

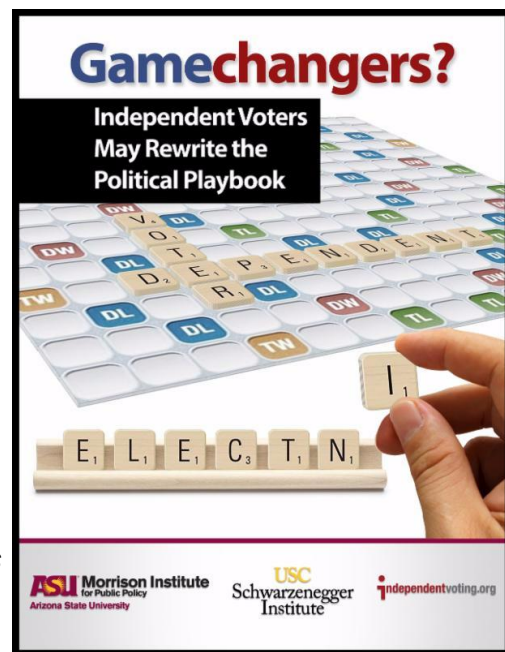


October 12, 2017

## Gamechangers: ASU, USC and Independent Voting Release Groundbreaking Study of Independents

Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University and the Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy teamed up with Independent Voting to examine the independent voter phenomenon and the impact that it is having on the American political landscape. Their findings have been outlined in the briefing paper, "Gamechangers? Independent Voters May Rewrite the Political Playbook," released last week and noted in *POLITICO*'s "California 'Playbook.'"

*"Like Einstein's theory of relativity or Galileo's insistence that the earth revolves around the sun, new ways of seeing the dynamics of our world can be gamechanging,"* said Jackie Salit, President of Independent Voting. *"In our work with USC's Schwarzenegger Institute and ASU's Morrison Institute, we're showing the world new ways of seeing the independent voter. This will have a dramatic impact on the politics of our country."*



Former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger added, *"The rising number of voters in the United States who are registering and identifying as 'independent' is a very important phenomenon and is already impacting local, state and national elections. Understanding who these voters are and what they care about is essential to a strong democracy, and I am proud to have my Institute involved with this study."*

[Read Independent Voter Network's story about Gamechangers](#)

[Download Game Changers here.](#)

## Political Parties: Are They Absolute or Obsolete?

Listen to our most recent Conference Call

Two hundred activists from 38 states participated in the last Independent Voting conference call entitled "Political Parties: Are they Absolute or Obsolete?" Independent Voting President Jackie Salit responded to challenging questions sent in by independents around the country and commented:

*"I don't think the parties are any longer tools for expressing popular will," she said, "but also, it is important to look at the fact that that was the message of so much of what happened in the 2016 presidential election. Many parts of the American public rose up against the establishment of both parties. The American people have lost trust and confidence in the parties."*

*"When we talk about politics of otherness," she added, "we're talking about creating new kinds of activities, new ways of talking and new ways to exercise political power."*



[Listen to the complete call here](#) or choose one of the following segments:

- [The nature of political parties: Are parties the problem?](#)
- [The philosophy of our movement: Who are we and what do we believe?](#)
- [The politics of otherness \(How do we have an impact? How do we unify as a movement?\)](#)
- [2018 and 2020: Is there a way of organizing, electing, publicizing and campaigning for candidates other than through political parties? If so, how? And how can we assure that the elections we do have are fair and democratic?](#)
- [The fight for political reform, open primaries and nonpartisan elections](#)
- [How would you recommend people become active in building the independent movement?](#)

Please share the call with others. Think of at least one person and send a personal note about why you think they should listen to it. Then invite them to join you for the next call!

Independent Voting's next conference call will take place Sunday, November 12 at 5pm ET. [Sign up here.](#)

## The Neo-Independent: Making Sense of the Senseless

"More and more, that's what families are called upon to do - make sense of the senseless - whether in Las Vegas or Charleston or Dallas, in refugee camps, in post-hurricane wreckage, in an undeclared war, or in the centuries-old aftershocks of slavery or colonial exploitation."

Jackie Salit writes monthly for the Independent Voter Network.



[Read her October column here.](#)

## New York City Independence Clubs Host the 17th Annual

## Anti-Corruption Awards

The New York City Independence Club hosted the 17th Annual Anti-Corruption Awards, entitled ***Builders for the Future***, on October 2 in Manhattan. The fundraiser and awards ceremony honors those risk-takers and truth-tellers who are leading the fight for structural reform and a change in our political culture by fighting political corruption.

