



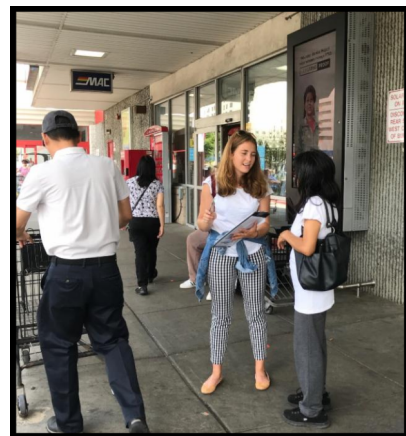
July 31 2018

## 9 Questions for the 44%: Strength in Numbers

The numbers are adding up. Led by **Tiani Coleman** of **New Hampshire Independent Voters** and **Randy Miller** of **Utah League of Independent Voters**, independents around the country are circulating and taking the **9 Questions for the 44% Survey** ! If you haven't yet, [take the survey here](#) .

Over 3,000 independents from 50 states (and the District of Columbia) have taken the survey to date and we have 35 days to reach our 5,000 survey goal.

New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Georgia, New Hampshire, Maine, Illinois, Minnesota, Utah and California are just a few of the states where activists are on the streets and on the phones giving fellow independents the opportunity to say who we are and why we're independent .



Sydney Allard in Jersey City

**Sydney Allard**, Dartmouth student and intern with **Independent Voting** (pictured above) has been meeting and surveying independents in a variety of communities from bustling Harlem to college campuses to Queens, New York and Jersey City, New Jersey. She says: "So many of the people I approach as they are hurrying into the subway with their eyes averted, quickly perk up when



Allen Cox surveying in Harlem

they hear that I am looking to survey independents. Independents are eager to be heard. They feel under appreciated and unacknowledged by our elected officials. Surveying creates a means to speak with people who have never been asked for their opinion on politics and who are so excited to share."

**Sue Davies**, founder of **New Jersey Independent Voters** has been on the streets with Sydney: "We've had great conversations on the street in Jersey City. I have been impressed with how thoughtful people have been and how much they want to engage in conversations about how they feel about our political

process AND what they think we need to do to fix it. Jersey City is one of the most diverse cities in the country and we are talking to people from every community and with all kinds of opinions."



Randy Miller surveys in Utah

**Ann Fryberger** of Duluth, Minnesota has been focusing on surveying at the many festivals that are taking place this summer in the area. She brings multiple clipboards so that several people can take the survey at the same time. "I had great success on the Fourth of July at the fireworks," she says. "People were just sitting around and were open to talking. I was quite surprised at how many independents there were."

## TAKE THE SURVEY HERE!

You can [share the survey by going to Independent Voting's Facebook page](#) or by [downloading it here](#) to do it with others person-to-person. [Check out the campaign page](#) for tips and all materials.

[Join the 100 Club](#) and be one of the 100+ people who have committed to getting ten surveys from others. [Sign up here](#), [download the survey](#) and get started!

Contact [Randy](#) or [Tiani](#) for more info or to get involved.

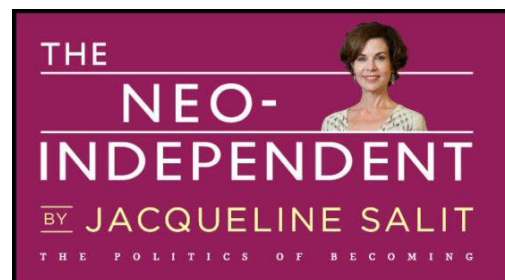
[independentvoting.org](http://independentvoting.org)

2018 SURVEY

**9 Questions  
for the 44%**

## The Neo-Independent: Pipat's Letter

In her column this month for the *Independent Voter Network*, Independent Voting President **Jackie Salit** reflects on the state of American political culture noting "Everything is about big things, like winning, about monstrous things, and most of all, everything is about spinning the outcome for your own political purposes. No small pleasures permitted in this game."



[Read her column here.](#)

## National Conference Call Fall Schedule: Save the Dates

### Next Independent Voting National Conference Calls:

#### Monday, September 24 8pm ET

Jackie Salit will discuss the findings of the **9 Questions for the 44%** survey, developments in the independent movement and much more!

#### Monday, November 12 8pm ET

Join Jackie and fellow independents on Veteran's Day for a special post-election report.

