



Independent leaders testify at Denver hearings

Independentvoting.org activists were present and accounted for at the [President's Commission on Election Administration](#) hearing in Denver Colorado last Thursday.

- Gwen Ballard of Carbondale, joined by Dave Buck of Denver and Beverly and Bob Barton of Aurora, presented a [letter](#) to the Commission signed by 1,080 independents from all 50 states, which urged them to take the concerns of independents seriously. "It was fascinating," Ballard said. "I was glad I went." Earlier in the week, Ballard's [letter to the editor](#) about the hearing ran in seven Colorado community newspapers.
- Catana Barnes, President of [Independent Voters of Nevada](#) was the next to [testify](#). She also provided the Commissioners with written statements from other west coast independent leaders (Read statements from: [Utah](#), [California](#), [Arizona](#), [Arizona](#), [Oregon](#)). In addition, Barnes' [letter to the editor](#) was published in the *Elko Daily* and *Lincoln Record*. After the hearing, Barnes introduced herself to Larry Lomax, a Commissioner from Nevada, who complimented her on her statement and asked her if there was anything she could change in Nevada, what would it be? Barnes said "opening the primaries" and Lomax admitted that he had gotten much flack about Nevada's closed primaries during the last election.
- Sarah Lyons, [IndependentVoting.org](#)'s Director of Communications flew into Denver to do media and testify at the hearing. [Read Lyons' full statement here](#). [Click here](#) to listen to Sarah on the Mike Rosen radio show (scroll down to the 11:00 am hour). [Click here](#) to read Sarah's guest commentary in the *Denver Post*.
- Michael Maxsenti, the executive director of *Rebellious Truths*, wrote a letter to the editor that was published in California's [Orange County Register](#).



Our participation in Denver was a success! We presented a letter signed by over 1,000 people from all 50 states, developed our media footprint in Colorado, and expanded our activist network. We are now putting together plans for the upcoming hearings in Philadelphia (September 4) and Ohio (September 20). **Between now and then, please help gather more signatures on our [letter to the Commission](#). Send an e-mail and/or talk to your friends and colleagues and encourage them to sign. It makes a real difference.**

Congressman Michael Michaud supports voting rights of independents

In a [letter](#) to the President's Commission for Election Administration, Congressman Michael Michaud of Maine expressed his concern for the "*significant deficiencies in the election process.*" These deficiencies," he said "*must not be solved in a partisan way, but in a non-partisan manner. We need a system where every American who is eligible to vote is given equal opportunity to do so, regardless of race, gender, religion, party affiliation or lack thereof.*"



In the spring, Joe Pickering (left) of Bangor met with Rep. Michaud (right) and asked him to write to the Commission.

Jason Olson challenges third party leaders to take advantage of the Top Two system

Minor party leaders have been among the most vocal opponents of Top Two nonpartisan primaries. [IndependentVoice.Org](#) Director Jason Olson thinks that their opposition is misguided, and [editorializes](#) that Top Two opens the door for "third parties a way to re-position themselves for the 21st century as engines for innovation and new ideas." Olson was a key leader in the coalition that enacted Top Two nonpartisan primaries and redistricting reform in California.



Florida Independent Voting.org to hold Top Two training

Ray Hudkins, spokesperson for Florida Independent Voting.org has created a [Powerpoint Presentation](#) and will be holding Training Classes via Conference Calls about the Introduction to The Top Two Open Primary Petition Initiative in Florida. The training will be two parts (with options of day or evening) on August 20 and August 27. [Click here for more information about how to attend](#) the training.

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