



November 17, 2016

What Just Happened? Is America Going Independent?

400 people from around the country joined IndependentVoting.org President Jackie Salit for some post-election analysis on Sunday, November 13. Salit responded to a compilation of over 100 questions sent in from independents and posed to her by co-hosts Jim Morrison of Independent Voters for Arizona and Gwen Mandell, Director of National Outreach.

On the call, Salit noted:

" The American people are looking for change. They wanted to change everything and they keep finding that they can't. Not in a stable and predictable way. So in those rust belt states, in the deep interior, behind the so-called blue wall, a winning margin of Americans decided to pull the lever to change something....they decided to change how they voted... Where the country is moving to right now, which is very unclear and very volatile...[it] is trying to have a conversation about the relationship between changing everything and changing anything. "



Participants said they found Salit's presentation refreshing and different from others they had experienced since the election.

- "I wanted to share how great I thought the conference call was," said **Julia Katz**, a first time participant and California resident. "The conversation was so informative

and I'm really looking forward to the next one, especially since we're going to talk about moving forward and where we can go from here."

- **Hugh Campbell** of New Jersey said, "As a first-time listener to IndependentVoting.org's bi-monthly National Conference Call, I was particularly impressed by the combining of questions that resulted in a very effective and efficient way to respond to so many questions, especially after such a divisive election that could not otherwise be answered in less than an hour."
- **Natesha Oliver**, founder of M.I.S.T. (Missouri Independents Stand Together) added, "Jackie's perspective on the election actually let me know that while there is still a lot of work to be done, we as Independents are not losing ground and the letter we are sending to Donald Trump (see below) shows that independents are really hitting the ground running and that is inspiring to know."

You can listen to the [complete call here](#) or choose one of the segments below.

- [What happened on election day? What did the American people say?](#)
- [How can we have more developmental kinds of conversations about the current political environment?](#)
- [How did the independent candidates fare? Assessment of the ballot initiatives.](#)
- [Where do we go from here? How do we force the system to change so it's not rigged?](#)
- [Is it possible to get a serious presidential candidate to run as an independent in 2020? And what about the debates?](#)
- [What are the dynamics between a focus on winning local elections and focus on structural reform to make our elections fair?](#)
- [What to expect at the National Conference of Independents on March 18, 2017 in NYC?](#)

You can read Salit's post-election analysis here: [Revolts, Reforms and Divides: An Independent Look at the 2016 Presidential Election](#)

[Independents Send Letter to President-Elect Trump](#)

Several hundred independents signed on to a letter co-authored by Jackie Salit and chair of Independent Ohio, Rick Robol to President-elect Trump to recommending immediate steps to attend to the problem of partisanship in government.

Dear President-Elect Trump:

We represent the interests of independent voters throughout the United States. Please accept our congratulations on your election. We wish you success in achieving the goal of fixing our nation's "rigged" political and electoral infrastructure. Throughout the campaign, many Americans-whether they voted for you or not-expressed their urgent wish to see our political system put in the hands of the people, not the special interests, be they financial, partisan or ideological. We believe that reforming our political system and revitalizing our democracy is key to solving our nation's profound problems.

[Read the full letter here.](#)

[ASU Morrison Institute and IndependentVoting: On the Cutting Edge at the "State of Our State"](#)

IndependentVoting.org President Jackie Salit appeared with Thom Reilly, Director of Arizona State University's Morrison Institute of Public Policy, on KJZZ radio and **PBS TV** in Phoenix in the run-up to the Institute's annual signature event, the "State of Our State."

The changing electorate in Arizona and around the country was this year's focus – including the specific impact of independent voters.

The ASU Morrison Institute of Public Policy used the occasion to unveil the findings of "Voter Social Networks and New Sources: Silos and Bridges," a new survey on social networks and social media use, which tracked how information is gathered by voters and how it differs among Republicans, Democrats and independents. The study also explored voters' interactions within their social networks, and the impact of independents in those social networks.



Salit and Reilly with host Ted Simons on Arizona Horizon



"Give me a headline on this report. What do we take from this?" asked *Arizona Horizon* host Ted Simons. "Independents are going to lead us to a new American political culture," said Salit.

This year's event was co-sponsored by IndependentVoting.org and the Citizens Clean Elections Commission.