[Register for the September 24 call here.](#)

If you have a question that you'd like Jackie to address, send your question to [national@independentvoting.org](mailto:national@independentvoting.org) or submit when registering for the call.



## Florida Fair and Open Primaries (FFAOP) Launches Petition Drive to Open the Primaries

In March 2017, **Steve Hough** assumed the leadership of the grassroots organization **Florida Fair and Open Primaries** (FFAOP). The organization was created as an affiliate of Independent Voting by **Duane Pike** of Tampa, Florida in 2012 under another name, but the mission was always to advocate for Florida's adoption of a Top-Two open primary. When Steve was introduced to **John Opdycke**, president of **Open Primaries**, at Independent Voting's national conference in New York City in 2016, they decided to team up on this effort.

Back in sunny Florida, the state's Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) was being convened. The CRC is unique to Florida and is convened every twenty years. It provides the opportunity for citizens to appear before a commission and has the power to place proposed constitutional amendments directly on the ballot.

John and Steve agreed that the commission process would be an ideal vehicle for advancing the cause for open primaries in Florida, thus setting into motion a year-long campaign to lobby the CRC to put an open primaries amendment before the voters so the voters could decide.

Steve told the story of that campaign for the *Independent Voter Network* in, "**Florida Legislature, Partisan Appointees Prevent Equal Voting Rights for All.**"

Now, **Florida Fair and Open Primaries** has launched **two petitions for ballot initiatives to open the primaries** to all voters in the state. Currently under Florida's closed system, voters must join a political party to vote in the primaries. One of the petitions seeks a Top-Two open primary and the second demands an end to public funding and support for private (closed) party primaries.

Currently, over 3.4 million independent Florida voters - 27% of all registered voters in the state - are barred from voting in primary elections that they pay for with their tax dollars. They will once again be

disenfranchised from upcoming primary elections on August 28. For many Florida voters, the primary election is the only election that matters, because in 2016 a mere 16% of general election races in the state were considered competitive.

Said Hough: "We believe voters should have been afforded the opportunity to determine the fate of an open primaries amendment. Despite the failure of the CRC to forward an open primaries amendment to this year's ballot, voters may have an opportunity to decide in the future. We are currently engaged in a citizens' initiative to place an amendment on the 2020 ballot. At issue is whether Florida citizens believe the fundamental right to vote should be extended to all registered voters in every election. As the vast majority of races are decided in a primary election, by a tiny fraction of the electorate, we believe they will agree."



Tom Cullen petitioning in front of the library

**Tom Cullen**, Director of Outreach, Florida Fair and Open Primaries, Inc. added: "There has been a growing sense among voters in Florida and across the country that no one is really listening. Well, we're standing up and making the political establishment listen. Florida voters are tired of paying millions of dollars for primary elections that exclude over a quarter of our fellow citizens. We're inviting every Floridian to join us in putting an open primaries referendum on the 2020 ballot. Let the voters decide!"

Join the campaign! [Here's the website to download petitions](#), donate or find out more! Contact Steve Hough at [shough.flopenprimary@gmail.com](mailto:shough.flopenprimary@gmail.com).

Read more on [Floridapolitics.com](http://Floridapolitics.com)

## Western Colorado Independents Plan Next Steps

On July 12, the **Western Colorado Independent Voters** (WCIV) met at the Glenwood Springs Library for their monthly meeting. The primary topic of discussion was analyzing the independent voter turn-out at Colorado's first semi-open primary on June 26. Out of over 12,000 ballots mailed to independents in Garfield County, only 2800 ballots were returned. This was typical of other counties in Western Colorado. While the voter turn-out overall was 31%, the turn-out for independents was 20%. Out of 1.5 million registered independent voters in Colorado, only 291,000 voted. The most votes cast by independents were in the metro-Denver area, which is highly populated.



Randy Fricke of Western Colorado

Independent Voters

Among the questions raised at the WCIV meeting were: Were independents making a statement by not voting, signaling that there was virtually no change to the undemocratic election process? Are they frustrated by having to vote for Democrat or Republican parties in every election? Are they fed-up with taxpayers funding primary elections for Democratic and Republican parties in every election? There were many more probing questions raised as well.

