents still do not know that they can participate in a primary election. For years, independent voters were excluded from the primary process, but in 2010 voters passed the Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act." Full letter [here](#).



In Wyoming, the [Laramie Boomerang](#) reports on Senator Chris Rothfuss' effort to open the debate about the current primary system in Wyoming. Rothfuss advocates for a top two nonpartisan system.

National Election Reform Committee in Search of a Common Cause

[IndependentVoting.org](#)'s Election Reform Committee is undertaking a new initiative -- to reach out to leaders and members of Common Cause groups across the country in order to foster discussion about reforming the primary process. If you are a member of Common Cause or know others who are, please email **Steve Richardson** at stevenrichardson@verizon.net.

Midterm Mashup: Bringing Independents into the Mix

**Join Jackie Salit, President of IndependentVoting.org,
on a national conference call on Wednesday, May 28.**

Jackie will feature on-the-ground reports from activists in North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania fresh off their primary day events

Date: Wednesday, May 28
Time: 8pm ET, 7pm CT, 6pm MT, 5pm PT

[Register for the call today](#)

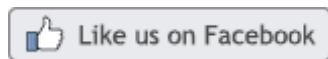


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