Honorees included:

**Ronald Topping**, President of the John Adams Tenants Association in the Bronx and spokesman for Committee for Independent Community Action (CICA).



Awardees and presenters (L to R): Michael Drucker, Cathy Stewart, Chad Peace, Alvaader Frazier, Harry Kresky, Ronald Topping, Stephanie Harris, Dee Clayton, Jackie Salit, Steve Hough, Allen Cox, Kipp Lyle, Dr. Lenora Fulani

**Steve Hough**, Director of Florida Fair and Open Primaries (FFAOP) and leader of the campaign to lobby the Florida Constitution Revision Commission to put a Top Two Nonpartisan Primary initiative on the 2018 ballot.

**Chad Peace**, Founder and President of IVC Media LLC and a nationally recognized leader in election law and voter rights.

**Bonnie Reiss**, Global Director, USC Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy.

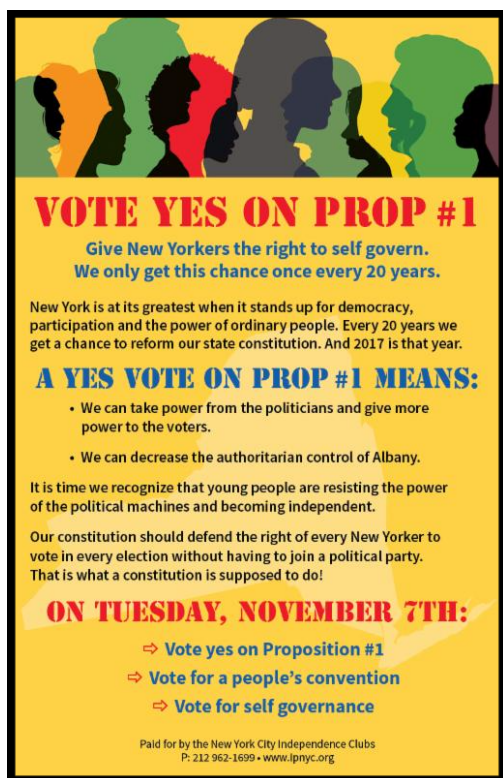
**Kipp Lyle** and **Dee Clayton** were also honored with the Nicholas S. Johnson Independent Spirit Award. The award is named after former Bronx Chair Nicholas Johnson who was a dedicated leader of the New York City independence organizations, a union activist and a passionate advocate for the development of new independent leaders.

One hundred and twenty-five supporters attended the annual fundraiser, cocktail reception and awards ceremony, which was dedicated this year to the people of Puerto Rico and Las Vegas. Guests donated items to add to relief supplies being sent to Puerto Rico. Carmen Quinones, President of the Frederick Douglas Tenant Association, gave a first-hand account of the recent hurricane.

Priscilla Grimm from Citizen's Union and Minista Jazz from the New York People's Convention joined Cathy Stewart to motivate the house to work for a "yes" vote on a November ballot question for a Constitutional Convention in New York State.

The New York City Independence Clubs are working with a vibrant coalition of organizations and leaders to mobilize support for the measure, which would allow the voters of New York to revise the state constitution. You can read more about the New York City Independence Clubs' involvement [here](#). As Cathy Stewart put it, "This is a 'no brainer.' Let's see, do we want to take power from the politicians and give more power to the voters? Do we want to self-govern? Do we want our constitution to defend the right of every New Yorker to vote without having to join a political party? Do we want housing guaranteed as a right?"

For more information on New York's ConCon campaign, contact Cathy Stewart at [cathy.stewart5@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.stewart5@gmail.com).



## Endgame in Florida Campaign to Pressure Constitutional Revision Commission

**Steve Hough, Director and Spokesperson for Florida Fair and Open Elections (FFAOE) penned a note to Independent Voting's network in Florida describing the endgame on the campaign that he and activists around the state have been waging for a good part of this year. Here is an excerpt from his report:**

I want to thank everyone so much for all we have accomplished together over the past seven months!

Scores of people spoke in favor of open primaries at nine public hearings the Florida Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) held across the state. Hundreds more sent written statements to the commission, and some wrote letters to the editor of their local newspapers. Thousands signed an online petition, which I presented to the Ethics and Elections Committee this past Wednesday morning.