Having analyzed that the new semi-open primary was a temporary fix or non-fix for independents and third parties, **Randy Fricke** led a discussion on possible ballot initiatives in 2020. He pointed out that California, Maine, and Washington have all replaced partisan primaries with either top-two primaries or ranked-choice primaries - both of which are more democratic than closed partisan primaries. Since many people were unfamiliar with these election alternatives, it was agreed that Randy would bring more detailed information to WCIV's next meeting on Wednesday, August 15, at 7 PM at the Glenwood Springs Library. Fricke indicated that WCIV could be the first



independent voter group to propose a new, more democratic election system in Colorado. Members also completed the independent voter survey, **9 Questions for the 44%**, at the meeting.

For more information on WCIV, contact Randy Fricke, lead organizer, at [fricke\\_randy@yahoo.com](mailto:fricke_randy@yahoo.com).

Submitted by Randy Fricke

## Profiles in Independence

Elizabeth "Ann" Fryberger, Duluth, Minnesota

### WHY I AM AN INDEPENDENT

I am an independent because I have become disillusioned. I am a strong advocate for sanity, ethics and character in all human endeavors. Our politics are in terrible shape; both of our two parties nominated candidates for President that were very unpopular and unethical, and the resulting President is a catastrophe. Sadly, I have been a Republican, a Democrat, and most recently a Progressive. All have failed me. Three years ago, I was not politically active (except for a cursory investigation into candidates before voting). After two years as a caucus convener and chair, I learned firsthand how poorly caucuses are attended, and as I moved up the process ladder to state alternate delegate this past spring, I grew disillusioned witnessing how the Democrats rejected its moderate voice.



Ann Fryberger

I am an independent because I believe politics is wrongly money motivated. Far too many national, state and local politicians are driven by economic self-interest. I say the same of the media which I believe is owned and manipulated by the same corporate and individual moneyed interests that are controlling our politics. How do we get good-intentioned people into office so that they will not eventually give into the toxicity of Washington, DC?

I am an independent because I just simply cannot give up. Too much is at stake. I am tormented at the thought of the kind of world my beloved granddaughter will inherit. She and so many others her age have such potential. I believe there are a lot of folks out there like me. Independents are a dismissed secret majority of classes, races, and genders that need to embrace their power -- to unite, to work hard, and to straighten this mess out.

I am an independent because I want to make a difference. Why not aim for the betterment of all life on our connected planet that we seem hell-bent on destroying. Can the formation of a strong independent movement reverse the trajectory of the loss of democracy in the good old USA? I do not know how all this will evolve but I sure don't like what's happening in the current political environment, and I cannot just sit back and let bad things happen. I am called to do something and hope that my call as an independent will make a difference.

## In the News

**Dr. Jessie Fields**, a leader of Independent Voting and Open Primaries, focuses her latest column in the *Independent Voter Network* on the unexpected victory of insurgent candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in New York. Read: "**Will Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Primary Victory Really Shake Up Party Control ?**" (*Independent Voter Network*)



**Brandon Brice**, host of "The Brandon Brice Show" on Patriot 101.5 FM and an independent in Michigan, wrote about why he's an independent in his opinion piece in the *Detroit News*, "**Searching for a New Political Party**." He says: "In the past year, both traditional political establishments, the Democrats and the Republicans, have become a disappointment to many Americans, and so completely out



of touch on issues that it seems they will never resolve. This only scratches the surface of why our political parties are so dysfunctional."

**Harry Kresky**, Independent Voting General Counsel, penned, "The Gerrymander Case: Who Speaks for the Country?" In it he says, "The Constitution is about the rights of Americans, not the rights of Democrats and



Republicans." (*Independent Voter Network*)

For more on Redistricting, including the historical Michigan campaign spearheaded by Voters Not Politicians, read:

- "**Arnold Schwarzenegger Supports Michigan's Goal to Terminate Gerrymandering.**" (*Michigan News*)
- "**Do-It-Yourself Legislative Redistricting.**" (Editorial Board, *New York Times*)
- "**Michigan Supreme Court Weighs Allowing Vote On Gerrymandering Reform**" (*Huffington Post*)

**Open Primaries** President **John Opdycke** interviews Independent Pennsylvanians Director Jenn Bullock on what it's like organizing independent voters when the political parties seem hell bent on driving people crazy in the latest edition of his podcast, "**The Pickle**" ( *Independent Voter Network*)

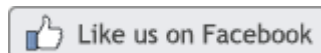
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