



September 4, 2018

9 Questions for the 44% Survey

The Labor Day weekend has come to a close, and so too has Independent Voting's summer survey campaign, **9 Questions for the 44%**, which for the past 13 weeks has polled close to 5,000 independents in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The grassroots effort, led by **Tiani Coleman**, chair of **New Hampshire Independent Voters**, and **Randy Miller**, leader of **Utah Independent Voters**, has been conducted on the phones, at shopping centers, on campuses and street corners and online. Close to one hundred activists participated in the effort with many more sharing the survey with their personal networks.

The results of the survey will be released later this month .



Dona Sauerburger surveys Chris Rivera on campus

"We're hoping this survey will help pollsters, media, candidates and the public start to recognize that independents are a category of our own," said Tiani. "We're a block of voters larger than either party, and we need a real voice. They should quit trying to squeeze us into one of the two boxes."



Julie Leak surveying Richenda Kramer at "Raging Grannies" event

Tiani continued: "It's been a great experience going out and surveying people randomly on the streets. For example, **Randy Wilson** and **Helen Abel** organized a group of surveyors in California; **Evelyn Dougherty** organized a group in Massachusetts, **Dr. Jessie Fields** and **Alvaader Frazier** organized a big group to survey at the Annual Harlem Week Festival in New York City, and **Ann Fryberger** of Duluth, Minnesota is

continuing to survey people at summer festivals. By going out on the streets," Coleman added, "the data becomes personal, you get a feel for it. It isn't just some numbers on a page. It's faces, personalities and live experiences about what it means to be an independent, and how we can have our voice heard in our democracy."

A number of activists have hit the college campuses, as well, where many young voters have registered as independents. With multiple clipboards in hand, they have found much success.

Said **Al Bell** of **Independent Voters for Arizona**, who has surveyed students at Glendale Community College, "The proportion of independents is amazingly high. Most have registered and many, though not most, know the bizarre rules that prevail in Arizona for primaries. It certainly became clear that, at least among younger voters, the confusing primary rules in Arizona keep a lot of people from voting."



Al Bell on campus in Arizona

After polling members of the Unitarian Church that she attends, **Dona Sauerburger** of **Independent Voters of Maryland** made her way to a number of Maryland campuses. "Since many millennials are independent," she said, "I did surveys at the University of Maryland and two community colleges. Within about two hours, I got 15-20 people to fill out the survey on each campus. Being in a state with closed primaries, there were some people who had affiliated in order to vote in the primary, so we had to talk about that before they realized that we wanted to hear their views, regardless of how they had registered. I also told them about the bill that we hope will be reintroduced in the next session of the Maryland legislature that would allow "unaffiliated" people to vote in the primary. It was gratifying to have so many people willing to take the time to have their voices heard. One woman expressed surprise and delight that anyone would think to ask her such interesting questions!"



Members of the Harlem Week team of volunteers

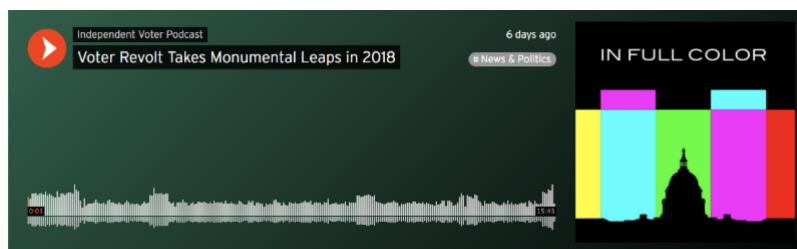
Last Chance: TAKE THE SURVEY HERE!

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.

Then tune in **Monday, September 24** for **Independent Voting's national conference call** where we will discuss the results of the survey.

UNITE SUMMIT in Colorado

In the latest episode of the "In Full Color" podcast, host **Shawn Griffiths** of the *Independent Voter Network* (IVN) talks with **Independent Voting** President **Jackie Salit** from the **Unite Summit** in Denver, Colorado, which brought together 250 political reformers, strategists, and candidates. Jackie and Shawn discuss the growth in independent activism and the process underway of **establishing the independent movement's identity**.



Click here or above to listen to Jackie Salit's podcast at the UNITE Summit event.

The event was hosted by **Unite America**, a national organization that is providing organizational and financial support for independent candidates to run competitive campaigns.

Said Salit: "In 2016, the voter rebellion in America took place inside the two parties -- Sanders and Trump voters challenged the establishment of both parties. Will that rebellion move outside the parties and drive an independent movement to power? The UNITE SUMMIT was a gathering of leaders and activists who are building the infrastructure for that shift. There were 'different strokes for different folks' but all agree that independent voters are key."