Amendment V Garners 45% of the Vote

Amendment V, the South Dakota initiative for nonpartisan primaries, was narrowly defeated (55-45%), but not without making important inroads. The campaign was the first time the League of Women Voters has endorsed an initiative for nonpartisan elections, and the vote total surpassed the 30% ceiling of support that many similar campaigns in other states have hit.

Rick Knobe, Chair of the Vote Yes on V campaign, had this to say:

"Change is a hard thing to accomplish, and tonight's result for Amendment V proves that. We thank the Campaign members and volunteers, and especially the 157,844 South Dakotans who declared themselves part of a movement to fix our broken politics by voting Yes on V."

"During the campaign, voters continually expressed that they had been unaware how our political process filled most legislative seats without a competitive election, and how 120,000 independent voters had little voice. Our coalition of Republicans, Democrats, and independents appreciated the chance to advance the dialogue with South Dakota voters on what kind of political system we want for ourselves and our children."

"Unfortunately, those inequities in our election system remain, as they do in most states across America. This movement to empower voters will not be defined by any single election or event, and we pledge to continue to fight for the future of South Dakota and America. In the days and weeks ahead, our coalition will carefully examine the best way forward to give every voter a voice. Stay tuned."



Independents at Take Back Democracy March in Washington, DC

Several weeks ago, Independent Ohio's Rick Robol and I (Gwen Mandell) were invited to speak at the Take Back Democracy March in Washington DC. We were joined by Paul Calvanelli of Pennsylvania and Steve Richardson of Virginia and spent the day speaking with march participants (most of whom were there because they were angry about the failure of our democracy). We collected 110 signatures on a petition calling on CNN/MSNBC to host an independent debate.

Check out our remarks on this video



Profiles in Independence:

Rachael Briley, Sillsbee, Texas

Rachael Briley is a new member of IndependentVoting.org who met us during the Bernie Sanders campaign.

" I consider myself to be an ordinary person who enjoyed a childhood full of what I would refer to as kitchen table politics. Our family discussed and dissected regularly the promises and pitfalls of the two party system. However, as an adult I now find it difficult, if not impossible, to tease out differences between the two and can no longer find an ideological home among them to call my own. Like most Americans, I have become disillusioned with the choices being put before us.



I don't envision the solution to be a third party, but rather a one-party system in which everyone belongs to the independent movement of thought. I believe when given a path to real choice, people will make up their own mind for the greater good, not for the enrichment of the few.

Among the lessons I learned in all those dinnertime debates is: What one thinks is irrelevant compared to How one thinks. IndependentVoting.org is a forward-facing vehicle to encourage just that. IndependentVoting.org can draw in and mobilize people who see themselves as ordinary but in action are capable of the extraordinary. People who have never engaged in political activism are precisely who we need now more than ever and I am excited to see the political change I know in my heart we are ready for and capable of accomplishing together."

In the News

- Check out Dr. Omar Ali, "**Democracy and the Pitfall of Party Politics**," on Greensboro, North Carolina's NPR affiliate, *WFDD*.
- Election 2016: "**Colorado Voters Embrace Open Primary Elections**" (*Denver Business Journal*) discusses the victory of Propositions 107 and 108.

- "[Apparently Millenials Don't Vote Out of Fear](#)," by Chad Peace (IVN)
- "[Where the Third Party Votes were Strongest](#)" (*Reason*)

Save the date!

2017 National Conference of Independents

sponsored by  **IndependentVoting.org**

IndependentVoting.org's
Ninth Biennial
National Conference of
Independents

**Saturday, March 18th
New York City**

FOR MORE INFO:
National@IndependentVoting.org



[Register for the National Conference of Independents here](#)

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[View coverage of past conferences](#)

[Are you a member of IndependentVoting.org?](#)

We are the grassroots-fueled movement that believes if we're going to get forward-looking policies and develop our country, then we have to change the way our political process functions. Your membership connects you to a national grassroots network working on these critical issues in every state of the country and strengthens our ability to force the process open.

Membership is a one-time \$10 fee (or you can become a sponsor for \$100 which includes membership and a \$90 donation).

[Click here to join today!](#)

And help expand additional outreach on social media by making a donation to our advertising campaign. Every \$100 you give allows us to engage 4,500 people with our message on Facebook. [Please Donate here](#). Thanks for your generous support!

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