

Mistaken Beliefs

Dangerous Lies that are Destroying our Nation
and Why Everything you Know about
Government is Wrong



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Reset America

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The highlighted chapters are included in this document.

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1. PREFACE

The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but
by those who watch them without doing anything.

Albert Einstein

1. Goals of this Book

My goal with this book is to present to the American People a specific plan to get the changes that, according to public opinion polls, you already want.

We're Not as Dumb as they Think we are.

I began writing this book in 2007. Its purpose was to uncover the root causes of the problems facing our country and offer solutions to fix them. My goals were the following:

- Accepting the truth about the magnitude of the problems facing our country,
- Describing the wonderful opportunities that exist when money is not the only factor in passing laws.
- Determining the best way to solve them given our current technology and resources.
- Working together to make this happen.

Politicians are always talking about how competition benefits everyone. In fact, they pass laws that make it a crime to prevent competition. But if it is good for all, then why isn't competition good for the 2 parties as well?

To accomplish this goal, we must do the following.

- a. Inspire the American People for the urgent need of change.
- b. Explain that the solution involves:
 - Term Limits
 - Ranked Voting
 - Equal Rules & Laws for 3rd Parties
- c. Convince voters to think for themselves.

But, as it turns out, over the years, we (the American People) have learned some truths.

- a. 80% pf voters support national congressional Term Limits. X¹
- b. 80% of voters are comfortable using Ranked-Choice Voting X²
- c. 68% of voters say that a 3rd Party is needed. X³

Incredibly, the data shows that we're already 80% towards reaching our goal!

- We **realize** the urgent need of change **DONE**
- We **know** that the solution involves:
 1. Term Limits **DONE**
 2. Ranked Voting **DONE**
 3. Equal Rules & Laws for 3rd Parties **DONE**
- We **must convince** voters to think for themselves. **How hard can this be?**

We're already 4/5ths there!

Incredibly, the data shows that we're already 80% towards reaching our goal!

15 years ago, I could have never dreamed that public opinion on these issues would be so high. This is great, especially since I don't need to spend time trying to convince the public of what we need to do. My only goal now is to convince the public to only vote for candidates who support these changes. How hard can this be?

The bottom line is this. We already know the problems and the solutions. This makes creating the change we need easier than a politician selling out for bribes... Sorry, I mean "campaign contributions." My bad.

Because of this, we only have one task left. We need to convince ourselves to make Election Reform the most important issue in our minds, above all other issues. And, we must only vote for candidates who pledge their support to these 3 policies, Term Limits, Ranked Voting and Equal Rules and Laws to give Independents and 3rd Parties an equal chance to be elected. Is this asking too much?

I'm thrilled that most people feel so strongly about these issues. But this is only based on what the public currently knows. It doesn't include all the reasons why this is so important / such a critical issue. I'm certain that once people understand all the benefits of adding competition to the two parties, then the other 20% will come on board.

Truths to be Discovered

In the process of doing this, there are other truths that we uncover.

- We need to get "Election Reform" to appear at the top of every opinion poll.

We must make this the single biggest issue for all Americans. The words "Election Reform" needs to appear at the top 5 in every opinion poll of issues facing voters.

We need to address the root problem first.

For any change to happen, we must work together on our common goal of electing people who represent us instead of the special interests who pay for their campaigns. We need to put aside distraction that the 2-parties use to polarize us to prevent the changes that we know we need. Whatever is your particular concern, no changes can happen because our system was built by the same people who are profiting by it today.

- We do not address partisan issues.

We do not take sides on any partisan issues at Reset America. We purposely don't address or care how you feel about any issue. You can be Democrat, Republican, Liberation, Green, or even fluorescent. Our goal is to unify ALL people around our common desire to take back government from career politicians and add competition to the 2 parties.

- We need to understand that we cling to harmful Mistaken Beliefs.

The only thing that can prevent change is if we continue holding onto society's mistaken beliefs. We must think for ourselves, and not be influenced by unconscious factors that cause us to make bad decisions.

- We need to stop blaming politicians for our problems.

Politicians are people – and people will always look out for themselves. So, who's really at fault?... the politicians who are just looking out for themselves or the people for giving unlimited money and power to a small group of people and hoping that they don't rig the system over time to stay in power?

- We need to add competition to our 2-party system.

There are many intelligent and caring citizens who are willing to put their personal interests aside for the benefit of all. But to do this, we must first update our corrupt election laws. In every election, we must vote for independent and 3rd party candidates across the board. It really doesn't get easier than this.

- The lesser of 2 evils is still evil.

Just because you think that one party looks better than the other at the moment, it doesn't mean that our country won't collapse, given our uncontrollable debt, global warming, lack of water, depletion of resources, foreign competition... Even the Soviet Union collapsed. How are we any different?

- We need to believe that transformational change is possible.

We can change government in just a few elections... with no new laws and without help from the 2 parties. All that's preventing this is rejecting the belief that "voting for a 3rd party is a wasted vote" when it's the only vote that really counts and that voting for a D or R is not just "wasted" but it is harmful because it contributes to a broken and dangerous system.

- I want to convince you to stay involved.

People are furious. This is good... but we can't get complacent. The people in power will always find ways to expand their control, so we must always be fighting for our right to democratic elections. A democracy is only sustainable when we elect the very best people and constantly hold them accountable.

- I want to convince you that we're at a Tipping Point.

We have been living with these false truths for too long. People are ready for change. Uncovering the truth behind our election process and our mistaken beliefs about society is the spark that we need to change the dangerous trajectory that our nation is on.

What are Mistaken Beliefs?

Mistaken Beliefs are misconceptions that we hold onto as a society. And not only are they not true, but the opposite of them is true.

- They are the expectation that something will happen in the future only because it happened in the past.
- They are a tool every politician uses to keep us from taking action.

- It is thinking that our government will always provide us with unlimited freedoms and endless opportunities because that's the way our Founding Fathers planned it and because that's the way it's always been.
- It is believing that we will always be able to maintain a western lifestyle identified by overflowing shelves at the grocery store, cheap products, new cars and clean water just because our ancestors were blessed with such abundance.
- It is resigning ourselves to the fact we're going to have to vote either Democrat or Republican because doing otherwise is a wasted vote.

We believe that our voting decision are based on logic and facts, but this is also a Mistaken Belief (#9 on the top 10 list.) It is my hope that people will see how we vote contradictory to what we say we want... and by thinking for ourselves, we can take back our government.

[A revolution is coming. The question is will it be a violent one and what will our country look like when the mob takes control?](#)

2. Four Books in One

Once people understand the catastrophic direction that we are headed... and the extraordinary opportunities that exist when re-election is not the key driver of legislation, they will realize that this plan is the only way to save our nation.

There is a lot of information contained in this book. I began researching various topics, but I didn't have time to finish writing all three. (I barely have enough time to watch 10 hours of meaningless YouTube videos a day.) So, I squeezed everything into a single book.

1. Our most dangerous mistaken beliefs. These are the thoughts that we believe to be true but are not. In fact, the complete opposite of them is true.

2. The many unconscious behaviors that we all have that affect how we think, and therefore, how we vote. This subject is more about psychology than politics.
3. The many legitimate and cost-saving solutions that are possible when re-elections are not the only factors that drive every decision in Washington.
4. A viable and realist strategy to save our nation. It's called Reset America. All of the material about this subject is also appears on our website at: www.ResetAmerica.com.

Issues that we will Cover

I cover a wide range of issues in this book. One moment, it's campaign finance violations and the next it's National Trick-Or-Treat Day. The common thread is that these all these issues are the direct results of two factors. They are the results of our failed 2-party system and incorrect beliefs about ourselves and our government.

In our government, the 2 parties are responsible for everything that goes down. Every decision they make directly affects every aspect of our lives... from business to government, foreign policy, the economy, the environment and so on and so on. It was a lot of work to research and write all this, but it's important that everyone realizes the scope of our problems, the incredible opportunities that exist, and how one simple vote can make all this happen.

Why certain words appear in "Quotes"

There are some words that have a different meaning for you than they do for me. So, when I use words, I will add "quotation marks" around these words. For example, I try to avoid using the word "leader" unless it's necessary since their actions fail to short of any kind of leadership. The same is true for the words "other side". Most Americans see themselves as being on one "side" or the other. But to me, the words mean something entirely different. In my world, one "side" are people trapped in our current 2-party system and the other side are people who want change: as shown on page 33.

This book is not 100% finished. Perhaps it will never be, but I felt that it was more important to publish what I have now given our current situation and the critical choices that we need to make.

The collapse of our nation will be blamed on our politicians, but who's really to blame... the politicians or the people who blindly re-elect the same people and support the same parties expecting different results?

3. Major Influences & Sources

There are 3 sources that influenced me the most while writing this book.

- First is the 2005 book, Freakonomics, by University of Chicago economist Steven Levitt and New York Times journalist Stephen Dubner. This is one of my favorite books because of how they clearly prove that the only way to predict human behavior is to look at how people are incentivized.
- It helps us uncover the true motivation of today's career politicians and how many of our worse problems can be solved by just changing one variable... how the people in power are incentivized.
- Second is Malcolm Gladwell's books Blink, Outliers, and Tipping Point. (I once pressured to dress as him for Halloween.) If you want to good introduction to understanding our programmed reactions, then I recommend Blink. I like how he uncovers the unconscious influences that effect our decisions.
- Third is Thomas Paine. In 1776, while visiting General Washington, he wrote a short document (called a pamphlet at the time), titled, Common Sense. It was about why the colonies should be independent from Britain. It quickly became the most read book in US history, per capita.

Enjoying a Sam Adams with Sam Adams

Growing up in Boston, my favorite bars were ones that were often visited by our Founding Fathers. I often thought about what it would be like to enjoy a Sam Adams with Sam Adams.

Worthy Organizations

- Ballot Access News, by Richard Winger. This newsletter provides the most comprehensive news about 3rd party politics, such as new voter restrictions and lawsuits to fight illegal candidate access laws.
- Century Stories Project. In this book, I used many sources. But I want to call attention to this organization. They publish a new book each year with all the censured stories of the previous years, including who censured it and how it was censured.
- Amnesty International. They do good work, and they don't use taxpayer funds. They are the model for the 3rd Party Rapid Response Network which I propose on page 53.
- Wikipedia - Wikipedia is a very useful resource and can use our support.

