

independentvoting.org

The Hub

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MAINE: BREAKING THE POLITICAL ICE

Maine is a state with a long and proud tradition of independent thinking and maverick politics. An important conversation about the need for political reform, and in particular top two nonpartisan elections, has been developing in Bangor. The Bangor Rotary Club is a meeting place where political candidates and public figures come to share their message. Recently Rep. Joe Brooks and IndependentVoting.org activist Joe Pickering (left) have engaged numerous speakers about their position on bringing nonpartisan primaries to Maine.



Joe Pickering, Rep. Joe Brooks and Barbara McDade, President of the League of Women Voters

Congressman Mike Michaud said he wants to "examine all election laws if and when he gets elected." Congressional candidate Emily Cain also said she'd "consider" supporting open primaries, and independent candidate for Governor Elliot Cutler **came out publicly** for a change in Maine's voting system. While Pickering and Brooks are making hay within the state, IndependentVoting.org volunteers are polling independent voters in Maine and 79.5% of them say they want to see the state adopt a top two nonpartisan primary system.

Make sure to read the *Bangor Daily News* editorial by Pickering (co-authored by the Election Reform Committee of IndependentVoting.org of which Pickering is a member) "Two-Party System Disempowers Voters: Independent Voters' Rise will Bring Back Balance." [Read the editorial here.](#)

VOTING RIGHTS ARE PRIMARY CAMPAIGN IN FLORIDA

Panama City independent leader Steve Hough was interviewed in an article in the *Broward/PalmBeach New Times*, "**Should Registered Independents Be Allowed to Vote in the Primaries.**" Orlando activist Jarell Corley had his letter to the editor published in the *Ft. Myers Beach Observer* and Ray Hudkins, a resident of Pensacola and spokesperson for **Florida Independent Voting** had his editorial "**Why I can't Vote in Florida's Primary Elections**" published in several papers prior to primary day. The three then led pickets on primary day and were joined by Denise Scott in Panama City and Gordon Knowles in Pensacola as part of

IndependentVoting.org's **Voting Rights Are Primary** campaign.

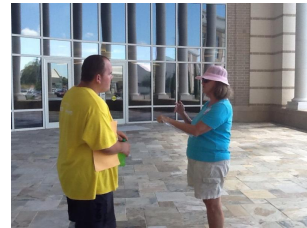
They surveyed voters, took the temperature for support of a top two nonpartisan primary initiative in Florida and signed up voters who were interested in supporting their efforts to put an end to closed primaries. Congratulations to all for boldly making a statement that independents are organizing in Florida and will not be deterred by the mountain of barriers designed to lock us out of the process. Said Steve Hough, *"The overwhelming majority supported the idea of allowing everyone the right to vote in the primaries."*



Jarell Corley



Steve Hough



Denise Scott

YES ON 90 CAMPAIGN IN OREGON

The call for open primaries in Oregon is growing:

- KGW-TV posted a piece about why the major parties are so dead set against Oregon voters having a right to participate in all aspects of the election. [Read the story here.](#)
- In a [letter to the editor](#) in Salem's paper-of-record the *Statesman-Journal*, Stuart Hirsch adeptly characterized the dilemma of the two major parties: *"The real reasons the major parties don't like the top-two primary is that it would disrupt the status quo, which currently disenfranchises thousands of Oregonians who choose not to align with either major party. These parties like closed primaries because they can appeal to their narrow special supporters."*
- **Independent Voters of Oregon** (IVOO) vocalized the sentiment of ordinary independents across the state in a powerful endorsement statement of the **Yes on 90** measure that will appear in the Oregon Voters's Election Guide. [Read the full endorsement statement here.](#)



CALIFORNIA RALLIES FOR OREGON TOP TWO

California voters will be rallying support for Oregon's Vote Yes on 90. On September 7, California's [IndependentVoice.org](#) is organizing an independent voter activist conference call to talk

about how California activists can help their fellow westerners pass top two in Oregon. Said IndependentVoice Director Jason Olson in an email announcing the call, "*An Oregon win would have significant national implications in the fight to take back the country from the political parties. Oregon joining Washington and California in passing a nonpartisan primary would create a 'unified western front' against partisanship stretching from Mexico to Canada.... There's a lot at stake, and the voters of Oregon need our help.*"

Californians can register to join the call [here](#).



Olson talks about top two in talk at recent Western meeting



Please join
IndependentVoting.org's President Jackie Salit
for the next national conference call

Eligible to Play? Independents Push the Boundaries of Political Play.
A report from the nonpartisan front lines

Tuesday, September 16
8pm ET
(7pm CT, 6pm MT, 5pm PT)

Register here for the call

Tune in to hear a timely report from IndependentVoting.org's president on exciting new developments in our movement!

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Give us a call today!

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