At the Summit, Salit participated in a panel discussion entitled "**Campaign 2020: An Independent for President?**,"

which included **Jim Jonas**, Cofounder **Unity '08 & Americans Elect**; **Joel Searby**, former campaign manager for Evan McMullin; **Michael Slaby**, Technology Strategist for Obama Campaigns 2008 and 2012; and **Russ Verney**, former campaign manager for Ross Perot.

Dr. Jessie Fields represented **Open Primaries** and spoke on a panel on structural political reform called "**UNRIG THE SYSTEM: How Can Independents Advance Reform?**" which included **Kyle Bailey**, Campaign Manager for **Maine Ranked Choice Voting**; **Katie Fahey**, Executive Director, **Voters Not Politicians** in Michigan; **Amber McReynolds**, former Director of Elections in Denver Executive Director for the National Vote At Home Institute and Coalition and **Dan Krassner**, Political Director, **Represent. us**.

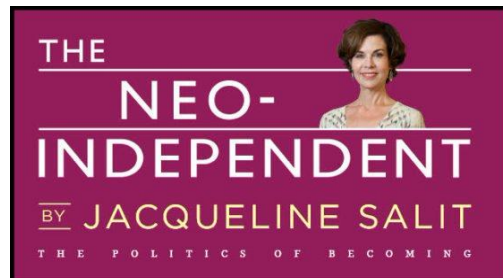
Said Fields: "The essential message that I wanted to communicate to the audience of independents, reform activists and independent candidates is why it's vital that independents, reformers and candidates take their independent campaigns into the African American and communities of color with a strong message of structural political reform, primary reform and equal voting rights."



(L to R) Dr Jessie Fields, Katie Fahey, Dan Krassner, Amber McReynolds

The Neo-Independent: The Summer of Our Discontent

In her column this month for the *Independent Voter Network*, Jackie Salit reflects on the effort to build the national Reform Party, a non-ideological left/right coalition which attracted interest from, among others, the current President of the United States. "That independent crusade hit a wall," she writes. "But its transcendent promise remains. What if the Sanders voters and the Trump voters had found a way to join forces?"



[Read her column here.](#)

Loyalty Oaths and Party Primaries: Why It's Time to Abandon Party-Centric Elections

Tiani Coleman, founder of **New Hampshire Independent Voters** writes in her latest column for *IVN* about a congressional candidate denied access to the debates because he refused to sign a pledge to support the Republican nominee. "Edwards says that for him, it's a matter of honesty and integrity, and that when it comes to supporting his fellow party candidate Andy Sanborn, 'What separates us is much more serious than policy disagreements.' Whether Edwards is right or wrong about Sanborn's character, shouldn't he be able to withhold his support of someone whose character he perceives to be irreconcilably flawed or corrupt, without being banned from a debate?"



Tiani Coleman

[Read Tiani's full column here.](#)

Join the National Conference Call!

Great Expectations: What Do the Parties Want, What Do Independents Need?

That's the title of **Independent Voting's** next national conference call, hosted by **Jackie Salit**, **Monday, September 24 8pm ET**.

Jackie Salit will discuss the findings of the **9 Questions for the 44%** survey, how independents can impact on the Rules of Engagement in the upcoming elections, and much more!

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** or submit when registering for the call.



And mark your calendar - **Monday, November 12, 8pm ET** - Join Jackie and fellow independents on Veteran's Day for a special post-election report.

Florida Drive for Open Primaries: Word from the Streets

Florida Fair and Open Primaries is circulating two petitions to put an open primaries amendment on the 2020 ballot. The first would implement a Top-Two open primary where all candidates would appear on a single primary ballot with the top two vote getters moving on to the general election. The second simply precludes the use of public funds, facilities, and equipment for the nomination process of parties which claim to be private associations.

3.4 million Florida voters (making up 27 percent of the electorate) are barred from casting a vote in the Florida primaries.

The petitions can be printed here.

If you are a registered to vote in Florida, please sign and return petitions to the address indicated.

If you want to become a volunteer in any capacity, please contact the campaign at **FFAOP.Outreach@gmail.com**.



Florida Fair and Open Primaries
Director **Steve Hough** says:
"Collecting signatures at Gulf Coast State College on primary day. It's a little lonely during classes, and a madhouse in between. Looking forward to the lunch break."



Tom Cullen, Director of Outreach, **Florida Fair and Open Primaries**. At the Jacksonville Riverside Arts Market, where he and his team collected 113 signatures. Said Tom: "This is a great place to get petitions signed. We ran out of petitions after 1 hour 20 minutes and could have collected hundreds more."

Also signed up two new enthusiastic volunteers today."

DNC Rules Changes, Fact or Fiction?

The Democratic National Committee held a meeting in Chicago to look at its rules for the 2020 presidential election last week. **John Opdycke**, President of **Open Primaries**, and **David Cherry**, leader of **United Independents of Illinois** and **Independent Voting** Board Member, were in attendance to observe the process on behalf of independents and those looking to reform the process.