4. My Apologies

We apologize for a few things upfront regarding the text on our website and in our book.

1. Please ignore the little details as this book is being finished.

This material is still in a draft form. Therefore, please ignore details like grammar, capitalization, punctuation, cases (1st person, 2nd person) and so on.

2. This material is hard to keep current.

The data and events included in this book will be out of date quickly. But you will see that it doesn't matter which party is in office, what the current urgent issue of the day is, or the latest controversy, our nation will collapse within the next decade unless we do something now.

3. Our message might not be worded perfectly.

The book needs one last review. It may not include the best examples to prove a point. But regardless of the details, it does not diminish the importance of this message or the only realistic strategy to change the direction that our country is headed.

4. Duplicate text.

Some of the same information appears in different chapters. Sometimes this is intentional and sometimes it is not. All these issues will be fixed for the final edition.

5. Unlike career politicians, we don't get paid.

We are not paid to spread this message – unlike politicians who collect huge salaries and have unlimited resources. For those who fight for our freedom, the opposite is true.

Creating this message and publishing this material takes time away from generating income for my family. This is one of the many ways that the 2 parties maintain their grip on power.

- We're not paid extremely well by the people to run a perpetual campaign like the politicians.

- We don't have a huge staff whose jobs rely on getting politicians re-elected.
- We don't have researchers, speech writers, resources, and money to get this message out.
- We don't get invited to speak at events or get in the news with a single phone call.
- We can't pass laws that only benefit ourselves.
- We can't do this full-time unlike career politicians whose job it is to win re-election.

There are many more unfair and unethical advantages for incumbent politicians. Otherwise, how can they continually get a 95% re-election rate when they have a 7% approval rating? These are explained later.

6. I don't have all the answers.

We don't know everything (I'm sure that's no surprise to anyone who knows me), but somehow, all politicians always do. At least that's what they want us to think. Somehow, they have the perfect solution to every problem, every time. But unlike politicians, we don't have the answer to every problem... but at least we know what questions to ask.

[Pardon the Mixed Writing Style](#)

You'll notice that the language is not consistent. It goes from intellectual to common person quickly, however, it does the job at getting the point across. But I do have something going for me.

Thomas Paine wrote Common Sense at the start of the Revolutionary War. Nothing he wrote was particularly groundbreaking. Nearly everything he wrote was material introduced by Sam Adams.

But Adams was a lawyer and spoke in a language that was not familiar with the average person. Thomas Paine took the words from Sam Adams and make it resonate with the public. This was a reason for his success. It was not because of what he said, but how he said it.

Since this message is for all Americans, it's important that the material appeals to every demographic. Therefore, I don't see any reason to spend more time making the language consistent. My only concern is to communicate this message as quickly and efficiently as I can. Perhaps in the future, and with the help of a publisher, we can make it sound more professional, as well as include more accurate and up-to-date data.

[Statement to the People I Reference](#)

There are many sources that I cite in this book. I assume that you're okay with me using your name. After all, I am simply helping call attention to an issue that is of importance to all of us. But I understand there are legal issues that are beyond our control. So, if you have a problem with me referencing you or your organization, then please let me know. We will remove your information and replace it with data from another source immediately.

[It's hard to keep up](#)

This book took much longer to write than I thought it would. This is because our problems and corruption were growing faster than I could write them down.

As I researched different topics, I kept uncovering more and more unethical and illegal practices that the 2 parties use to stay in power.

- More attempts of the two parties to making chain control at any cost.
- More ways to prevent new ideas in competition.
- More ways to restrict voting rights.
- More tries to manipulate the media.
- More attempts to sway public opinion, and in general,
- More of everything that's listed in the 2-party quiz.

So, at some point, I had to stop writing new material and publish what I had.

Please, Bring it on

I'm certain that some of my facts are wrong. Am I worried that insiders and critics will use this fact to discredit this book? Not much. Some of the data may be wrong, but it doesn't change the conclusions. Any criticism will just call attention to this message... which is a wonderful thing.

5. A New Vocabulary is Needed

Branding the 3rd Party Movement

- In chapter, Perception, Branding & Neurons, we talk about the importance of branding an issue.
- In this chapter, we apply this to the 3rd party movement.

Our immediate goal is to get this issue listed in the Top 6 of the Most Important Issues Facing Americans. So, it's most important that we use the same slogans to make it easy for people to understand, remember and share these issues.

We must make this Issue the Highest Priority with Voters.

Having fair elections is the most important issue in our country. Everything stems from who we elect and re-elect. Now, I know what you're thinking. I'm already concerned with too many issues. I can't handle dealing with yet another issue. But folks... This is the only issue that really matters.

It's a mistaken belief that we elect who we want. The truth is that our leaders are chosen for us. We are presented with two options and then we decide who we prefer from the two options that they gave us.

**We do not elect people who represent us.
We are elect people who represent the people
who pay for their campaigns.**

Currently, there are no standardized terms in 3rd party politics. But if we want to make this a major issue in the public domain, then we need to adopt common terminology to use in public. We need titles (or catchphrases) that are short, memorable, and immediately lets people know what we are talking about.

These slogans would be used in the following ways:

- Appear on signs, bumper stickers, and t-shirts
- Be used for social media, blogging, polls, and surveys
- Be used for lists like "most important issues facing voters"

This is something that Donald Trump knows very well. He spends much time thinking of slogans that are short, catchy and will stay in the public's mind. These are slogans like Build the Wall, Drain the Swamp, Lock Her Up, America First, Fake News and Radical Left'. Liberal catchphrase are Defund the Police, Black Lives Matter and Occupy Wallstreet.

He frequently complains that the COVID virus is called by "too many names" because he knows that's it's hard to burn a brand into the public's mind if it has different names. He even ask his supporters at his rallies, "Which should we use... America or USA?"... and then waited to hear which his supporters preferred.

"Voter Choice" versus "Ballot Access"

The biggest challenge for 3rd parties is qualifying to get a name of a candidate on a ballot. This is what I define as "running for office."

The requirements to run for office are horribly difficult. This is because the rules for 3rd parties are very different from the rules for the Democrat and Republican Parties. That's right, the requirements for 3rd parties are completely different. (We cover this later.)

But in recent years, attempts at voter suppression have become common. As a result, the term "ballot access" means something different from the previous definition for the general public and in the media. The term now refers to the ability of a voter to have access to a ballot in order to cast a vote. Hence the phrase, "ballot access." This makes more sense because it literally says getting "access" to a "ballot'.

However, to avoid this confusion (between the 3rd party community and the general public), I will call the broader issue “voter choice” and the specific issue “signature gathering”. I will not use the term “ballot access” to avoid confusion.

[There are some serious problems with using the term, “ballot access” for its previous meaning.](#)

- The first problem is pretty obvious. Over 95% of people think that the slogan “ballot access” means something else. If the 3rd party community continues to use the term “ballot access” for its old meaning, then voters will think that they are talking about fighting attempts at voter suppression instead of an independent candidates being able to run for office.
- It limits the problem of independent candidates from running for office to just collecting enough signatures.
 - It does NOT refer to all the other obstacles that candidates need to overcome.
 - It does NOT express the huge number of unfair advantages that the 2 parties use to get re-elected.
- These obstacles and advantages go way beyond just getting a name on a ballot. (These are covered later.)
- There is yet another problem with the term. The term “ballot access” is extremely 3rd party centric. This means that it defines the action from the point of the view of the candidate. It says nothing about the voter. It doesn't explain why this is so vitally important to them ... or, “What's in it for me?” It doesn't give the average American a reason to care or get concerned to take action.

There are also major benefits of using the term “voter choice.”

- This name is more obvious, less confusing and describes this problem better.
- The phrase says that we are offering the voter more choices... People like options and feel robbed if they are prevented from having them... which, in this case, is voting for the candidate of their choice.

I realize how much this sucks for 3rd parties, including me. We've spent our lives fighting for “ballot access” and there are newsletters and videos that all talk about “ballot access.” And I hate that the term was stolen - although I never liked it in first place for the reasons stated above.

But now the decision to change the meaning of the term was made for us. We just can't have the same slogan mean 2 different things – especially when nearly the entire population thinks it means the other definition. Therefore...

- For the issue of allowing us to vote, I will use the term “Right to Vote”, or “Voter Rights.”
- For the traditional definition used by 3rd parties, I will use the terms Equal Laws and Signature Counts.

Here is a summary of the names and slogans that I will use in this book.

I may be clueless about most things, but I know something about marketing and messaging. Check out my bio on page18.

[Now is the Time to make these Changes](#)

I hope that the 3rd party community understands the importance of standardizing slogans for the purpose of branding this movement. And there is no better time to adopt a common vocabulary than now since the general public is just now learning about this issue. The time to make this switch is now.

The New Vocabulary of the 3rd Party Movement

Election Reform & Voter Rights	<p>These are good phrases to describe our overall mission of resetting our election process and rules. It includes all the other slogans and terms listed below.</p> <p>I dislike the using word “reform.” Reform implies fixing something. But sometimes a problem is such a mess that “fixing” it is not enough. We need to start over. That’s why I prefer the word “reset”. But the slogan “Election Reset” sounds odd. Therefore, for practical purposes, I need to become okay with using the slogan “Election Reform.”</p>
Equal Campaign Rules & Laws	<p>Currently, there is no term that represents the general issue of unfair campaign rules. 3rd parties talk about ballot access, but they ignore the wider and more serious issue that the rules and opportunities are very different from those of the 2 parties. In my opinion, if an independent candidate fulfills all the requirements to run for office, then they should be given the same opportunities as the Democrats and Republicans.</p>
Equal Opportunities	<p>This refers to our fight to create a level playing field. <u>Note:</u> “Equal” a good word because people equate “equal” with being fair, and regardless of the issue, people like conditions that are fair.</p>
Right to Vote	<p>The Right to Vote refers to the ability of a citizen to be able to cast a vote, which includes voter suppression laws.</p>
Voter Choice	<p>Voters Choice means that people can vote for whomever they want. People like options and the word “choice” suggests that they are currently deprived of having choices.</p>

Instant run-Off Voting

Can we get everyone speaking the same language? Yes! Ranked Voting was once called Instant Run-off Voting. For years, we pushed the slogan Ranked Voting and I’m delighted that this term is what we use today. I’m also overjoyed that this issue is now in the mainstream. (I don’t have any idea how much my efforts helped, but I’m going to take credit for it anyway. 😊)

Glossary

Some of you may be new to politics. You may not be up to date with the latest jargon.

