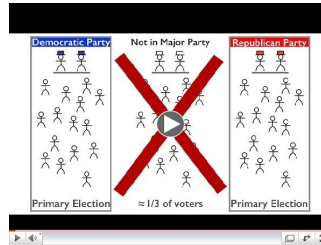




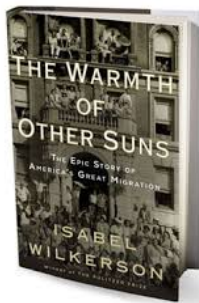
Oregonians Want Nonpartisan Primaries

Entrepreneur Mark Frohnmayer is leading an effort to put a Unified Primary Initiative on the ballot this fall. Petitioners are currently working to gather the 120,000 signatures they need to place the measure on the November 2014 ballot. Check out the [Unified Primary website](#) for more information on how you can help, and to make a donation to the effort, click [here](#).



Video - "Help us Repair Democracy"

Meet Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist and Author Isabel Wilkerson



On July 13th at 7:00 pm / ET, **Isabel Wilkerson**, author of **Warmth of Other Suns**, will be the guest on Cathy Stewart's *Politics for the People* book club conference call. [Click here](#) to register for the conference call. Visit the [Politics For the People blog](#) for updates and reader comments, questions and suggestions about this book.



Cathy L. Stewart

Voting Rights Are Primary Campaign Attracting Attention



Independents are putting their stamp on the mid-term elections by staging informational pickets to shine a spotlight on their exclusion from primaries. [IndependentVoting.org](#) President [Jackie Salit](#) interviewed independent leaders from Ohio, North Carolina and Pennsylvania about protests they've held on her recent [national conference call](#).

Sarah Firebaugh of Berea, KY and two year old son, Xavier, hit the streets



Jenn Bullock, PA

with signs and surveys to raise public awareness about independents' exclusion from the primaries. Sarah sent a letter to the editor prior to the picket that was published in the [Lexington Herald-Leader](#). Activists with Independent Pennsylvanians had their signs attached to the back of clipboards that read "I Can't Vote Today, Ask me Why." Many did and traffic to the group's website jumped, fueled by extensive local press coverage. [The Meadville Tribune](#) reporter John Finnerty



Sarah Firebaugh, KY

expanded the story in "Voters Pay for Primaries but Don't Get a Say" noting that in neighboring New Jersey,

a lawsuit has been filed in federal court by the EndPartisanship coalition challenging state funding of closed primaries.



Charles Donahue

Charles Donahue, Tia Williams and Mary Johnson led picket teams in three locations across the Garden State. Letters to the editor signed by supporters appeared in several newspapers, including [The Record](#) and [Newark Star Ledger](#).

In Nevada, Catana Barnes led informational pickets in Las Vegas and Reno. Her letter to the editor was published in the [Reno Gazette Journal](#) and several other local papers and [KREN](#) TV interviewed Barnes on the eve of the primary.



Dan Walton, NV

Independent Leaders Hold Regional Western Meeting



The first Western Regional Meeting of Independents was held in Las Vegas, NV on May 17, 2014. Initiated by Catana Barnes, the meeting brought together representatives from Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Idaho, California and Oregon. Dave Ellis of OR noted, "*Probably the greatest accomplishment of the conference was having the opportunity to connect with other folks who are facing the same struggles as we are. Despite the challenges, there was a lot of*

enthusiasm and optimism." The Western Region held a follow up conference to continue coordinating their work. PJ Steiner of Utah created a Google Group so activists from states can stay in contact. To join the group, contact PJ at pjluvzu2@gmail.com.

Promoting Non Partisanship in New Mexico

Albuquerque attorney J. Edward Hollington filed a lawsuit in State District Court to allow independents access to New Mexico's

primary election ballot. Currently in NM, 19% of the state's voters are registered as "Decline to State" ("DTS") and are prohibited from voting in the state's primary election. *KOB TV* reporter Stuart Dyson [covered the story](#).

Hollington connected with Tisha Le Rose, head of Independent Voters of New Mexico who has been advocating for a top two nonpartisan primary. [The petition she posted on Moveon.org](#) has garnered over 200 signatures to date. An editorial by Tisha was published in the *Albuquerque Journal*, following a [letter to the editor](#) that was written by fellow independent George Richmond.



Tisha Le Rose, NM

IndependentVoting.org Founders Honored



Pictured left to right: Cathy Stewart, Jason Martinez, Lenora Fulani, Jackie Salit, Erika Rubino, Michael Hardy.

Messages of thanks and congratulations poured in from around the country at the 14th Annual Spring Chairman's Reception of the Independence Party of NYC. Jackie Salit and Dr. Lenora Fulani, who founded [IndependentVoting.org](#) 20 years ago, were honored, as was activist Jason Martinez.

Wayne Griffin, (Chair of SC Independence Party), South Carolina State Rep. Joe Neal, Steve Peace, (Founder, Independent Voter Project), Mark Frohnmayer (Unified Primary Initiative in Oregon), and other national reform activists sent in messages of support ([click here to watch](#)). The annual reception and fundraiser was held on June 4th in New York City and was attended by 150 supporters.

Joan Blades (co-founder of Moveon.org, Moms Rising and Living Room Conversations),

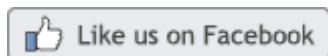
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