



October 4, 2018

"9 Questions" Survey Results Previewed on National Conference Call

On her bi-monthly national conference call, **Independent Voting's** President **Jackie Salit** discussed some of the preliminary results of the summer survey "9 Questions for the 44%" with **Randy Miller**, founder and President of the **Utah League of Independent Voters** and **Tiani Coleman**, President of **New Hampshire Independent Voters**. **Miller and Coleman** led the effort which conducted 5000 surveys conducted in person, by phone, and online.

The poll may be the largest ever conducted of independent voters. A thorough analysis of the poll will be published soon. Here are a few of the findings:

- 87% surveyed believe independent voters do not get the respect the deserve from politicians, candidates or the media



- 87% believe the presidential primaries should be open to all voters.

On the latter, Salit commented:

"That's a tremendous finding. I think this is the first time this question about presidential primaries has been asked in a public survey. That response is pretty resounding. It's not just a measure of an opinion, but beginnings of a read on indies placing a certain kind of demand on the parties as to what our status is and should be going into the early days of the presidential elections for 2020."

Salit also responded to questions sent in by participants. In response to one question, she re-emphasized why the survey results were so critical: "The parties have defined us in ways that suit their purposes. We don't want to be defined by others, most especially those forces that do not respect us, that do not recognize us, that do not fully include us. We will do the defining. We want to mobilize as many friends and allies and forces to join with us in that activity."

[Click here to listen to the full conference call.](#)

Join Jackie on a Post-Midterm Election Conference call, Monday, November 12.

[Register here for the call.](#)

The Independent Wave: Building the Conversation Between Independent Candidates and Independent Voters

As the community of independent voters grows in America (we are now 44% of the electorate) more candidates are running for office as independents. While those candidates are running for many different reasons and many different offices, the most significant among them see themselves as part of a broader independent movement.

Since our mission at **Independent Voting** is to create a national third force (not a third party), we want to help the candidates who sought our support to engage the issues of particular concern to the 44%.

We have a three-step program for independent candidates:

- Educate independent candidates on the rise and role of independent voters across the country as a restless engine for change.
- Inform independent candidates about the structural political reforms that would introduce more fairness into the political process and would grant independent voters full voting rights.
- Invite independent candidates to create a short video message introducing themselves to the Independent Voting community, telling us why they are independent and how they see the role of independents in America today.



Explained Jackie Salit on the recent Independent Voting national conference call:

"Part of why we undertook our survey of independent voters was to give independents running for office an opportunity to go up against the conventional wisdom that there is no such thing as a real independent or the true number of independents is only 6% or 11%; to put them on a platform in which they can give recognition and respect to the 44% and articulate their understanding of why so many people are becoming independent. That's an important thing."

We hope you will take a look at these potential public servants who have the courage to carve out a new path to democracy. [Check out the special Candidate Page here.](#)

Click through the candidate photos and you can watch video messages from:

- [Jason Armentrout, West Virginia Independent State Legislative Candidate;](#)
- [Oz Greibel, Connecticut Independent Gubernatorial Candidate;](#)
- [Terry Hayes, Maine Independent Gubernatorial Candidate;](#)
- [Stephanie Miner, New York SAM Independent Candidate;](#)
- [Greg Orman, Kansas Independent Gubernatorial Candidate;](#) and
- [Nick Reid, South Dakota Independent State Legislative Candidate](#)

Check back often for messages from other candidates.

Nevadans Need a Greater Choice

Independent Voting has endorsed Nevada's **Greater-Choice Voice Initiative**, a proposal which would replace the state's primary election system with a process allowing all candidates to compete in a single November election and all voters to cast ballots utilizing ranked-choice voting. [Read the endorsement statement below.](#)

Doug Goodman, an Army veteran, is the founder and Executive Director of **Nevadans for Election Reform** and filed the initiative. Currently, 22% of Nevada voters are registered as nonpartisan voters and are prohibited from voting in primary elections which cost the state an estimated \$6 million each election. The initiative will require more than 112,000 signatures by November 13 to qualify for the ballot.

"Doug Goodman's proposal to abolish party primaries, create a public election in which everyone -- including Nevada's 380,000 independents -- can vote, and to use a ranked-choice system is a great experiment in a new model," said Independent Voting President Jackie Salit. "The idea is to empower voters over parties, a shift we desperately need. It will be a tough road to get on the ballot but I sincerely hope that it does and that Nevadans get to roll the dice on this radical idea."



If successful, Nevada would become the first state to do away with state-funded closed primary elections and replace them with a single November election in which voters rank candidates in order of preference. In ranked-choice voting, if one candidate receives a majority of votes, they win the election. If not, the candidate with the least amount of votes is eliminated and their votes are redistributed according to the preferences indicated by each voter in his/her ranked choices. The process continues until a majority winner is determined.

