



December 28, 2017

A Holiday Message from Jacqueline Salit, President Independent Voting

Best wishes for the New Year. My deepest thanks for all you do to strengthen our country's democratic system. We will continue our work at Independent Voting to assure that all Americans have the tools we need to come together. --Jacqueline Salit, President, Independent Voting



Dying Parties, (Very) Bad Behavior, and It's Still a Happy New Year

In the December edition of her column for the *Independent Voter Network*, Jackie Salit gives us good reason to say Happy New Year despite the gloomy political climate.

[Read the column here.](#)



Reflections and Resolutions: Holiday Messages from Independent Leaders Around the Country

Leaders from around the country share their thoughts, reflections, wishes and holiday messages, as 2017 comes to a close and we focus our energies on 2018.

Al Bell (Independents for Arizona): Americans have been engaged in the Great American Experiment for over 240 years. The democratic republic that defines how we manage our common endeavors is in serious trouble. As independent voters, we are a powerful force in reversing that decline. We do so as Americans, not partisans. We have already made a difference and there is more to come. We are in this for the long run. The long run is underway. Happy New Year!



Kim Wright (Independents for Arizona) - Wishing Independent Voters across the country a happy holiday season...challenging everyone to build coalitions and be active in the new year.

Randy Wilson (IndependentVoice.org - California) We're at an exciting and challenging moment heading into 2018! Here, in California, we'll be reaching out to



independents to learn how they want to impact the 2020 elections! Best Wishes for the coming year!



Jessie Singletary (Colorado) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was my largest influence growing up. He's one of the main reasons I joined the military I felt it was my job to spread his word of 'civil rights' which is something I care about deeply. I wanted to do everything I could to make sure people had those rights by fighting for them around the world.

Steve Hough (Director of Florida Fair and Open Elections):

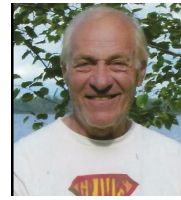
"As we say goodbye to 2017, our efforts remain focused on seeing the Florida Constitution Revision Commission forward an open primaries initiative to the 2018 ballot. In the coming year, we not only wish to continue making progress in Florida, but also hope independents experience a more inclusive electoral process nationwide."



Jarell Corley (United Independents of Illinois, Chicago), Rauner's making a list, the Democrats will check it twice. Trump's checking in to see whose naughty or nice. Poaaah li tics is ruining your town. The democrats rejection of open primaries isn't a surprise. They prefer a closed process where the party outweighs the influence of voters in elections. Support open primaries!

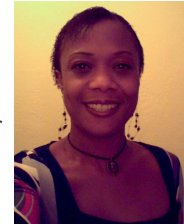
Joe Pickering Jr. and Dr. Robert Croce (Mainers for Open Elections): The Maine Legislature played The Grinch this

holiday season, denying the Maine Voters a referendum approval of RCV. They voted to delay implementation until 2021 and will repeal it entirely unless a Constitutional Amendment is passed. However, over 1600 volunteers in Maine are playing Santa with the WONDEROUS help of our Elves at Independent Voting by gathering signatures for a People's Veto to freeze in place RCV law for June 2018. What a gift to the people of Maine!!



Happy Holidays from **Massachusetts Coalition of Independent Voters** to others around the country! We are looking forward to an active year starting the Rules of Engagement Campaign, currently supporting our Maine neighboring state in the Rank Choice Voting People's Veto, and coalescing with other groupings in Massachusetts to bring out RCV here. These are our activities of building a new culture of politics which is so needed!!! Moving Forward, **Evelyn Dougherty**

Natesha Oliver (Missouri Independents Stand Together (M.I.S.T)): During this holiday season and as the year comes to an end, I am thinking about the progress I've had corresponding with elected officials in Missouri. Although their responses are not unexpected (partisans will be partisans), I'm glad to see that they are acknowledging that independents are more than a side conversation. I'm looking forward to continuing to grow our movement in the coming year.



Catana Barnes (Independent Voters of Nevada): My New Years resolution for 2018 is to do more political process education, write more about the independent movement and find new ways to connect with all voters. We are much stronger together than we are divided.

Sue Davies (Director, New Jersey Independent Voters): Happy Independent New Year from Jersey City, New Jersey! As we move into 2018, I wish for all of the American people to create a new dialogue and find new ways to speak to each other. Let's not let the partisanship of our parties, elected officials and media divide us. I look forward to rebuilding our political process, including ALL voices and creating new solutions.



Hugh Campbell (New Jersey Independent Voters): Best Wishes for a Healthy, Happy and Successful Activist Year in 2018! Activist Resolution for 2018: "To substantially narrow the Democracy Gap, i.e., the gap between the will of the people and the votes cast by our elected representatives to enact laws."

Tiani Coleman (Director, New Hampshire Independent Voters): 'Peace on Earth, Goodwill toward Men [and Women].' In many ways, that's what the Independent movement is all about . . . affirming the value of All, giving everyone a meaningful voice - liberty and equality.



