

independentvoting.org The **Hub**

August 18, 2017

IN THE AFTERMATH....

The events in Charlottesville are prompting many Americans to speak out against racism, Naziism, anti-Semitism and KKKism. All to the good as our country has struggled since its birth to become a unified nation based on liberty and justice with malice toward none. We can never re-enforce those principles too much.

These issues are far too serious to be used as a partisan (including intra-Republican and intra-Democratic) football by a political class that has justifiably lost the confidence and trust of the American people. Everyone in the bipartisan corridors of power is scrambling to be politically correct, or to be politically incorrect, depending on how they calculate their electoral futures. Let's not fall for that game, even as we deplore violence and hatred from the bottom of our hearts.



Jackie Salit
President, Independent Voting

Independents at Harlem Week

Harlem Week, an annual celebration held in Harlem, New York, kicked off on Sunday, July 30th with a team of independents working the crowd, including Alvaader Frazier, Caitlyn Parsons, Barbara Okishoff, Tom Williams, Jessica Marta, Richard Kirkpatrick, David Belmont, Lou Hinman, and Dr. Jessie Fields. Equipped with a questionnaire from Independent Voting focused on elections and the African American community, the team surveyed 60 attendees.



Dr. Jessie Fields and

Alvaader Frazier organized the team on behalf of the New York City Independence Clubs.

Explained Fields: *"Doing the survey allowed us to share several important trends among African American voters that the media has not fully covered such as recent poll results that 63% of African Americans feel taken for granted by the Democratic Party and that in last year's presidential election a million fewer African Americans voted for the Democratic Party nominee Hillary Clinton than voted for President Obama in 2012. The survey opens up conversations about important political questions the African American community needs to consider and what the Black communities' political options are in the post- Obama era."*

Added Frazier, *"This survey allows us to slow down and have a more serious, deeper and longer conversation, which creates more opportunity for the African American communities to understand our worth and choose the independent political alternative and options."*

Caitlyn Parsons, a student intern with Independent Voting, traveled from upstate Scotia, New York to work with the team. *"I found most people unified around the issue of reforming our political process. Some of our conversations were eye-opening for me, and I'd like to think that some things I shared with others about the independent movement were eye-opening for them as well."*

The New York City Independence Clubs are continuing to do outreach with the survey and will be back on the streets this coming weekend for the conclusion of Harlem week and at a concert series in Brooklyn later this month. Independent Voting will be launching an online component of the survey soon. Stay tuned!

Survey Highlights:

- 35% said the black community had not benefited from its loyalty to the Democratic Party. Another 35% said the community had initially benefited, but no longer did.

- 83% were in favor of the black community speaking out to demand primary reform.
- 73% said bringing independent voting alternatives to the black community is important.

Independents Meet up in Chicago



Jarell Corley of Chicago, Illinois reports:

On August 5, 2017, David Cherry (Independent Voting spokesperson and longtime Chicago activist), and I hosted a meeting with other independent leaders at the Skyway Bowl in the Chicagoland area. Tio Hardiman and Lawrence Redmond were among the attendees. The meeting was an introduction among potential partners and a reuniting of old friends.

Mr. Hardiman is running in the Democratic Primary for Governor of Illinois for the second time. In 2014, Mr. Hardiman won 30 percent of the vote. He understands the progressive movement and believes in the importance of the independent voter.

Lawrence Redmond is a friend to the independent movement who worked alongside David during the 1990s in the Patriot Party, a precursor to the Reform Party which entered the historical stage when Ross Perot ran as an independent. He is a member of the Harold Washington Party, and is trying to rejuvenate some independent activist movements on Chicago's South Side.

One of the main takeaways from this meeting was Mr. Hardiman's support for our movement. He is on board with political reform and believes the progressive and independent movements could create a synergy to influence elections. This realization has made him a partner in our quest to transform our democracy so that the people control the process.

Mr. Redmond built coalitions across Chicago that helped Harold Washington get elected as Chicago's first African American mayor in 1983. His goal is to unite the gangs and possibly run a slate in the upcoming Mayoral election here in Chicago.

Some interesting things are taking place in Chicago and the people have a choice as to whether they participate. With the right movements, independents could be a great game changer. We the voters have more power than we think. It will just take the right efforts in the right places to gain momentum.

Should the U.S. Get Rid of Political Parties?

"The bottom line problem we have is not polarization. What we have now is too much power in the political parties."

So says former Congressman Mickey Edwards in this short video for *The Atlantic* magazine

during the 2017 Aspen Ideas Festival.

"In nothing else in our lives do we say 'we're going to solve our problems by dividing into rival teams, each out to destroy the other. It's an absurd proposition. It's a dumb way to try to run a government.'"

Edwards is author of the 2014 book ***How to Turn Republicans and Democrats into Americans***. He and Jackie Salit appeared together for a [CSPAN broadcast](#) of Independent Voting's Politics for the People book club in 2012 and later at a Morrison Institute forum on "[Taking the Partisan out of Politics](#)."



Watch the full video.