Two days earlier, on Monday October 2, the CRC approved October 17 as the deadline for members to submit drafts of their sponsored proposals. Beyond that date, and until October 31, proposals will only be accepted in final form.

We are in the endgame!

Our best chance of obtaining a sponsor for our proposal #700575 is persuading a CRC commissioner on the Ethics and Elections Committee. Of those I was able to address, two are sponsoring a different amendment which merely closes the abominable write-in loophole. Another questioned which version of an open primary would be most efficient. I suggested a top-two open primary was that version.

Will you send a short email to each of the nine committee members?

It can be as short as simply saying "I support Proposal 700575." You can then copy and paste it into each member's contact sheet. Let's turn up the heat.





Below are links to review our proposal and for contacting individual committee members.

By demonstrating a united front in support of electoral reform, we can move the needle.

In solidarity,

Steve Hough  
Florida Fair and Open Primaries

<http://www.flcrc.gov/Committees/EE/>

<http://www.flcrc.gov/Proposals/Public/700575>

## Profiles in Independence

Nathan Leach, Lincoln, Nebraska

Nathan Leach is the co-founder of Nonpartisan Nebraska, a new grassroots group dedicated to preserving non-partisanship in the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature. The Nebraska Legislature is unique in this way. No other state has either a unicameral or a nonpartisan legislative body.

Leach is a 21 year old National Guardsman who lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. Born and raised in Kearney, Nebraska, he graduated from Kearney High School in 2015. After graduating, he spent a semester working in the Arizona State Senate where he saw firsthand how dysfunctional a partisan legislature can be. Everything lawmakers did was determined by the "D" or "R" next to their name, not what was best for their district or state.

That experience inspired Leach to volunteer for the 2016 statewide nonpartisan elections ballot initiative in South Dakota. Hoping to help spread the Nebraska nonpartisan system, he spoke to thousands of frustrated voters who couldn't participate in the primary elections they paid for.

Said Leach, "Through Nonpartisan Nebraska, I'm hoping to help strengthen nonpartisanship in my home state of Nebraska. Partisanship from Washington D.C. threatens to damage nonpartisan traditions that have been in place since 1937." Nathan says he's also encouraged by the recent announcement of a popular state senator, Sen. Bob Krist from Omaha, leaving the establishment parties to run as a third-party candidate in the upcoming 2018 Nebraska Governor's race.



Leach with Sen. Ernie Chambers, the longest serving Senator in Nebraska history

## In the News

A recent Harvard Business School study found that much of the voter dissatisfaction in the United States is directly related to a lack of genuine competition between Democrats and Republicans, according to an AP report detailed in this article, "**Dislike Our Political System? Then Work to Change It**" (*Democrat & Chronicle*)

Read the full Harvard business report, "Why Competition in the Politics Industry is Failing America: A Strategy for Reinvigorating Our Democracy," by Katherine M. Gehl and Michael E. Porter [here](#).

Andrea Christelle wrote "**Independents Resist Party Dogma and Political Extremism**," after attending a forum on independent voters sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Greater Verde Valley in Sedona. (*Arizona Daily Sun*)

Read "**It is Time for New Mexico Elections to Change**," an editorial by Abraham Sanchez, board member of New Mexico Open Primaries. (*NMPolitics.net*)

Andrew Huston, activist in Florida Fair and Open Elections says: "**Open up Florida's Closed Political System.**" (*The Gainesville Sun*)

Read "**Florida's Closed Primaries Confuse Voters, Broward Elections Head Tells State Committee.**" (*Orlando Sentinel*)

**Omaha Sen. Bob Krist announces his independent run for governor.** Krist said he was fed up with partisan bickering and changed his registration to nonpartisan. (*Lincoln Journal Star*)

United Independents of Illinois leader Jarell Corley wrote "**Party Politics is Killing State.**" (*Independent Voter Network*)

IVN reports on an important case on gerrymandering currently being heard in the United States Supreme Court in "**Voting Rights at Stake in Partisan Gerrymandering Case.**" (*Independent Voter Network*)

## Are you a member of Independent Voting?

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!

Gwen Mandell  
Director of National Outreach  
IndependentVoting.org  
800-288-3201

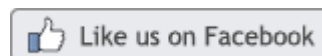
*Give us a call today!*

[gmandell@independentvoting.org](mailto:gmandell@independentvoting.org)

Share the Hub with friends and ask them to subscribe



STAY CONNECTED



IndependentVoting.org, 225 Broadway, Suite 2010, New York, NY 10007

SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)