



Jackie Salit, Wayne Griffin,  
Rep. Joe Neal

**Big news...**the Republican Party of South Carolina has formally withdrawn from a lawsuit seeking to enact closed primaries. *"We're glad to see the State Republican Party come to its senses,"* said Jackie Salit, President of IndependentVoting.org (pictured at left with co-interveners Wayne Griffin and Rep. Joe Neal). *"Locking out independent voters to control nominations sends the wrong message. I invite the State GOP to now join our coalition of interveners which is asking the Court to lay this reactionary boondoggie to rest."* **Read the full press release [here](#).**



**Tisha Le Rose**, the Albuquerque-based founder of **Independent Voters of New Mexico**, has started a petition in favor of top two non-partisan primaries. If you're from New Mexico, please [sign the petition](#), and if you know anyone in New Mexico, make sure to pass it on to them!

Next week, the Santa Fe County Democratic Party will sponsor a forum to focus on whether the New Mexico Democratic Party should open its primary elections to independents. In April, **Fred Nathan**, director of [Think New Mexico](#), began [lobbying the chairs](#) of both parties to do so. He will be attending the forum.



The [Massachusetts Coalition of Independent Voters](#) has launched an expansion campaign. *"Our organization has been around for 9 years and the number of independents have exploded. It's now 52% of the electorate in Massachusetts! We want to meet new independents here in Boston and throughout the state and get them involved in our work to democratize our political system,"* said co-founder Evelyn Dougherty.

Pictured are **Ellen Ronayne, Steve Savrann, Evelyn Dougherty** and **Diane Whitehouse** of MCOIV, who spent last Saturday afternoon phone banking to meet independents.

Maine activist **Joe Pickering** is on a mission. He wants to educate every elected official in his state about the barriers faced by independent voters. Last week, he visited with **Congressman Mike Michaud** of the 2nd District and briefed him on our interest in having Congressional hearings on the second class status of independents. Great job Joe!



Randy Miller, PJ Steiner

In the last several weeks, there has been a media flurry on open primaries in Utah. Here are three articles on the subject: [We Need Real Primaries in Utah](#), by **Tiani X Coleman**; former Senator **Robert Bennett's** article, [Utah could learn from California](#); and a letter to the editor, [Utah Needs an Open Primary Election](#). The [Utah League of Independent Voters \(ULIV\)](#), led by **Randy Miller** and **PJ Steiner**, is working to make open primaries a reality in the Gem State.



Petitioning training at Carrion Headquarters

[Adolfo Carrion](#), former Bronx Borough President and former Director of the White House Office of Urban Affairs, is running for Mayor of New York City as an independent. Last Monday, volunteers began to petition to place his name on the [New York City Independence Party](#) line for the November election. Mr. Carrion has a deep commitment to urban development and his decision to run as an independent grew out of his recognition that the partisan orthodoxy in NYC was impeding much needed innovation and out-of-the-box thinking about poverty, job creation, and education reform.



John-Mark Hack (r) with chef Rick Paul, owner of the "White Lite Diner"

[Independent Kentucky](#) activist **Mark Ritter** is excited about a local campaign. *"I'm supporting [John-Mark Hack](#), an independent candidate for the Kentucky state representative in the special election on June 25. I got involved because it's an opportunity to build the independent movement and support a candidate who offers something more than partisan politics. We need new ways of managing public policy!"*

Mr. President, Tear Down This Wall!

There is a wall that separates independent voters and keeps us on the outside looking in. The President's new Commission to improve elections can change all that.



Join Jackie Salit, President of IndependentVoting.org, on a national conference call on **Tuesday, June 25th** to join our campaign to pressure the Commission and make independents powerful.

**Date: Tuesday, June 25**

**Time: 8 pm ET, 7 pm CT, 6 pm MT, 5 pm PT.**

**[Register for the Conference Call Today](#)**

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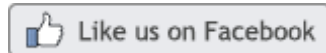


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