



independentvoting.org The Hub

November 16, 2021

independentvoting.org THE 20TH ANNUAL ANTI-CORRUPTION AWARDS GOAL \$100,000 RAISED \$82,695

Over 500 citizens from around the country tuned in for Independent Voting's 20th Annual Anti-Corruption Awards, held virtually on October 25th.

Independent Voting Vice President for National Development Cathy Stewart and Independent Voting advocate Amikka Burl hosted a fast-moving and entertaining show featuring activists and actors of the burgeoning independent movement. Awards were presented honoring Farhad Mohit, Gaby Cardenas

and Katherine M. Gehl, three innovators who recognize the importance of the independent voter community and the need to revitalize American democracy.

As Independent Voting President Jackie Salit said in her comments, "This is not a movement that someone thought up in a board room or a think-tank or a university somewhere. This is a movement that's being co-created at many different levels of society, by many different types of people. It's a movement with a vision that can move our country forward — inclusive democracy, inclusive development and a vision for the country that makes the lives of every person, every community, and every family, better."

The event, in addition to being a spirit-raiser, was also a fundraiser. Viewers donated and watched the event "fund-a-meter" steadily rise. The financial goal was reached -- \$100,000 was raised to invest in outreach to connect, train, and empower independent voters.

[Click here to make a donation today!](#)

If you weren't able to tune in live, you can watch the program by clicking the image below.

[Share with others](#) and [share it on Facebook](#).



Meet the Anti-Corruption Awardees



KATHERINE M. GEHL



FARHAD MOHIT



GABY CARDENAS

Founder of [The Institute for Political Innovation \(IPI\)](#), a nonpartisan nonprofit founded in 2020 to catalyze modern political change in America and to see Final-Five Voting adopted in states across the country.

[Click here for the presentation of Katherine's award and acceptance.](#)

Founder of [The Good Party](#), which is working to create an open-source free platform to empower people to be able to elect independent candidates.

[Click here for the presentation of Farhad's award and acceptance.](#)

Cardenas' [Colibri Collective](#), the first Latina-owned digital firm in Phoenix, Arizona, worked with Independent Voters for Arizona in 2019, developing the social-marketing campaign for their [video campaign spotlighting the closed Arizona Presidential Preference Elections](#).

[Click here for the presentation of Gaby's award and acceptance.](#)

Independent Activists and Spokespeople Were Center-Stage at the Anti-Corruption Awards

These two videos featured at the event showcased some of the powerful voices — independents and allies — who are speaking out on behalf of independents. **Check out their responses to two questions that were posed to them.**



**What Does America Need to Know
About Independent Voters?**

[Click here to watch video](#)



**What are Misconceptions About
Independent Voters**

[Click here to watch video](#)

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SPOKESPERSON TRAINING

**Want to Help Make Independents Visible?
Join the Spokesperson Training
Monday, January 24**

Independent Voting's Spokesperson Training Program was on full display at the Anti-Corruption Awards. [Click here for a teaser.](#)

The program is part educational, part performance training.

Registration is limited to assure that everyone has an opportunity to participate.

If you'd like to apply for the upcoming training, [fill out and submit this application today.](#)

The Independent Voter: A New Book about Independents



At the event, **Dr. Omar Ali** (Dean of Lloyd International Honors College at UNC-Greensboro and Independent Voting board member) announced a new book in the making. *The Independent Voter*, slated for release in the summer of 2022 and authored by himself, **Jacqueline Salit** (President of Independent Voting) and **Thom Reilly** (Former Chancellor of the Nevada State Educational System and Professor of Political Affairs at Arizona State University) will explore how independents have been catalysts for change throughout American history. The authors not only look at the barriers independents face, but the opportunities at hand to remake today's political, cultural and legal landscape through the demand for recognition and respect of independents and structural political reform. The book is being published by Routledge Press. Stay tuned to pre-order your copy!

Andrew Yang Criticizes Two-Party System

In this *CBS News* interview, Andrew Yang talks about why he left the Democratic Party to become an independent. Yang has formed The Forward Party, which is open to all, regardless of how you are registered or how you identify, and has been advocating publicly for open primaries and other political reforms.



"We can all just look around and see the duopoly is not working," Yang told *CBSN* "Red & Blue" anchor Elaine Quijano in an interview that aired November 8. "The political incentives are not around getting anything done, it's around blaming the other side, and just playing 'you lose, I lose' back and forth — while the people are losing."