Catana Barnes of **Independent Voters of Nevada** added, "Tax payer funds should not be used to pay for primaries that exclude almost a third of voters in Nevada who are not part of the Democratic and Republican Parties. The Greater Choice-Greater Voice Initiative offers a creative solution and we should grab it."

Other organizations endorsing the initiative include **Fair Vote**, **Represent Us**, and the **Nevada Libertarian** and **Green Parties**.

If you want to help gather signatures to place the initiative on the ballot [you can register here](#).

And if you would like to sign a petition when circulators are in your area, please email info@nevadansforelectionreform.org.

Anti-Corruption Awards Celebrates 30th Anniversary of Fulani's Historic Independent Presidential Run

In 1988, **Dr. Lenora Fulani** ran as an independent for president and became the first African American and the first woman in U.S. history to be on the ballot in all 50 states. Her groundbreaking effort laid down many of the tracks and challenges for the independent movement. The issues of the fundamental structure of our democracy, whether all voters and candidates have a level playing field, whether the debates serve the American people or the parties, and the role of the African American community in the movement to revitalize our democracy, were core themes of her independent presidential campaigns both in 1988 and 1992. Today, those themes have moved from the fringes of American political life to center stage.

"Two Roads are Better than One" was the battle cry and campaign slogan of Fulani's 1988 campaign. It embodied the strategy of building a movement for progressive change using everything that was available -- the Democratic Party, and the opportunity to construct an independent "road" alongside it. The "Two Roads" plan was designed so that the momentum for change produced by the insurgency of Rev. Jesse Jackson's campaign inside the Democratic Party could keep moving forward if the rigidity of the party's structure and top-down control threatened to stop it.



Steve Scully of CSPAN spoke with Lenora Fulani (pictured above) about the New Alliance Party and her 1988 campaign as an independent for President of the United States. [Click here](#) or on the picture to watch the CSPAN video

Take a look at these clips. The *CNN* coverage captured the "Two Roads" strategy in the early stages of its development as independent leaders met in Atlanta a year before the Democratic Party convention.

[Click to the CNN Video](#)

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Dr. Fulani's historic candidacy. On October 16, 2018, the **Anti-Corruption Awards** in New York City will be celebrating Lenora and her campaign for

fair elections and honoring Black leadership in independent politics.

[You can purchase tickets or donate here](#)

Open Primaries on Appeal in New York

Attorney **Mark Moody**'s lawsuit on behalf of 3.2 million registered independent New Yorkers who were shut out of the 2016 Presidential Primary was heard on appeal September 20 in New York.

After being locked out himself, Mark brought this lawsuit against the New York City and State Boards of Elections. His suit challenged their complicit disenfranchisement and unmistakable derogation of the New York State Constitution which among other things guarantees that:

"Every citizen shall be entitled to vote at every election for all officers elected by the people and upon all questions submitted to the vote of the people ."



The Hub reached out to Mark to get his comment on the hearing. He said: "Of course I'd love to win 5-0, but I think that's a bit of a pipe-dream no matter the strength of my arguments. However, if there is a thoughtful one or two judge dissent, then we'll be in a much stronger position than we were before. I'm excited (because one or two judges seemed receptive), but not too excited! This state has systematically disenfranchised people in the interests of the powerful. It's time that stopped, by all means necessary whether it be education and voter drives, litigation, or voting out those who seek to minimize rather than increase the vote."

[Check out Moody's video message](#)

Independent Pennsylvanians Support Open Primaries Bills

Independents in Pennsylvania are working on opening the primaries in Pennsylvania. Two bills have been proposed in the House and Senate, and **Independent**

Pennsylvanians, Independent Voting's affiliate in Pennsylvania, along with several other election reform groups across the state, are supporting them.

The Bills, SB 1234 and HB 244, were introduced by Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati and by Rep. Dave Reed and would allow the 750,000 voters not affiliated with a party to vote in the primaries.



(LtoR) Barbara Patrizzi, Nichelle Richardson, Jenn Bullock, Jim Lundberg, Ted Robb

"Independent Pennsylvanians is excited to work with Pennsylvania legislators to support these two open primaries bills," said Jenn Bullock, Director of Independent Pennsylvanians. "We have been advocating for opening Pennsylvania's primaries for ten years in our fight for voting rights. We all pay for the primaries but independents are locked out of this first round of voting."

If you live in Pennsylvania, please [click here to support these open primary bills](#).