Bob Perls (Former legislator and founder New Mexico Open Primaries): From the activists at New Mexico Open Primaries we wish everyone a Happy Holiday with the wish that all of us connect with one another in 2018. It is easy to forget that the work we do is all interconnected. With activists in all 50 states, our work in a single state has more impact with a greater likelihood of success.

Dr. Jessie Fields (Vice Chair, New York County Independence Clubs and Board Member of Independent Voting):

As 2018 nears, one is made to realize that the future is now. Now when people across the world and across America are in a condition of profound suffering those movements for people's democracy, for equality and fairness of which we are a part must renew hope and courage in the face of hopelessness. We independents have a leadership role to play in a country, America, which has a leadership role to play in giving voice to the suffering and to the hope. I am deeply honored to be part of this movement. To continued and even greater movement building, growth and development in 2018!



Caitlyn Parsons (Scotia, New York): Amidst the political turmoil of this past year, we have accomplished victories and suffered losses. Nevertheless, we continue to fight the good fight in the name of true democracy. This holiday season, let us cherish our friends and family amongst us and not lose sight of the importance of living in the present moment. Lots of love and light to all, and a happy new year !

Juliana Francisco (Brooklyn, New York):

Happy Holidays and best wishes to all! Next year I resolve to be a more loving and giving person.



Julie Leak (New York, NY):



This has been an interesting and somewhat troubling period. At church recently someone said to me "You and your people gave us Trump and now this tax plan, etc...." Took me somewhat by surprise but she was referring to my vote for Jill Stein. After all this time, people are still blaming those who voted for Stein, Trump, etc. rather than looking closely at Hillary, the DNC, process, etc. As for me, I am fortunate to have become engaged with Independent Voting and our efforts to change the process of politics in this

country so that gives me hope.

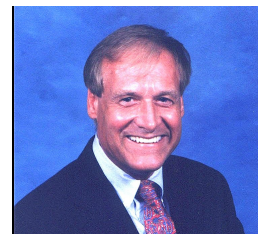


Dr. Omar H. Ali (North Carolina Independents): ¡Feliz Año nuevo! Que les traiga a todos éxito, felicidad, paz y prosperidad.



Cynthia Carpathios (Independent Voice of Ohio): On behalf of the builders of an Independent Voice of Ohio -- Best wishes to all Independents this holiday season. For the new year to come, we aspire that we may grow and develop outside of boxes and labels and categories -- outside of political parties and outside of the compartments in which it is so easy to be stuck in all aspects of our lives. May we be truly alive and may our aliveness transform the world.

Rick Robol (Independent Voice of Ohio): In 2017, the Independents Movement bore the fruit of a majority of Americans now identifying themselves as Independents-- who pledge their allegiance to our nation and the American people, instead of to an antiquated political party. Let's join together in 2018 and press forward to harvest these fruits by bringing an end to the corruption and partisanship in the government and putting power into the hands of the American people.



Hello and happy holiday season from Independent Pennsylvanians. "One new activist recently asked: 'how do I get things going in my area of the state', to which I replied 'meet up and keep meeting, keep talking together, keep coming up with ways to work together to make our election system fair to all!' - **Jennifer Bullock, Director Independent Pennsylvanians.**



Randy Miller (Utah League of Independent Voters):

Greetings from Utah to our great independent family! Santa came early for us this year. On December 11th, the 3rd District Court of



Utah ruled in favor of us, a group of independent voter, education, and good government plaintiffs,

against the State of Utah over a law that had made State School Board elections a partisan election. And as a bonus, the judge rejected every



argument and counterclaim of the defense. Not only does this victory establish precedent and momentum against partisanship, but it appears unlikely that the state will appeal--can't get any merrier than that!

Johnette Cosby (North Chesterfield, Virginia) I would have to say that my New Year's resolution would be to become more active physically and politically.

Steve Richardson (Virginia Independent Voters Association (VIVA)): As we approach the New Year, I am confident it will bring improvements to American politics. Many of us have known for a long time that our system no longer works for the people - but more and more of our countrymen are realizing that we have the power and the responsibility to enact reforms.



The Nuts and Bolts of Independent Grassroots Organizing: Special Call on January 15.

Join Independent Voting's Vice President of Development Cathy Stewart and Director of National Outreach Gwen Mandell on a conference call to respond to your organizing questions and help you develop specific scenarios to build the indie movement in your state.

Independent Voting is coordinating a national campaign to engage party leaders and elected officials on a state by state basis on the question of what rules will apply to our participation in the 2020 presidential elections.



How can you use this campaign to advance your organizing and efforts to reach out to other independents? How do we maximize our power? What steps can you take to advance the cause of independents in your state and hold the feet of party leaders and elected officials to the fire? How do you use this campaign to create new options for voters in the upcoming period? Join the call as we tactically engage these questions and (more)!

Monday, January 15 8pm ET

Call: 641-715-3605

Pass code: 767775#

[Sign up for the call here](#)