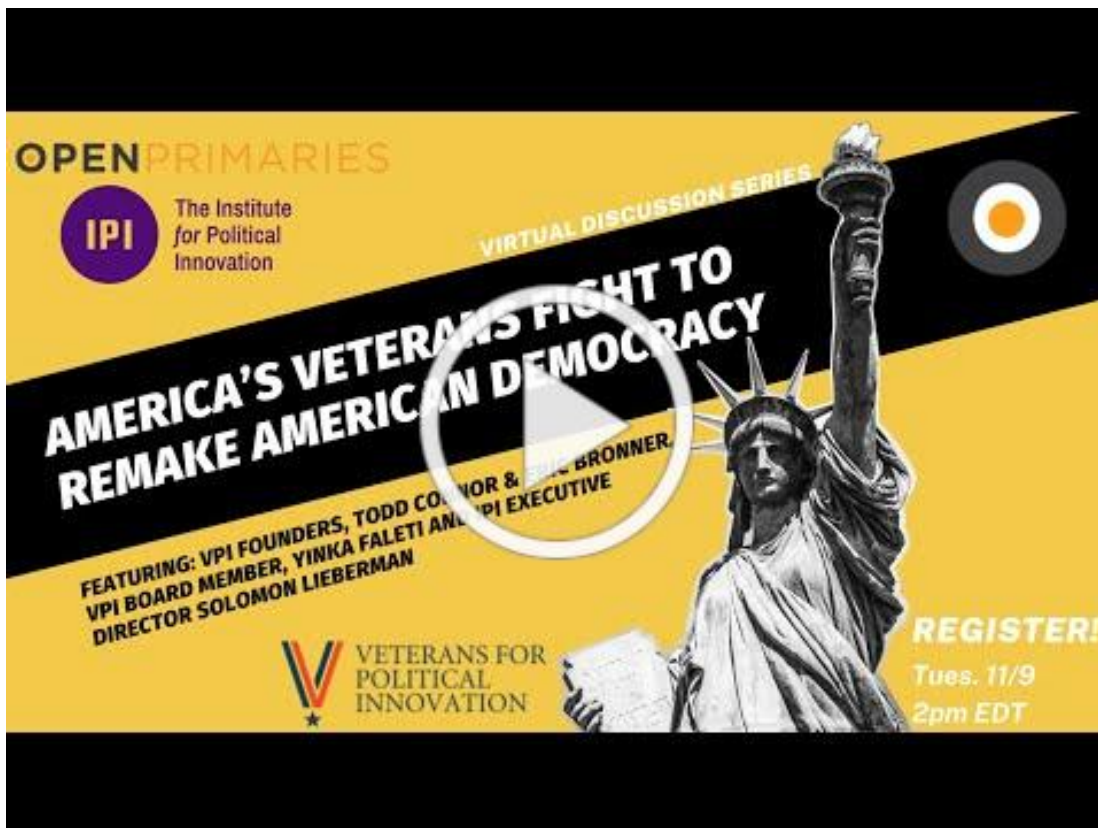
[Watch the full interview here.](#)

Read more in these two interviews: "[Andrew Yang on America's Very Bizarre Direction — and Why the Two-Party System Needs to Go](#)" (*Salon*) and "[Andrew Yang's Third-Party Aspirations](#)" (*The New Yorker*)

Americans Fight to Remake Our Democracy

Did you know that 49% of America's veterans are politically independent? Open Primaries and the Institute for Political Innovation hosted a Zoom discussion with founders of a new organization, Veterans for Political Innovation, which was launched to mobilized veterans to fight for political reform and help lead a democracy revival.

[Watch the full discussion.](#)



[American Ninjas: How Ordinary Americans Are Combating the Ugliness of US Politics](#)

In a podcast hosted by the East Side Institute, John Opdycke, President of Open Primaries, talks about how he sees the dawning of a new day in American politics: millions are on the move, demanding a meaningful role in shaping policy and institutions.



“The professional political class won’t lead; the American dream of progress is dying. But our people are fighters. They’re stepping up to topple the barriers that leave them frustrated, divided, and disempowered.” Check out "[How Ordinary Americans Are Combatting the Ugliness of U.S. Politics.](#)"

Profiles in Independence

Dr. Theodore J. St. John, MS, MA, Ph.D • Abbeville, Louisiana



Theodore St. John
Commander, U.S. Navy Medical
Service Corps (Retired)

Today, many would say that the American experiment has failed. They would say that despite all the lives that had been sacrificed to preserve freedom, power-hungry politicians have succeeded in turning America into a Tyranny. They may be right, but as an individual who served for 30 years in the defense of freedom as a US Naval Officer and never lost sight of the fundamental principle of freedom, I am certain that there is still hope for the world if *we as independent people* come together and stand on the common ground we know as freedom.

Unfortunately, the members of the two primary political parties have made it nearly impossible for individual citizens to be proactive and interdependent. Each time a power over the people switches from one party to the other, the government increases the number, style, and complexity of the law. This provides them with greater potential to use force to further restrict our freedoms and to control the outcome of elections. At the same time, they pit us against each other and skillfully use us as ideological soldiers in their armies.

We are tricked into believing that those who get elected are actually in charge. They are not; they are *charged* and polarized but they are not *in charge*. They are used to charge the rest of us by making us believe that “our side” is all positive and the “other side” is all negative. By reflecting on our true selves we will see that there is positive and negative in both sides of every issue and if we focus on the principle of freedom, we can declare our independence, we can think win/win, seek first to understand others and then to be understood, and synergize to achieve the public victory that our founders envisioned.

The full text of Ted's Personal Declaration of Independence can be viewed on his blog, [The Holomorphic Process](#).

In the News

Brendan Carroll, a senior at Saint Francis Prep in Fresh Meadows, New York, and an ambassador for [Students for Open Primaries](#), wrote the editorial, "[It's time to open the primaries in New York City and across the country](#)" (*The Fulcrum*)

Jared Alper, founder of the Common Sense Strategies Group, calls for open primaries in New York, in "[Building on the Ranked Choice Success](#)" (*Daily News*)

In the run-up to the Anti-Corruption Awards, Maryland independent Peter Taillie wrote "[The corruption of corruption: American exceptionalism](#)" (*The Star-Democrat*)

Maine activist Joe Pickering's opinion piece, "[Maine Voices: Turn on the light of election liberty now](#)," originally appeared in the *Portland Press Herald* and was reprinted by IVN.

Connecticut columnist Terry Cowgill says "[Break the Two Party Stranglehold, Make Local Elections Nonpartisan](#)" (*Connecticut News Junkie*)

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