- GOP refers to the Republican Party. The Democrats do not have a comparable nickname.

- When I use the word Congress, I am including both the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- Per capita means that it’s in proportion to the population. This is a far better way to present data.
- I use the words, “independent candidates” and “3rd party candidates” interchangeably. This is because all independent candidates need to run under a party name... even if it’s just a party of one. (Just one more way to protect the 2-party system.)

It’s my hope that all voters, both liberals and conservatives, see that replacing our current 2-party system is the easiest and quickest solution to our problems.

A “Constitutional Republic” versus a “Democracy”

It is often said that our government is a democracy. This is a mistaken belief. The truth is that our government is a Constitutional Republic. In a constitutional republic, the people elect representatives who in turn make the decisions. Our forefathers did this so that the majority wouldn't be able to control government and pass laws that were self-serving. Never did they fathom that it would be the politicians who would be self-serving. However, for the purposes of this book, when I use the word “democracy”, I am referring to Democratic Elections.

Two different writing styles

I started writing this book 15 years ago. At the time, I hired an editor to help put my thoughts on paper. So, you'll notice that some of the text seems to be written by a professional striving to win a Pulitzer Prize and the rest sounds like it was written by a 12-year-old. Guess which one is mine.

What makes me an Expert?

Marketer of the Year

I spent my entire career understanding consumer behavior (i.e., understanding why we buy what we buy. In 2011, I was named Marketer of the Year and inducted into the American Marketing Association's Hall of Fame X⁴ and called a “Message Machine” X⁵ by the Portland Business Journal.

This led me to try to understand why we make such bad decisions when it comes to who we elect to run our government.

Best Political Video

In 2007, I produced a short political video called, “Kiss Freedom Goodbye.”

It exposed some of the ways that the 2 parties use to fix the system to retain their grip on power. I included the word-for-word script in the appendix.

The video was critically-acclaimed and received the following awards for best political video:

- The Telly Award for Best Internet Commercial for Political Issues
- The W3 Award for Best Viral Marketing Video for Activism
- The Marcom Award for Best Political Web Video
- The Ava Award for best New Media Political Video

Student of Economics

I'm not trying to brag, but I earned a 4.0 GPA in honors economics from the NYU and received their best thesis award. So, I'm not a schmuck. Okay, I might be a schmuck, but I'm schmuck with a degree.

Evolution of my Career

The year was 1979, I was a freshman at the University of Massachusetts. My major was political science and the first election in which I could vote was approaching. Sen. Ted Kennedy from Massachusetts was running in the Democratic primary. I had done some work with him in the year prior and volunteered to become his Mass. college campaign coordinator.

It didn't take long for me to realize the hypocrisy of the 2-party system, so I switched my support to John Anderson, a 3rd party candidate. Also in 1980, I joined the Libertarian Party, and later, the Green Party. Ever since, I have never supported or voted for a Democratic or Republican candidate in a national election.

I've never voted for a Democrat or Republican for national office my life. This means that I can go to bed every night knowing that I never contributed to the problems caused by our 2-party system. But it also means that I have never known what it feels like to back a candidate that actually won an election. (This has got to be a record of some kind.) I hope that I get to feel what it's like once before I die.

Mike Gozian

2. INTRODUCTION

Nothing will change if we rely on the People who built the System
to Change the System.

6. The Only Source of Change

Nothing is more important than who we elect to represent us in Washington. But our election laws were created by the same politicians for whom the law applies. How else can they maintain a 95% re-election rate with a dismal approval rating of 7%? The only way that this could happen is if the parties prevent fair competition.

Politician and businesspeople are always talking about the great benefits of a free market system and how competition benefits everyone. Congress passed laws that make it a crime to prevent fair competition. But if competition is good for all, then why isn't it good for our 2 parties as well? Furthermore, if I did things in my business the way things are done in Congress, then I would be in jail for life. Can someone please explain to me how this is possible? (That's a rhetorical question.)

Change only comes from Outside the System

Every revolutionary change in a society comes from outside the system. There is no other way. This is especially true in politics where the people in power have the ability to create their own rules in order to prevent competition.

However, we as a people can change this by simply electing representatives who are outside the political system – that is, people who are not beholden to their party or paid for by special interests. These are people who care about our county and are willing to address our most pressing issues in an honest and intelligent way.

Ben Franklin said that change can only come from one direction, from outside the system. Think about it. Every revolutionary change on the planet comes from outside the system.

Just consider these recent examples...

- The iPhone didn't come from AT&T.
- Amazon didn't come from a department store.
- AirBNB didn't come from a hotel chain.
- YouTube didn't come from a TV network.
- Uber didn't come from a taxi company.
- Netflix didn't come from a broadcaster.
- Even Pornhub didn't come from Playboy!
- I can go on and on.

The same is true for our government. No change will happen so long as we keep crossing our fingers and hoping that our legislators will suddenly start doing the right thing. Our only solution is to force our representatives to do the right thing and make these changes to our election process:

- Term Limits to stop career politicians from being re-elected when their approval ratings are miserably low.
- Ranked Voting to end the "spoiler effect" which prevents people from voting for their preferred candidate. Instead, we are forced to vote for the nominee that the party chooses.
- Equal Campaign Laws to give independent candidates the same chance to get elected as the incumbent candidates from the 2 major parties.

Politicians are elected to office to solve our problems, not to be the problems.

**They're supposed to be public servants,
not servants to whatever special interests
help them win re-election.**

7. Evolution of this Message

8. The Data Exposes some Strange Contradictions

It's clear that our voting decisions are
hypocritical and contradictory.
We vote completely opposite to what we
say that we want.

Nothing is going to change if we keep re-electing the same people who created the mess that we are in today. But the public (i.e., you) already know this. This polling data proves that we are finally fed up with the filth that spews from the Washington swamp. (It's sad that the city that bears the name of a great forefather has evolved into what it is today.)

Definition of Polarized

We examine a lot of opinion data from "both sides." So, what is the threshold to decide if an issue is polarizing or not polarizing? As I see it, an issue is not polarizing if more than twice as many people agree with the question. So our society is not polarized if more than 2/3rds of Americans feel one way and less than 1/3 feels the other. Therefore, I will only be using data where the results have a greater than 2 to 1 ratio. Though this may not be very scientific, it still proves what I need to say.

"Voters" versus "Americans"

60% of eligible Americans voted in the 2020 presidential election.

40% of Americans don't vote. This is not because they don't care. (This is a top 10 mistaken belief.) They don't vote because they don't see a difference between parties. They are correct. Out of those, half vote for Democrats and half vote for Republicans. This means that only 30% of Americans like either party.

So, in all this data, the opinions of non-voters are not included. In truth, we should double the results anytime the data reports "voters" instead of "all Americans." I divided the data into 3 categories.

- A Vast Majority of Voters do not Trust Government

I will be referring to a lot of data in this book to make my points. I apologize if some of this data is old or incorrect. I will be updating this data occasionally and posting these updates on our website.

- Congressional Re-election Rates

The re-election rates for the House of Representatives are about 93% and, in the Senate, it is about 98%. For the purposes of this book, I'll use the number 95%. X⁷

- Congressional Approval Ratings

The lowest approval rating for Congress (and most recent) is 7% X⁸. Before this, the lowest numbers I saw were 9% X⁹ and 10% X¹⁰... and the most recent numbers as high as 16% to 23%.

The current level of hyper-partisanship and anger towards the "other side" have boosted approval ratings for their "own side."

To make things simpler, I will use the figure of 7% because this was the lowest that I have seen it reported. But the exact number doesn't matter anyway. Whether its 7% or 23%, people are outraged... and this is true from voters on "both sides."

1. Here are some additional polling results.

- Public trust in the government is at historic lows. 80% of Americans believe that the country is out of control. Only 15% say it is under control. X¹¹
- 77% of voters say they are dissatisfied with the state of politics in the country today. X¹²
- 76% of adults say, that compared with 20 years ago, Americans are less confident in the federal government. X¹³
- Just 32% of Americans have a "fair amount" or "great deal" of trust in the federal government's ability when it comes to protecting their families, according to an Axios-Ipsos poll released Tuesday. X¹⁴
- 75% of Americans last year perceived corruption as widespread in the country's government. This figure is up from 67% in 2007 and 66% in 2009. X¹⁵
- Only 3% of Americans say they can trust the government in Washington to do what's right "most of the time" and only 14% "most of the time." That's a total of 17% who say that they trust government. X¹⁶
- Nearly 70% of Americans say the federal government is bad at governing – and only 19% say that the government is doing a good job. That's over 3 times more people saying they don't like the way government is working. X¹⁷
- Congressional approval ratings are at a record low of 9%. X¹⁸
- A Forbes Magazine poll puts this figure at 10%. X¹⁹

2. Our Opinion of both Parties is Terrible

Let's take a look at how voters feel about the Democratic and Republican Parties.

- 69% of voters disapprove of the 2-party system. Finally, voters realize that the easiest way to fix our problems as to add competition to both parties. X²⁰
 - 68% say that a 3rd party is needed. This proves that people are angry and have had enough. X²¹
 - 61% of voters say that neither party reflects their opinions today. X²²
 - 66% of Americans think there ought to be a 3rd party in the United States. This says that people already know what we need to do in order to fix our political system. X²³

3. Our View of the Issues

We see what Americans think of our government and the 2 parties, what do they say about the issues?

- 80.1% national congressional Term Limits whole March 2021 X²⁴
- 74% of Americans think that Facebook is bad for society. X²⁵
- 69% of Americans say the federal government intentionally withholds important information from the public that it could safely release, and 61% say the news media intentionally ignores stories that are important to the public. X²⁶
- 64% say it is hard to tell the difference between what is true and not true when they hear elected officials; 48% say the same thing about information they encounter on social media. X²⁷
- 64% say that low trust in the federal government makes it harder to solve many of the country's problems. X²⁸
- 63% of those surveyed would end the Electoral College X²⁹

- Nearly 2/3rds of Americans would support breaking up tech firms by undoing recent mergers, such as Facebook's acquisition of Instagram, if it means ensuring more competition in the future. X³⁰
- "77% of Americans say it's more important for the United States to develop alternative energy sources, such as solar and wind power, than to produce more coal, oil and other fossil fuels." X³¹
- 70% of people want vote by mail. X³²

Approval Ratings for the Supreme Court and Mass Media

The dysfunction of our government has spilled into other US institutions.

