

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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CAN INDEPENDENTS REFORM AMERICA?

INDEPENDENT ACTIVISTS FROM ACROSS U.S.A GATHER AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK CITY TO DISCUSS

New York, NY—As the political influence of independent voters grows, the premier organization representing the political rights and interests of independents will convene in New York City at a national conference on Saturday, February 12th, 2011 from 9:30 am – 5:00 pm at Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, NYU, to discuss strategies and means of further increasing the political power of independent voters.

The conference is hosted by IndependentVoting.org and its president Jackie Salit, a well known figure in the national independent political movement. Salit also managed the Independence Party campaigns for Mike Bloomberg's three mayoral bids.

Several hundred activists from 40 states will attend the conference. Speakers include:

- Omar Ali – Author, historian, board member IndependentVoting.org
- John Avlon – *CNN* contributor, senior political columnist *The Daily Beast*
- Theresa Amato - Executive Director, Citizen Works.
- Jennifer Bullock - Co-Founder, Independent Pennsylvania
- Kathleen Curry - Former Speaker Pro Tem, Colorado House of Representatives
- Lenora Fulani – Co-Founder, IndependentVoting.org
- Wayne Griffin – Chair, Independence Party of South Carolina
- Michael Hardy - Founding member and general counsel, National Action Network
- Harry Kresky – General counsel, IndependentVoting.org
- Michael Lewis - Founder, Independent Kentucky
- Jim Mangia – President & CEO, St. Johns Well Child and Family Center
- Fred Newman – Founder, Independence Party of New York, IndependentVoting.org strategist, author *End of Knowing*
- Joelle Riddle – Founder, Independent Voters for Colorado, former County Commissioner
- Douglas Schoen – Pollster, political strategist, author *Declaring Independence: The Beginning of the End of the Two-Party System.*
- Bradley Tusk – Founder, Tusk Strategies

The Skirball Center is the premier venue for the presentation of cultural and performing arts events for NYU and lower Manhattan. The programs of the Skirball Center reflect NYU's mission as an international center of scholarship, defined by excellence and innovation and shaped by an intellectually rich and diverse environment. Since 2003, the 860-seat Center has provided a unique venue for enhancing a sense of community while continuing the Greenwich Village traditions of (*OVER*)

creativity and artistic discover with a broad range of compelling performance events at affordable ticket prices. Led by Executive Producer Jay Oliva (President Emeritus, NYU) and Director Michael Harrington, a natural and vial aspect of the Center's mission is to build young adult audiences for the future of live performance. www.skirballcetner.nyu.edu

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

8:30 am
Registration

9:30 am
Welcoming Remarks
Omar Ali, Michael Lewis, Lenora Fulani

Can Independents Reform America?
A multi-media presentation by Jackie Salit
President, IndependentVoting.org

Dispatches from the Movement

Special Edition of Talk/Talk
Fred Newman, Jackie Salit

Dispatches from the Movement

Report from the Director of Development
John Opdycke with Wayne Griffin, South Carolina Independence Party; Joelle Riddle,
Independent Voters for Colorado; Michael Lewis, Independent Kentucky.

Breaking into a Partisan System
Panel discussion moderated by Jackie Salit and Harry Kresky, IndependentVoting.org general
counsel. Panelists: Theresa Amato, John Avlon, Michael Hardy, Lenora Fulani, Jim Mangia,
Douglas Schoen, Cathy Stewart and Bradley Tusk.

LUNCH

Dispatches from the Movement

Abraham Lincoln Birthday Commemoration
Introduced by David Cherry, United Independents of Illinois

Audience Discussion
Moderated by Lenora Fulani, Harry Kresky and Jackie Salit

Mock Trial: *The Parties vs. The People*
NYC Councilmember Leroy Comrie, Kathleen Curry, Michael Hardy, Harry Kresky,
Lawrence Mandelker, Larry Reinsch and special surprise witness.

Mock Trial Discussion
Panel discussion moderated by Cathy Stewart and Jason Olson.

5:00 pm
Adjourn