Rep. John Delaney Announces 2020 Presidential Candidacy

The 2020 presidential election has its first announced candidate, and he supports nonpartisan primary reform in all states: U.S. Rep. John Delaney (D-MD). Delaney officially announced he is running for the Democratic nomination in three years, explaining in an interview that he sees "no downside in getting in early" and spending the time to build his name Identification.



Delaney is the author of the Open Our Democracy Act, the bill which calls for nonpartisan open primaries, making election day a holiday and establishing independent redistricting commissions.

"The partisanship that is going on right now at the national level is really preventing us from doing anything and it's a huge problem and it's hurting the American people."

Read more here



Since the bill was first introduced in 2015, thousands of independents and reform-minded Americans have signed on to a letter in support of the bill. **Please sign and share the letter today.**

Upcoming Event

Jackie Salit will appear with Howard Dean, the former Vermont Governor, presidential candidate and Democratic National Committee Chair to discuss "The Future of American Political Parties" at an event sponsored by the American Public Square and held at the Harry S. Truman Library & Museum at the University of Missouri in Independence, Missouri.

The engagement will take place from 6 - 8 pm on Monday, October 16, 2017 and will be moderated by Alan Katz, the United States Ambassador to Portugal (2010-2013) and University of Missouri Kansas City Distinguished Professor. Two additional panelists will join Salit and Dean for the discussion. A reception from 5 - 6 pm precedes the discussion.



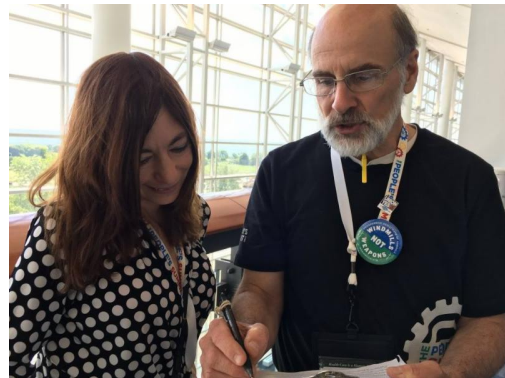
Katz founded American Public Square in 2013. Prior speakers have included national figures such as Kathleen Sebelius, John Danforth, and Kris Kobach; experts from groups such as the American Enterprise Institute, the Cato Institute, the Center for American Progress, and the National Council of La Raza; community figures such as Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, Rep. Kevin Yoder, U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom, Mayor Sly James, Councilwoman Jolie Justus, and the Rev. Adam Hamilton; and thousands of residents from throughout Kansas City.

Profiles in Independence

Katie Connor, Hamilton, OH

I am Katie Connor, a long time political, community, and labor organizer. I became involved in organizing efforts in college when I took on leadership positions with my Kiwanis Club, as chair of the scholarship committee, as a fundraiser, and a mentor to youth at a local elementary school. During this time, I also volunteered on several campaigns. After college, I worked on many campaigns, both partisan and issue-based as a full time staffer.

I first heard of Independent Voting when a friend invited me to join a conference call with Jackie Salit. I was so impressed with the political vision of this organization that I decided to travel to New York City for the National Conference. I later joined Independent Voting at the People's Summit in Chicago to assist with a survey of participants about their vision of the future of politics and the viability of the two major parties, and their feelings about the potential creation of a new People's Party.



In the News

- Read "[Independent Voters Have Second Class Status in American Democracy](#)" by

John Opdycke, President of Open Primaries. Opdycke responds to the Joe Scarborough (*Morning Joe*) announcement that he is becoming an independent. (*The Hill*)

- Dr. Jessie Fields penned "**Leadership By Example.**" In it, she says "*Designing health care by balancing the ideological positions of the senators whose political party controls Congress is a fundamentally flawed approach to public policy.*" (*Amsterdam News*)
- "**Study: Shift away from party loyalty among working-class voters set stage for Trump's victory.**" Johns Hopkins experts examine trends in political affiliation in lead-up to 2016 election (*JHU Hub*)
- "**Election Reformers Gather to 'Unrig the System' in Colorado.**" Leaders from several election reform organizations met in Denver, Colorado, at "Unrig the System," an event aimed at educating the state's residents on how to effect change in their own backyard. (*IVN*)
- Read former State Senator Marvin Singleton's commentary: "**We Must Change our Election Primary Systems to Save Our Democracy.**" (*Kansas City Star*)



Political Parties: Are They Absolute or Obsolete?

Sunday, September 17th

4:00 pm ET

(3:00 pm CT, 2:00 pm MT, 1:00 pm PT)

[Register for the call here](#)

Have a question that you'd like Jackie Salit to address?
Send your question to national@independentvoting.org

or submit when registering for the call.

* * *

Read Jacqueline Salit's "[Finding Otherness: A Blueprint for an Independent Conversation about 2020](#)"

Ms. Salit's blueprint is comprehensive and well-informed. A must read for anyone challenging the entrenched system.

-- Chad Peace, Attorney for the
Independent Voter Project

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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Give us a call today!

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