- The job approval rate for the Supreme Court is at a record low of 40%. X³³
- 38% of people have no trust in the media first time in our history. X³⁴

A Glimmer of Hope

Finally, there is one stat that is very optimistic. Even as we express miserable views about the state of government today, an unexpected large number of people believe the situation can be turned around.

- Fully 84% believe the level of confidence that we have in our government can be improved, and
- 86% think improvement is possible when it comes to the confidence we have in each other. X³⁵

Suddenly we don't look so polarized anymore.

- We are **all** angry.
- We **all** want change.
- We already know that change needs to come from outside the system.
- We already know that we need 3rd parties to add competition of the current disgusting, rancid and destructive 2-parties.

My Reason for Writing this Book

Here's where the fun begins. Consider these 2 pieces of data.

- The re-election rate for Congress is over 95%. Yes, you heard me right. Although congressional approval ratings are at 7%, over 95% of Congress is re-elected each term. (That's a re-election rate higher than the former Soviet Pollitt Bureau.)
- In 2016, we had the two candidates with the highest disapproval rates running for President. Clinton's approval rating was 41%. Trumps was 33%. X³⁶

Yet there were two other candidates that had enough possible electoral votes to win the election, Gary Johnson (Libertarian) and Jill Stein (Green Party).

But despite the fact that both Clinton and Trump were so disliked, less than 5% of people voted for these viable candidates, especially in non-swing states where a vote for a Democrat or Republican would not have made a difference. If any vote is "wasted", it is one made to a Democrat or Republican.

The purpose of the primaries is to choose the finest candidate from each party. They compete for months with the weakest candidates dropping out until the two best nominees are left. So what does it mean that the two best nominees for each party had approval ratings of 41 and 33%? It means that our election process is totally fucked.

This data proves that what we want does not agree with how we vote. Consider these contradictions. (Later on, we will talk about how thinking for ourselves is different when we think on behalf of society.)

- 85% of voters dislike our government, **but** we only support the 2 major parties.
- 80% of voters want Term Limits, **but** we re-elect the same "leaders" over 95% of the time.

- In 2016, we had record low approval ratings for both nominees at 41% and 33%, **but** less than 5% of people voted for a different candidate.
- 68% of people want 3rd parties, **but** we believe that “voting for 3rd party is a wasted vote.”

To accomplish our goals, we must do the following.

- Inspire the American People for the urgent need of change.
- Explain that the solution involves:
 1. Term Limits
 2. Ranked Voting
 3. Equal Rules & Laws for 3rd Parties
- Convince voters to think for themselves.

But, as it turns out, over the past 15 years, we (the American People) have learned some truths.

- 80% of voters support national congressional Term Limits. X³⁷
- 80% of voters are comfortable using Ranked-Choice Voting X³⁸
- 68% of voters say that a 3rd Party is needed. X³⁹

This information is copied from the preface. (Yeah, it's that important.)

We're already 4/5ths there!

15 years ago, I could have never dreamed that public opinion on these issues would be so high.

This is wonderful, especially because I don't need to try and convince you that we have make these changes. You already know this. My only goal now is to convince voters to only vote for candidates who support these changes. How hard can this really be?

Politicians are always talking about how competition benefits everyone. In fact, they pass laws that make it a crime to prevent competition... but if competition is good for all, then why isn't it good for the Democratic and Republican Parties as well?

The bottom line is this. We already know the problems and the solutions. This makes creating the change we need easier than a politician selling out for brides... Sorry, I mean “campaign contributions.” My bad.

Because of this, we have only the following task left. We need to convince ourselves to make Election Reform the most important issue in our minds, above all other issues, and only vote for candidates who pledge their support to these 3 policies, Term Limits, Ranked Voting and Equal Rules and Laws to give Independents and 3rd Parties an equal chance to be elected. Is this asking too much?

Fortunately, were not as stupid as the politicians think we are.

Incredibly, the data shows that we're already 80% towards reaching our goal!

- We **realize** the urgent need of change **DONE**
- We **know** that the solution involves:
 4. Term Limits **DONE**
 5. Ranked Voting **DONE**
 6. Equal Rules & Laws for 3rd Parties **DONE**
- We **must convince** voters to think for themselves. **How hard can this be?**

9. The 2 Parties are Really the Same

A multi-party system in which all qualified parties are accorded an equal footing is the one and only answer if we are going to preserve the democracy inspired by our Forefathers.

The System is working Exactly as it is Intended.

The following paragraph is quoted from a paper titled "Why competition from the politics industry is failing America." This statement is 100% true. X⁴⁰

"Washington is delivering exactly what it is currently designed to deliver. The real problem is that our political system is no longer designed to serve the public interest and has been slowly reconfigured to benefit the private interests of gain-seeking organizations: our major political parties and their industry allies."

Ramifications of the 2 Party System.

There are several dangerous consequences of our 2-party system.

1. Our "leaders" are incentivized to not solve problems.

Solutions can mean that constituents got what they wanted, and they may stop donating and helping their party because their particular issue was resolved.

2. There's no accountability for poor results.

Accountability would mean voting legislators ought office if progress wasn't made. But are 2 parties compete by dividing voters based on partisan ideology. And people have no choice but to vote for the candidates selected by the two parties.

3. There is no reason change course.

There's no reason to change course because the system is working exactly as is supposed to be.

4. Practical solutions are ignored.

Practical solutions to some of our worst problems are covered up and not debated because they don't help get politicians re-elected.

5. Poor legislation is adopted.

The only solutions offered and debated are those that raise money or boost the economy at the detriment of the American People.

6. It encourages gridlock and discourages bipartisanship

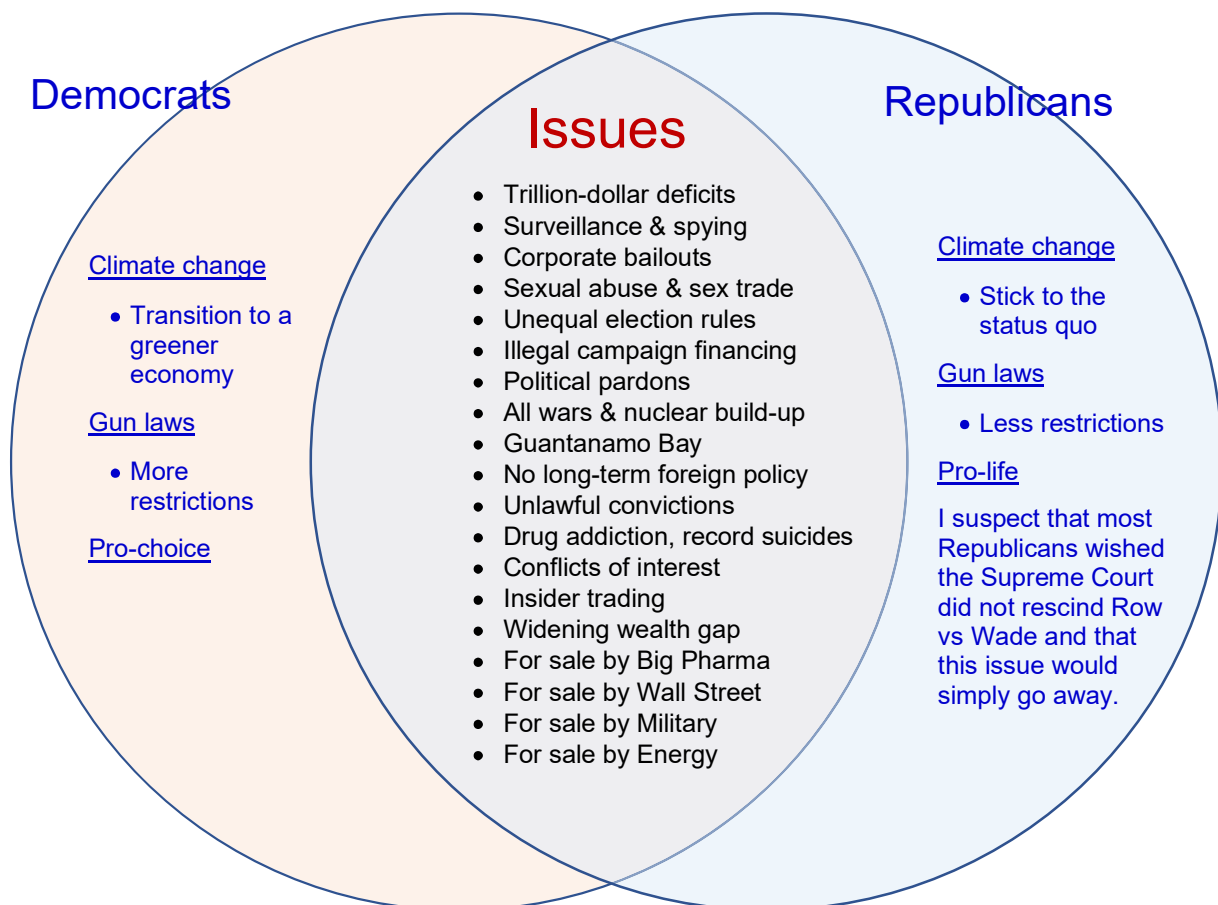
The two sides have entrenched themselves. There is very little co-sponsorship of legislation and they have largely stopped the process of reconciliation. This is when bipartisan conference committees sit down to reconcile house and Senate legislation. Further, bipartisan minded legislators can be threatened with a primary challenge in their next election. This has become very common in recent elections. But having said all this, read why bipartisanship is not a good thing on page 33.

7. It allows them to live in a higher class.

Politicians live in a much different world from you and me. I guess I was absent on the day they taught us that our "leaders" can live in a separate class.

Do you still believe there's a difference between the Democrats and Republicans, or that the change we need can occur from within the 2 parties? I have a bridge for sale. Check out this graphic. You'll see that there are very few issues where the 2 parties differ.

There is only one political party in the US



I highly doubt that the real patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War would approve of how “both sides” are acting.