Mark Your Calendar

The **Politics for the People** book club, the book club for independent-minded Americans founded by **Cathy Stewart**, **Independent Voting's** Vice President for National Development, has announced the club's next book selection: *An American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business and How You Can Take It Back* by Elisabeth Rosenthal. We will be discussing the book on a conference call Cathy is hosting with the author on **Sunday, December 2 at 7pm ET**. Check out the **Politics For the People blog** for ongoing discussion on the book.



Independent Voting's next conference call will be a post-election briefing. Send in your question for Jackie Salit and join us **Monday, November 12 at 8pm ET** after the mid-term elections to discuss the results and implications and how independents are exercising our power in the run-up to 2020.

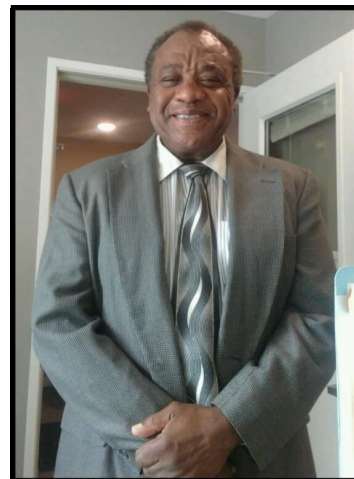
[Register here for the call and submit your question](#)

Profiles in Independence

Andre Morrison, Cleveland, Ohio

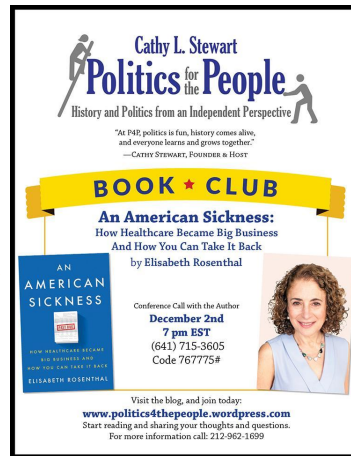
I grew up in the inner-city of Cleveland, Ohio in a non-political family with devout religious beliefs and conservative leanings. Growing up as a child of the 60's, my political and societal views were shaped early with the assassinations of John and Bobby Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King; the Vietnam War; the Civil Rights Movement; and Watergate. I felt then that being a Democrat (especially being African-American) was in my best interests so I became one and got involved in many causes ranging from voting and civil rights of minorities to environmental causes -- remember the national incident of the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland catching fire due to pollution circa 1969? -- to college unrest because of America's involvement in the Vietnam War.

However, in President Reagan's second term in office in 1984, I left the Democratic Party and became a Republican, as I felt, being a moderate, my interests were more aligned with the GOP than the DP. I remained a Republican for close to 32 years, serving in various capacities in my local county GOP as precinct committee leader, helping to run various political campaigns, participating in political boot camps, minority outreach and recruitment, etc.



Andre Morrison

In the process of working in both camps over the years, it became crystal clear to me of how truly rigged our two-party system is. The emphasis always seemed to be on "tow the party line" and



"what is in the best interest of the party" versus what is and should be in the best interest of the community and country. People simply want fair, open and good government and neither party in my judgment was/is providing that.

So in 2016, I decided to become an independent (the campaign and election of Donald Trump was also a motivating factor). Many of the independent ideals appealed to me -- elimination of gerrymandering, open primaries and going with the best candidate regardless of party affiliation. Being able to have civil political debate without being disagreeable -- even when there is disagreement -- was/is also something I saw missing with the major parties. It is now my intent to remain independent and assist others (through our group, the **Independent Voices of Ohio**, for example) to see the value of having and using our independent voice, engaging in critical thinking, and maintaining an open mind to influence and effect political change.

In the News

Read " **San Diego Voters' Long Trend Toward Political Independence**" (*San Diego Tribune*)

"The recently formed Western Colorado Independent Voters hosted a town hall forum Thursday at the Glenwood Springs Library between Republican incumbent Rep. Bob Rankin and his Democratic challenger Colin Wilhelm for the Colorado House District 57 seat." Read "**HD57 Race Heats up at Independent Voters Forum**." (*Post-Independent*)

Read "**No Straight Party Voting on General Election Ballot Supreme Court Rule**" (*NMPolitics.net*)

Nicole Rowlette, Regional Midwest Coordinator for Unite America writes: " **Independent Voters --the Restless 42 Percent -- Demand Change**" (*Tulsa World*)

Read " **Jimmy Carter Urges Democrats to Appeal to Independents**," (Associated Press in *The Guardian*)

Read this Letter to the Editor by **Florida Fair and Open Primaries** Director Steve Hough, " **NPA Voters are Getting Short End of Voting Stick**" (*Panama City Herald*)

Read " **I Want More People Voting in Florida in Every Election**," by Jeff Solomon, a candidate for Florida House of Representatives (*Miami Community Newspapers*)

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