The rules changes were intended to deal with public outcry that the rules of the game in 2016 were rigged. After debate and discussion, the 500+ convention delegates passed new rules for 2020.



John Opdycke



David Cherry

Here's an overview of the changes:

- The new rules maintain "super delegates," but curtail their power to vote on the first ballot at the presidential nominating convention in 2020. Super delegates also kept their power to vote for the vice-presidential nominee, the platform, the party rules, and everything else on the first ballot.
- On the issue of primaries, the new rules express a desire that state parties "ensure that primaries are more accessible to anyone who wishes to participate as a Democrat in our nominating process." In other words, make it easier for people to join the Democratic Party, but shy away from allowing independents to participate as independents.
- DNC kept joint fundraising agreements that allow the party to turn over control of its strategy, hiring, communications, and spending to an establishment candidate again.

John Opdycke said: "The Democratic Party passed rules changes so they can say to voters 'we've listened and addressed your complaints.' Have they? I'm not so sure. I think the American people are ready for real structural change, not small measures."

David Cherry added: " Within the Democratic Party, there are many people who are dedicated to making positive changes in our country. They spend so much energy fighting for more democracy within a party that is resistant and often hostile to their efforts. One more reason I'm proud to be an independent."

18th Annual Anti-Corruption Awards

This year is the 30th anniversary of **Dr. Lenora Fulani's** 1988 presidential campaign, in which she became the first woman and first African American to get on the ballot in all 50 states.

On October 16th, the **Anti-Corruption Awards** will be celebrating Lenora and her historic campaign for fair elections and honoring Black leadership in independent politics.

[Click here to purchase your ticket and lend support.](#)



Profiles in Independence

Javier Luque, Hasbrouck, NJ

I have never been a Republican or a Democrat. I never saw myself in either of those two parties believing that first, they are corrupt, and second the words of our founders are true. They first warned about partisan games, second about the consequences of a two-party system.

Even when I was a student at William Paterson University I was regarded as the independent on their student political talk show "American Controversial."

The 2016 election was a turning point for me. It was two Libertarians, Gary Johnson and Bill Weld that inspired me. Even though I am an independent, I also lean towards liberty. Other people who have inspired me towards my independent status are the late John Anderson and a powerhouse Tematica economist and Fox Business frequent guest analyst Lenore Hawkins.

The two parties have failed us, the bipartisan system is not working. I am an independent because of my passion to serve citizens without regard for their status. I envision a Congress that is multiparty with voices of independents, Greens, Reformists, socialists (they too are taxpayers), and Libertarians along with the two establishment parties. Such a new system will break the gridlock and ensure that legislation covering hard issues goes through. Problems like the national debt, weapons policy, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, surveillance, etc. can all come down to a nonpartisan compromise.

I am passionate about opening the primaries (including down-ticket and presidential candidate "conventions" done by the Libertarian, Green, and other popular third parties), open debates with eased requirements, ending gerrymandering, national proportional representation (Electoral College and Representative Midterms), Ranked Choice Voting for senatorial and gubernatorial races, and other key electoral reforms. We are overdue for such a system. Nowhere in our Constitution or in our law books does it say that the Republicans and Democrats are solely and legally entitled to run this country.

My journey is already taking big steps thanks to this organization. This is not my battle, it is everyone's battle, a fight to uphold the right to an efficient and fair representative republic that is free from the collusion of special interests and a perverted two-party system. I'm in! Are you?



In the News

Independent Jim Morrison of Arizona writes in his op-ed "**Political independents Deserve Respect, Recognition**:" "The dirty little secret is the fact that the two-party duopoly is operating to the satisfaction of party leaders...So while our political system is dysfunctional, the party system is working as intended. The two-party system is, in effect, an unregulated political industry that is able to operate successfully while catering to a declining base of customers." (*Arizona Daily Star* and reprinted in IVN)

Read " **9 States Where Independents Outnumber Major Political Parties** " (IVN)

Read, " **Washington Has a Top-Two Primary: Here's How it Works** " (VOX Media)

I **ndependent Voters for Arizona's Al Bell** sent in an opinion piece by Mark Kimble of the , " **Independents Need to Be Part of Political Calculus**," which appeared in a hard copy version in the local paper. (*Arizona Republic*)

Read " **A Tribute to Aretha Franklin: The Voice of a People, The Soul of a Movement,**" **Dr. Jessie Fields'** latest column in the *Independent Voter Network* (IVN).

Read " Delaware's Closed Primary Elections Disenfranchise Independent Voters Like Me," an editorial by Delaware independent, **Matthew Albright**. (*Delaware News Journal*).

From **Florida Fair and Open Primaries' Choice Edwards**, Clermont, Florida: "**We are 41% of Voters. We Want Open Primaries**" (*Smerconish*)

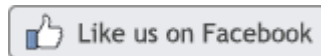
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