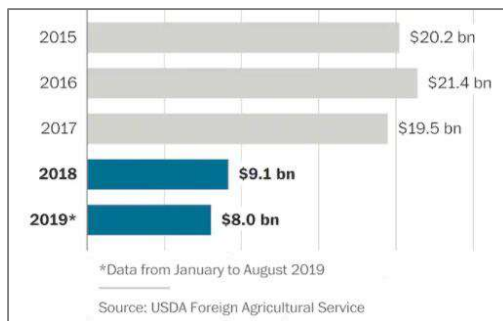
Lack of Consequences for their Actions

Our 2-party system causes our “leaders” to ignore the effects of their decisions. Here are 2 examples of ramifications that are worse than the original problems themselves.

China Trade Wars → Farmers → Loss of Jobs → Global Warming → Cutting Exports & Imports

China had been buying a large amount of agricultural products from us. But due to our hostile trade policies, they stopped buying grain from us and turned to Brazil. In turn, Brazil burned down a large section of the Amazon Forest to clear land for farmers which, in turn, accelerated the effects of global warming. And the collapse of exports didn't just affect farmers. It effected **all** the industries, businesses and jobs that supported these exports, such as production, packaging, and shipping... forever. In the end, farmers were given massive bailouts because their income was hit so badly.

U.S. Agricultural Exports to China



There were other ramifications of this trade war. China no longer accepts our recycled garbage, causing our landfills to fill faster and cutting exports of critical technologies. This caused product shortages and increased the prices of many of the products that we use every day.

This was a disaster in every way possible. But Congress had the power to prevent this trade war and did nothing. Why?... because they already have a 95% re-election rate. Why rock the boat?

Deficit Spending → Immigration

Here's another consequence which is not as obvious. Our country is running on debt spending. This excess spending creates an artificially high standard of living. This creates a wider gap between the quality of life here in the US and that of Central American countries. This difference incentivizes people to immigrate here. If we didn't spend the money that we steal from our children, then foreigners would be less motivated to come here... and we might be able prevent our approaching economic collapse due to our surging debt.

Congress has the power to counter decisions that are not in the interest of our country. But in our divisive 2-party system, politicians are not authorized to think for themselves. They must support the positions of their party even if they know that these policies are terribly wrong.

One bad policy creates other problems, which creates other problems and so on.
But one legitimate solution opens the door to other legitimate solutions.

Hot Button Issues

Ignoring the obvious repercussions of policies isn't the only problem. Another problem are hot button issues. A hot button issue is an issue...

- That is a major threat to our people, our nation and planet. Nothing in the entire world is more important than this issue.
- That is the most critical issue of the time. if this problem isn't dealt with immediately, then we all die and shrivel up.
- That is not politically popular, and making unpopular decisions threatens their chances for re-election.
- That was debated for a long time and no outcome was reached. To avoid attacks from the “other side”, the issue was dropped and was never addressed again. (I guess that all these problems just magically disappeared. like integrity from our “leaders”.)

Hot button issues are discussed and debated around the clock. Sometimes they were in the public consciousness for years. News about these issues were reported all day and every day. Most of the time, nothing else was discussed or debated. The phrase at the time was, "Our nation depends on us dealing with this urgent and critical threat." But in the end, nothing was done. When it was clear that no agreement was possible, they immediately switched their focus on to the next "urgent and critical threat."

Once an issue becomes a hot button issue, it can never be addressed again. Here are some of our most well-known hot button issues: These are Issues that were once "emergencies" but are now completely ignored.

Hot Button Issue & Result

- National Debt

All debt (government, personal & corporate) is surging.

- Over Population

We reached the carrying capacity of our planet in 1970. We simply do not have enough resources on our planet to feed and sustain more inhabitants. But instead of our population decreasing, it's increasing faster than ever before.

- Social Security

Social security is heading towards bankruptcy faster than ever.

- Education

"Both sides" agree that "No Child Let Behind" was a dismal failure.

- Trade Deficit

Our trade imbalance was a huge issue during the Regan administration, but it is no longer discussed, and our trade deficit continues to soar. due to all the special interests.

- Nuclear Expansion

The Cold War was over and we achieved unilateral nuclear arms reduction. But we are now building nuclear missiles faster than we ever did before... which is obviously causing other nations (including our adversaries) to do the same.

- Sustainability

Every species of animal on our planet follows the same pattern. Their population keeps growing until there's no prey left. Then the population plummets. Then, as the population of their prey slowly recovers, so does the animal's population and the cycle continues. The same situation is happening with us, but in our case, it's not only food but also for raw materials like oil, natural gas, metals, and water.

Did these problems suddenly disappear? Of course not. Just because they failed to be addressed, doesn't mean the problem suddenly disappeared. As a matter of fact, not only are these issues ignored, but the problems are accelerating!

They put Politics before Policy

The only legislation that comes out of Washington are laws that help our "leaders" win re-election. Here's proof. On December 24, 2019, Congress passed a \$900 million defense bill. It was supported by both parties. But Trump threatened to veto the bill if it was passed. So many Republicans changed their vote. The wording in the bill did not change. The only difference was that the president was opposed to it and they didn't want to alienate Trump's base of supports. Is this really the criteria that should be using to determine our nation's policy?

In another case, a leading Republican senator asked about Obama's infrastructure plans, and he replied, "We have him on the ropes, why throw him a bone?" This short quote proves my entire point. Their priority is not to help the American People. It is to protect their careers. Is this really the criteria that should determine our nation's policies?

No Easy Solutions = No Action

There are other issues that won't be addressed for another reason. It's because there are no easy solutions to the problem. Dealing with these issues requires us to adopt unpopular corrective actions and policies, like cutting benefits, increasing taxes and prioritizing our spending. None of these policies help with re-election campaigns.

Remember that a legislator's highest priority is getting re-elected... and making unpopular decisions will threaten their chance of keeping their jobs. At a minimum, they need to raise more money for their campaigns in order to offset the probable decline in their polls. Rather than addressing our problems honestly, the strategy of both parties is to ignore reality and minimize the obvious danger of these threats.

There are simple solutions to some of my worst problems, but time is running out. We need to take immediate steps to change the trajectory of our nation. Sadly, prior to the 2020 election, the strategy of the Democrats was to wait and "do nothing" until they someday occupy the Whitehouse again (page 59.)

We've lived outside our means for too long. Instead of addressing our impending financial disaster, our debt is soaring. We are supposed to pay down our debt during periods of economic growth but, in the past decade, it is increasing at a record pace. Our entire economic system is a house of cards. We used to think that "America is too big to fail" but most people today agree that bad times are ahead.

What-about-isms

Both parties rely quite a bit on "what-about-isms." Although in his defense, both parties are guilty of this. A what-about-ism is a term that is used to describe when politicians claim that their actions may be bad, but the other party's actions are no different.

Since the actions of the Democrats are just as bad as those of the Republicans, Republicans can point fingers at the Democrats for doing the same things, and vice versa.

For example, whenever Trump is asked a controversial question about the 2016 election, his response is always "what about Hillary..." Other popular what-about-isms are:

- What about Obama?
- What about the Democrats?
- What about China, the Russians, ventilators...

For the Democrats, here are a few of their what-about-isms...

- What about accountability and transparency?
- What about human rights, justice and equality?
- What about draining the swamp?

Doublespeak

Members of both parties are experts at "doublespeak". We hear and read doublespeak every day, but what, exactly, is it? Webster's dictionary defines it with these words: evasive, ambiguous, high-flown language intended to deceive or confuse. Here are the characteristics of Doublespeak; it is speech that:

- Misleads and distorts reality
- Pretends to communicate
- Makes the bad seem good
- Avoids or shifts responsibility
- Limits, conceals, and prevents thought
- Creates confusion between reality and what is said or not said X⁴¹

Gaslighting

Politicians from both parties manipulate us in several ways, and gaslighting is one of them. Interestingly, the term "gaslighting" has nothing to do with the meaning of the word. (For example, I first thought that it meant "pouring gas onto a flame", but it does not.)

Gaslighting is a form of psychological manipulation that makes us question our own memory and sanity by constantly distorting facts, evidence, and events. communicating with the person gaslighting us, we are left questioning ourselves and our beliefs.

The term comes from a 1938 play in which a murdering husband manipulates and confuses his wife by dimming the gas lights in their home and then denying it's happening. Psychology Today says, "It works much better than you may think. It's a common technique of abusers, dictators, narcissists, and cult leaders. It is done slowly, so the victim doesn't realize how much they've been brainwashed." X⁴²

Double Standards

Double standards are commonplace in Washington. For example, Congress just passed the COVID recovery bill. The Republicans were in an uproar because some of the items in the bill were not related to the pandemic. Soon after, another bill was debated, and the Republicans demanded that it included a payroll tax hike. This had nothing to do with the COVID crisis either.

Consequences of not Voting with your Party

Politicians from both parties are afraid to tell the truth or vote their conscience because of the consequences. If they don't do as they're told, they will get shutout of fundraising opportunities, invitations to events, committee appointments, media interviews, Whitehouse visits and much much more.

Controversial Issues are Ignored

This is an example of how the government's policies cause our problems to worsen. The truth is that anytime the government makes something, that people want, illegal, then more crime is inevitably introduced.

For example, it's a mistaken belief that the best way to deal with sex trade and sex abuse is to make prostitution illegal. The truth is that if we want to end to sex slavery and abuse, then it makes no sense to keep consensual sex work illegal.

To begin with, there's a difference between sex workers and sex slavery. One is a choice, the other is a crime. The problem with having sex work illegal is that it prevents sex workers from working safely and it makes sex slavery harder to uncover and prosecute.

But there's no politician, from either party, who will risk attacks from the "other side" by backing a controversial issue – even if the solution was guaranteed to work.

So, the first step in dealing with these problems is to make sex work legal and safe. Instead, the 2 parties support either feel good legislation, or they do nothing at all. Feel good legislation is legislation that sounds good on paper but has no chance of succeeding and usually makes the problem worse.

- By keeping prostitution illegal, women are afraid to come forward to report abuse, rape, and other human rights violations. Many of these girls are addicted to drugs and assume that they will be in even more trouble if they spoke up.
- By making prostitution legal, the industry becomes transparent and, therefore, it's easier to identify and prosecute sex crimes.

