Adolfo Carrion. John Olumba. Two significant former Democrats, now Independents - Carrion in New York City, Olumba in Detroit, Michigan. They are running for mayor as independents in races that have the potential to shake up the partisan status quo.

Last week, IndependentVoting.org’s Jackie Salit appeared on Fairness Radio (where she’s a monthly contributor) to talk about how important it is to challenge the Democratic Party’s longstanding control over inner cities and communities of color. "The more that voters who tend to vote party line start to do new things, the more it will start to shake up some things. It’s going to set up a very important conversation and debate, even a clash, between a new kind of progressivism that is looking to throw off the yolk of partisanship and the control the Democratic Party has, and that’s prepared to take on the issue of poverty, not just accept it as a permanent feature of life in these communities."

Listen to the full show here or on IndependentVoting.org’s facebook page.

Last week, Pennsylvania had a primary and the state’s one million independent voters were locked out from participating. Editorials were written in dozens of papers including this piece that quoted Independent Pennsylvania founder Jennifer Bullock. Independent Pennsylvania has been leading a legislative and educational effort to open the primaries in Pennsylvania.

Tweet of the Week

Bipartisan is not nonpartisan. Obama did not take a risk. http://m.usatoday.com/article/news/2347695 ...
importance of promoting nonpartisan political reform.

In Sarasota, FL, a local civic group, Open Our Elections, has come together to launch a ballot referendum to amend the Sarasota Charter to provide for non-partisan elections for all elected county offices. Read about it here. There's a lot of talk about bringing non-partisan reform to Florida and this is a step in the right direction. Duane Pike of Florida IndependentVoting.org connected with the group and is committed to bringing non-partisan reform to the entire state.

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