Politicians want to look like they're "tough on crime" and therefore are afraid to support controversial positions - even though these solutions have been proved to work in other countries.

Here's another example of how the need to be politically correct interferes with sound policy. Dr. Minnie Elders served as Surgeon General from 1993–1994 under Pres. Clinton. A Vice Admiral in the Public Health Service Corps, she was the 2nd woman and 1st black to serve as the top doctor in the nation. She's best known for her frank discussions on controversial issues like drug legalization, contraception, and masturbation for promoting safe sex. (Even today, masturbation is something that half of us do, and the other half doesn't admit to!)

In 1994, she was forced her to resign due to her honest, but outspoken views. It's worth noting that only 13 states require that sex education be medically accurate. Is this what's best for our kids?

The Lesser of 2 Evils is still Evil

Rather than looking at the 2 parties as individual entities, it's more accurate to recognize them as 2 parts of a single whole. It's a monopoly that will keep its power at all costs.

For example, they criticize each other because it creates the illusion that they are separate and different. In reality, they are the same. Some people call this a duopoly. I don't give a shit. I just want us to take back control of our government.

Both Parties are Equally Guilty

Nothing that Trump did was unusual. The administrations of both parties are guilty of these same crimes. The difference with Trump is that he doesn't know (or care) that what he does is wrong. Previous presidents have tried to manipulate the public, obstructed investigations and taken part in criminal activities. How is Trump any different? Should he have been impeached? Of course... but they **all** should be impeached.

The moment that one party invents a new corrupt practice; the other party takes it to a whole other level. Some examples of escalating corruption are campaign finance violations, gerrymandering, presidential pardons in exchange for cash and political gain.

Brilliant Marketers or Criminals?

The people who run these parties are brilliant marketers. Despite having the lowest approval ratings in history, the 2 parties have convinced us that any vote cast for a competitor is a "wasted vote". Like I said... brilliant.

But hold on for a minute. Are they truly brilliant marketers or have they merely corrupted the system to prohibit competition? After all, if Congress was a business, then they would all be guilty of violating antitrust laws and they would be in federal prison.

**There are never any consequences
for violating the law because
both parties are guilty of the same
criminal acts.**

10. Which Party is Worse? Take our Quiz.

Do you still think that there's a difference between the Democrat and Republican Parties? If so, then take our quiz. Here are some common behaviors of our so-called "leaders". Tell me, which party is guilty of these acts?

Democrats _____
Republicans _____
BOTH _____

- _____ They pass the buck to future generations to clean up the mess that they created.
- _____ They're both bought and paid for by the oil industry - by Wall Street, by big pharma, by the military industrial complex, by tobacco, by insurance, etc., etc. Get the point?
- _____ They try to sabotage the policies of the "other side" at the expense of our children.
- _____ They spend money we do not have, increasing our debt, in order to bribe the public to get your vote.
- _____ They point fingers and avoiding responsibility for the dismal situation in Washington.
- _____ They live in a separate class that's out of touch with the American People.
- _____ They won't support valid ideas from the other party unless it benefits them more.
- _____ They lie outright about events, facts, projections and data.
- _____ They use their position for personal gain and expanding their power and influence.
- _____ They manipulate facts, censor stories and lie to gain a political advantage.
- _____ They're afraid to tackle tough issues, so they only address "distraction issues."
- _____ They would rather see a program fail than to see their opponents win.
- _____ They see the "other side" as a competitor but not other nations.
- _____ They are in a perpetual campaign that starts the moment they take office. Even now, Washington is in full-time campaign mode.

The following actions come from events recently in the news.

- _____ They use presidential pardons for fundraising and political purposes.
- _____ They hate when celebrities are vocal about their political views, but they like it when the celebrities are on their side.
- _____ Their positions on issues are determined by their chances for re-election and not by what's in the best interest of our people.
- _____ They ignore critical issues because they're not politically correct, like the dreadful rise in depression and suicides, including the well-being of our veterans.
- _____ They manipulate the legislative process to block or pass unrelated legislation that furthers their self-interest.
- _____ They switch their positions on issues when the other party is in power or fail to support helpful positions (like treaties, etc.) because they were not supported by the other party or previous administration.
- _____ They are all re-active. There is no forward thinking or planning ahead on any issue. They ignore all problems until they get so out-of-control they are forced to acknowledge it. But instead of dealing with the issues intelligently, they throw a quick band-aid on it and pray it doesn't hurt their chances of re-election.

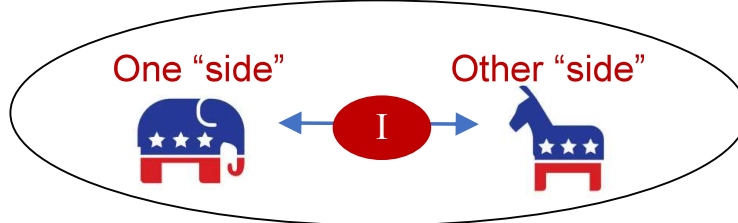
I can keep going - but my pen is about to run out of ink. The parties know that they can get away with any unlawful activity because the other party was guilty of the same crimes. For example, Democrats can't attack Trump for using pardons as a political tool since they all defended Hillary Clinton after she sold presidential pardons in exchange for campaign contributions.

11. A New Political Model

I want to convince you that we can decide how we wish to be governed and not simply accept the model that's offered by the 2 parties.

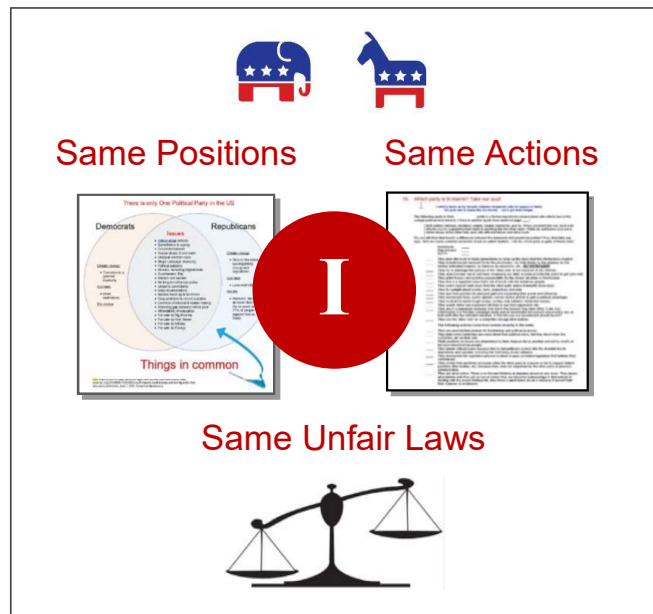
It is 2:00 am and I'm at my favorite Chinese restaurant. I was writing pages of this book when a girl at the bar asked what I was doing. I said, "I'm trying to abolish our corrupt 2-party system to allow for independent candidates." She said, "So, you're in the middle right?" My first reaction was to scream. But then I thought that other people may assume that this is what I mean as well, so I wrote this chapter. This is how most people see our 2-party system. You have the Democrats and Republicans on opposite sides, and they fight against each other.

2-party System
Popular View



But this is not how it really is. This is yet another mistaken belief. Our 2-party system really looks like this.

2-party System
Reality



Our actual political system (shown above) includes these 3 characteristics.

1. Same Issues We talked about how similar they are in with the issues and how only a few issues separate them.
2. Same Actions We saw how they are exactly alike when it comes to their complete lack of ethics and accountability. You saw this when you took our quiz.
3. Same Laws Both parties are equally guilty in preventing competition.

Partisanship and Gridlock

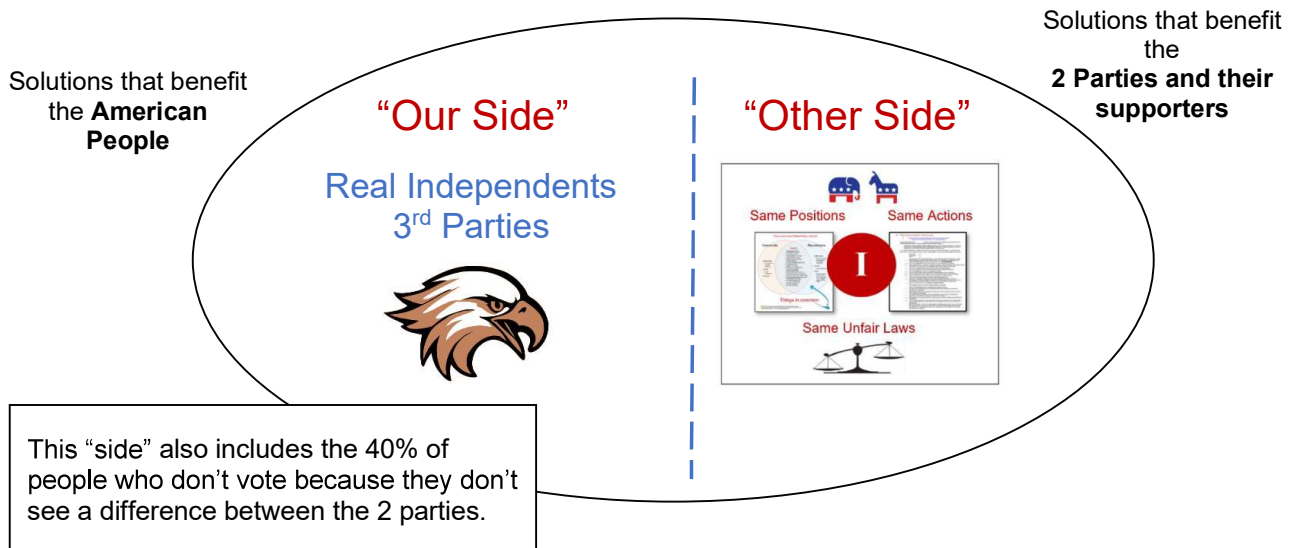
I hear a lot about how we can fix our problems if the 2 parties could cooperate. They say that the problem is due to gridlock and partisanship. I disagree completely.

Let's assume the Democrats collect \$10 billion from Big Pharma and Republicans collect \$20 billion. If the 2 parties "met in the middle", then both would sellout for \$15 billion each. Since both parties agree on most issues, this is what's happening today with most legislation.

Where are Independents?

If Independents are in the center, then it's like being in the middle of a Hurricane and a Tsunami. Here's a better example. If Republicans wear red underpants and Democrats wear blue underpants, then under this model, an Independent would wear purple underpants (the mix of red and blue). But I don't wear underwear at all, I go commando! (In case you're curious, don't worry, I don't spend all my time thinking about underpants. Not all anyway!)

Here's what our political system should look like. One "side" is the 2-party system, and the other "side" are Real Independent and 3rd Parties. I mentioned before how the traditional definition of "sides" is different from my definition. The public views "sides" as Democrats and Republicans, but I view "sides" as the 2-party system versus Government by the People. This explains why I use quotation marks whenever I use the word "sides."



Remember, it's not Right versus Left, it's US versus THEM.

12. Switching Parties every 2 years is Not a Solution

We have a short memory. We forget how much we hate one party, so in 2 years, we vote for the other party. Then, we remember how much we hated that party, so in 2 years, we vote for the other party again. This has been going on for too long.

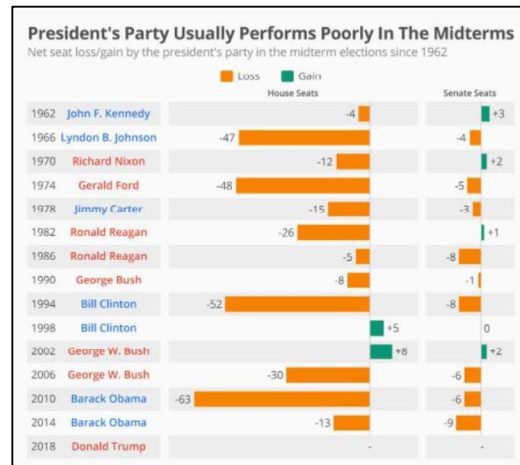
In every recent election, except one, the party in power loses congressional seats and the other party gains congressional seats. This is obviously not doing us any good.

Here is the turnover rate for Congress during the midterm elections. Since World War II, in only two midterms has the President's party gain seats in the House.

The only 2 exceptions were when Democrats won seats in 1998, after Republicans' bad decision to impeach Bill Clinton, and the Republicans won seats in 2002, after 911 when Pres Bush's approval ratings were at an all-time high. X⁴³

Losses by the President's Party in Midterm Elections, 1862 – 2018 X⁴⁴

Year	President	Party	Change in seats in House & Senate
2020	Joe Biden	D	(Not sure)
2018	Donald Trump	R	-41
2014	Barack Obama	D	-22
2010	Barack Obama	D	-70
2006	George Bush	R	-36
2002	George Bush	R	9
1998	Bill Clinton	D	-4
1994	Bill Clinton	D	-62
1990	George HW Bush	R	-9
1986	Ronald Regan	R	-13
1982	Ronald Regan	R	-25
1978	Jimmy Carter	D	-18
1974	Gerland Ford	R	-52
1970	Richard Nixon	R	-11
1966	Lyndon Johnson	D	-52



The Parties Flip-flop Too

Voters flip-flop from one election to the next, but the 2 parties flip-flop as well. The parties take one position but then completely switch it if it helps them politically. Some might call this hypocritical. I'm guessing that you do to. Here are some recent examples.

Debt Ceiling

The economy is an important issue with voters. More spending means more economic activity. So with each new administration, the ruling party submits larger and larger budgets. A larger government also means more jobs, government contracts and other opportunities to pass out for donations to fund their re-election campaigns.

So, it's become common for the ruling party to submit larger and larger budgets. This requires Congress to raise the debt ceiling. But the opposing party won't have any of it - and raising the debt ceiling is a great reason to attack the "other side."

Gerrymandering

Each party can't wait to redraw congressional districts to help them stay in power. But when they are not the ruling party, then it's an entirely different story.

Foreign Wars

A good example is going to war. War is great when your party holds the presidency. There are many benefits to going to war when you're elected.

For example, when Clinton was President, the Democrats support going to war in Bosnia and Kosovo and the Republicans were against it. But in the next administration, George Bush #43 went to war in Iraq and the Democrats were against it.

Free Trade

Historically, Republicans were in favor of free trade and were opposed to trade restrictions of any kind. But Trump made trade a big issue in his presidency and the Republican Congress went along. If the Democrats proposed these same restrictions, then the Republicans would have been outraged.

Presidential Impeachments

In 1998, President Clinton was impeached for lying while testifying in court. The Democrats vigorously defended Clinton. The Republicans vigorously prosecuted him. Recently, President Trump was tried for impeachment and the same Democrats who defended Clinton are prosecuting Trump and the same Republicans who prosecuted Clinton are now defending Trump. Surprised?

Electoral College

Another issue that flip-flops between the parties is the Electoral College. Before, 2016, the Democrats benefited by it more and since 2016, it is the Republicans. This is explained on page 47.

The Filibuster

There are some things that are just so absurd that you don't know whether to laugh or to cry, this is one of those things. This is an issue that has been in the news recently. It's also one of these things that if you didn't already know it exists, then you won't believe that it does. It is called the Filibuster.

It means that you need a supermajority of 60 votes to pass any bill, resolution or amendment in the Senate. The process of stopping a filibuster is called a cloture. The votes required for cloture is 60 out of the 100-member Senate. In the past, the Republicans wanted to abolish it and the Democrats didn't. But now, the Democrats want to abolish it and the Republicans don't.

By using the filibuster rule, a senator can talk about whatever they want, and for as long as they want until they stop talking. They have been brought food, water and even a pee bottle. You think that bringing a pee bottle to the floor of the US Senate is weird? During a St. Louis City Hall filibuster, Alderwoman Irene Snith's assistant covered her with a sheet so she could pee in a garbage can.

Over the past year, no fewer than 45 senators have called for changing or eliminating the filibuster. But of those 45 senators, 39 defended the filibuster to delay legislation when Republicans controlled the Senate. Well known Democrats who recently changed their position are:

- Sen. Chuck Schumer
- Sen. Bernie Sanders
- Pres. Obama
- Pres. Biden (wants to "overhaul" the rule)

Senator McConnell has defended his move to eliminate the filibuster for Supreme Court nominees by pointing to the fact that Democrats eliminated the filibuster for some nominees first. But eight years before Democrats eliminated the 60-vote threshold for some nominations, McConnell himself called for doing just that. X⁴⁵

A filibuster can last for hours. What can you talk about? Anything. Really, anything. Here are some actual examples of things that were said during filibusters.

- You can read your favorite recipe for fried oysters and other southern recipes.
- Read your favorite children's story.
- Sing your favorite songs.
- Read your grocery list or favorite verses in the Bible.
- A talk comparing drome strikes to "Alice in Wonderland."
- Reading the Washington DC Phone book.

Not very long ago, Senator Ted Cruz (R, Texas) read Dr. Seuss's "Green Eggs and Ham" to oppose Obama's healthcare plan. Senator Jeff Merkley (D, Oregon) talked for more than 15 hours to oppose Trump's nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court. X⁴⁶ X⁴⁷

Some Famous Filibusters

I listed some of the more entertaining ones in the appendix. As you read these examples, keep this in mind. This is not a Rotary club in Maine or the city council in some backwoods town in Louisiana. This is the most sacred democratic meeting place in the world and with the highest body of legislatures reading meaningless dribble.

13. There are more than 2 Solutions to every Problem

There are many solutions that are never even considered because they don't benefit the politicians and special interests that pay for their elections.

It's a Mistaken Belief that there are only 2 sides to every issue. The truth is there are valid solutions to our worst problems that are never even considered because the Democrats and Republicans do not benefit by them.

- Positions that help them win re-election.
- Positions that give them an edge in the media.
- Positions that give them special roles or committee appointments.
- Positions that help them raise money.
- Positions that protect their status and way of life.

Here are some specific examples:

- Cutting the budget doesn't generate campaign contributions.
- Working together with the other party doesn't create conflicts that they can use to energize their base and amass campaign contributions.
- Policies designed to get people healthy don't benefit big pharma which gives billions to both parties.
- Voting against your party won't get you a committee chairmanship or fundraising opportunities.
- Vouchers for education makes them unpopular with teachers' unions.
- Acknowledging global warming won't get campaign contributions from energy companies.
- Reforming the Justice Department threatens support from law-enforcement and opens themselves up to attacks from the opposing party.

- Encouraging us to save money doesn't boost GDP. That's why we are incentivized to go into debt. We get tax breaks when we take out loans, but we're taxed when we put money in the bank. It's all backwards

Making tough decisions doesn't make them popular with their constituents and opens the door for negative ads from their opponents.

The End of Civic Pride

The polarization created by the 2 parties has caused another disappointing consequence... the end of Civic Pride. When I was younger, people felt connected with each other and that we were part of something bigger. Now, it's just us who's gotten bigger!

We are manipulated into thinking that the enemy isn't the government, but the "other side." Both parties know that voters are angry - and are eager to look for alternatives - and the easiest way to stay in power is to avoid blame someone else for the problems that they created. The anger that was once directed towards government is now directed to the "other side".

**You can't have a revolution
during a civil war.**

Because of this tribalism, we put "our side" before our country - and why would you want to help someone who's not in our tribe? (When was the last time that you flashed your headlights when you passed a speed trap? Nowadays, we secretly hope that the cop catches someone else so that the odds of us getting a ticket are lower.)

Compare this attitude of Americans to the Chinese. China has a high degree of volunteerism, and the citizens of Tokyo are routinely ranked as some of the most considerate and helpful people in the world. It is part of Gaman, the Japanese spirit of self-control and a dedication to the greater good through self-discipline.

If we were ever to go to war with China, this is the reason we would lose. Our parties would fight amongst each other, point fingers and avoid blame. Both "sides" would use any opportunity to fundraise. They would rather see the US fail than see the "other side" win.

After you finish reading this book, you will need to make a choice. You can do one of two things...

1. Make the following issues the only ones that are important in the next election...
Term Limits, Ranked Voting and Equal Campaign Laws.
2. Do nothing. You can do nothing in which case our problems, threats and lost opportunities continue to soar / accelerate.

**It's that simple.
There are no half-measure solutions.
We either change the system or we
brace for the worst.**

3. LEAST DEMOCRATIC NATION

13. Worse than the British Monarchy

14. The 3 Criteria for a Democracy

15. A War against 3rd Parties (guess who's winning)

Since voters are beginning to look outside the two parties for solutions, their efforts to maintain their power by destroying our Democracy are increasing even faster.

The 2 parties are doing whatever they can to crush any competition. They create hurdles that are purposely designed to:

- Discourage people for wanting to fight for change.
- Frightening them to not enter public life.
- Fail by making their requirements achievable.
- Ban competition entirely.

You would think that it would not be so hard to run for office in the "World's Greatest Democracy." But you would be wrong. Very wrong! Remember, the definition of a "mistaken belief" is one in which the opposite of the belief is true. The truth is that we are ranked last in the world in the ability to run for president. But at least we're not alone. There are 2 other countries that have the same level of difficulty to run for office, they are Iran and Egypt.

The solitary goal of Congress is to win re-elections... and the easiest way to win re-election is to prevent your competition from allowing their names to appear on ballots. How else can they achieve a 95% re-election rate with a 7% approval rating? The 2 parties have deceived you into believing that 3rd parties are a joke and that a multi-party system is absurd. Although fair elections is the most important issue in our nation's history, it's not discussed in the media and it never appears in any Top 20 lists of most important issues.

This must become that most important issue for voters.

Whenever you are asked about what issues are most important to you, your only reply should be "Election Reform."

Unrealistic Number of Signatures

Requiring signatures is nothing more than an obstacle that the two parties use to avoid competition. It is the most common and the most effective means to accomplish this goal.

The first major battle against 3rd parties is about preventing names of non 2-party candidates to appear on federal and state ballots. In fact, it's so difficult to get a name on a ballot that in a full 1/3 of all state legislative elections, there is only one candidate on the ballot for each seat and no 3rd party has been able to get candidates on the ballot for the US House for even half of our 435 congressional districts... this from "The World's Greatest Democracy."

Under our current system, Democratic and Republican Party candidates are entitled to run for office in all 50 states. There are no requirements. But independent candidates need to overcome a number of unrealistic obstacles. Here are a few examples, out of 100's, that should make you cringe.

- Let's begin with the understanding the rules themselves. Some of these restrictions are so complicated, that you need to be a political attorney just to understand them. You think I'm exaggerating? In North Carolina, the federal election code is written in tiny, single-spaced print that's so long, if you laid it out one page after another, then it would span 1½ half football fields. X⁴⁹
- Next, candidates are required to gather an absurd number of signatures in order to be placed on the ballot. Democratic and Republican Presidential candidates need about 25,000 signatures nationwide to be on the presidential primary ballots in all 50 states.

An independent presidential candidate needs about 800,000 signatures. (In case you're interested, the cost to get one signature is about \$3.00. If the public was more cooperative and signed these petitions willingly, then the cost would be much less.)

- Getting people to sign petitions is also huge challenge. Think about it. People are more concerned than ever about privacy yet we're expecting voters to give their name and address to total strangers. On what planet do our legislators live on.

To understand the difficulty in getting strangers to sign a petition, volunteer to help. You will quickly gain an appreciation for what they go through, in order to help you live a better life.

- And even if you do manage to collect the required number of signatures, if one of them is not valid, then the entire page is thrown out. That's right... if just one signature on a page is invalid, then the entire page is thrown out. This means that insiders can ruin a candidate's ability to run by just adding a few fake names to each page. Who is this meant to benefit?

The whole idea of needing to collect signatures is absurd. In order to qualify for have a name appear on a ballot, we can easily use online poll to replace the need for petitions to be signed in person.

Top 2 Voting Limitations

Even if you can collect enough approved signatures to get a name on a ballot, you still are not home free. There is yet another terrifying trend to limit our voting rights. It's called Top 2 Voting.

With Top 2 Voting primaries, only the top 2 vote getters move on to the general election.

This law basically shuts out all 3rd party and independent candidates altogether. You may have heard of this, especially if you live in Washington State or California. These are two states where this law was already passed and is now being used.

Other Strategies to End your Voting Rights

But wait... there are more unethical ways that they prevent competition. In some cases, states are refusing to include the names of 3rd party candidates on their ballots outright. Others are banning write-in voting. (In most states, votes are not counted if just one letter in the name is wrong. What do you expect?

There are several other ways that the 2 parties use to restrict your voting rights. Many of these are listed in the section Re-election Advantages for Congress (page 53) and throughout this book.

Video: Kiss Freedom Goodbye

In 2008, I produced a video called, "Kiss Freedom Goodbye" that brought some these atrocities to light. It earned 4 awards for best short political video. (The word-for-word script is on page 63.) Here are some facts that were included in the video.

- In some states, candidates must get up to 100,000 signatures to get on a ballot. Really. Given the recent rise of identity theft, do you have any idea how hard it is to get a name, address, phone and signature from someone?

- In some cases, the people collecting the signatures can only be from THAT state (or you can get thrown into federal prison. Let's be honest... is there any crime worse than collecting signatures? Paul Jacobs learned this the hard way. He was caught collecting signatures in Oklahoma, arrested, convicted, and even spent time in prison... all for asking people to sign a petition.
- In Pennsylvania, if the petition doesn't have enough signatures, then the candidate must pay court costs upwards of \$100,000. This is what caused the closure of the Reform Party.
- They succeed nicely in North Carolina, where there has never been an Independent on the ballot [for the House or Senate] and in Georgia - since 1964.
- In Georgia, candidates need a petition signed by 5% of all registered voters to get on the ballot for any office, local, state, or federal. That's 5% of 6,000,000 voters; and if my math serves me correctly, that is 300,000 signatures even if you're running for county coroner.
- In Florida, you need to pony up a filing fee equal to 7% of the annual salary for the office that you want to run for – you can do the math on salaries from \$25,000 for a dog catcher to \$162,000 for a Senator – and you also have to submit 196,255 valid signatures to the Secretary of State's office.
- In Texas, both the Democratic and Republican Parties missed the state filing deadline. But legal attempts to keep Barak Obama and John McCain off the ballot, as state and federal law mandated, were denied without comment or explanation.
- In Connecticut, the Libertarian Party was short 321 signatures, while state officials freely admitted that they had lost 119 pages of bona fide signatures.

- West Virginia has taken the insanity of ballot requirements to new heights. It is a crime for any petitioner to approach any potential signatory without first saying, "If you sign my petition, you cannot vote in the primary." And the law is enforceable because it is illegal to circulate a petition without first obtaining "credentials" from the state's election officials, which, of course, you can't get without the petition.

Moreover, you don't really know in advance whether you have enough signatures, because if someone who signs your petition votes, then their signature is invalid. Confused yet? I am. Let's just say that this is the 2-party system at its finest.

Net Neutrality

There's only one reason why we can spread a message. It is the Internet. Without the Internet, we could never afford to get this message out to all people. So, preventing use of the Internet and exchange of information online would be disastrous for independent thought and challenging the status quo. Naturally, the political elite has another trick up their sleeves. They can restrict dissent by changing our Net Neutrality laws.

Net Neutrality requires that all internet service providers (ISPs) treat all communications equally.

- With Net Neutrality, ISPs may not intentionally block, slow down, or charge more money for specific online content.
- Without Net Neutrality, corporations and political parties can control what content gets published on the internet and who can access what information. ISPs may prioritize certain types of traffic, block traffic from specific addresses and charge consumers for various tiers of service. X⁵⁰

This makes Net Neutrality one of our biggest threats to our democracy. It's no wonder that it's one of our Top Censured Stories. We already know that the 2 parties sell out to media for campaign contributions, positive reporting and exposure. Now they have a new demand... that is changing or eliminating Net Neutrality laws.

[Hurray... You got your Name on a Ballot](#)

Congratulations, you managed to meet all the requirements to get your name on a ballot. Now for the bad news.

3rd parties spend all their time and money on collecting signatures and fighting against unfair election laws. There's no time or money left for getting your name and message out, attracting qualified candidates, fundraising, recruiting volunteers, and everything else that needs to be done in order to beat an incumbent career politician. This is why we do not see ads for independent or 3rd party candidates.

You might ask, "isn't this illegal?" The answer is yes, but challenging these atrocities takes lawsuits and lawsuits require money. There are other challenges too. Most of these are not apparent to the outsider. Over the years, I experienced many of these and some are described in the chapter, "My Presidential Campaign" on page 52.

The situation is so pathetic that if the Democrats and the Republicans were forced to obey the same laws as 3rd parties, then in some states they wouldn't be able to get on the ballot!

[The Time for Accountability is Over](#)

Yes, you heard me right. It's a useless effort to try and hold our leaders accountable any longer. We must end the 2-party monopoly rule right now. There are many well-qualified people who'd love to represent us in Congress, but because of this dirty political environment, they are scared to run for office.

So once again, who's at fault here? The politicians who are human and looking out for themselves, or the people who handed unlimited money and power to a small group of people and just expected them to do the right thing?

[Is this how our Founding Fathers imagined their system of electing the best possible legislators would become?... into a truckload of indecipherable nonsense that prevents qualified citizens, ready to solve real problems, from participating in our political process?](#)

4. FIXING OUR ELECTION PROCESS

If MacDonald's and Burger King conspired to put Wendy's out of business, then they would face criminal charges, but when it's done by the 2 parties, it's perfectly legal.

16. Competition is Urgently Needed

Rules are Getting Even Tougher

Our election laws are old and corrupted by the 2 parties. And with Congressional approval ratings the lowest in history, the parties are terrified that voters will look outside the 2 parties and are making it even harder for independent and 3rd party candidates to run for office.

Our Immediate Goal

There are many changes that we can make to have an election process that's fair and democratic. But in order to make these, we must first elect candidates who pledge their support to these 3 specific policy changes.

1. Term Limits

This will stop career politicians from being re-elected when their approval ratings are lower than the odds that they would reject a bribe.

2. Ranked Voting

This will end the "spoiler effect" that prevents voters from voting for their preferred candidate. Instead, we are forced to vote for the nominee that the party chooses.

3. Equal Campaign Laws

This will ensure that 3rd party candidates have an equal chance to be elected to office.

There are Good People eager to Serve

There are qualified individuals who are willing to put honesty and integrity about personal interests, favors, and perks. These are people who stand for our nation in its truest sense. They are professionals in all walks of life. They are business leaders, educators and scientists. They are devoted citizens who haven't been corrupted by the Washington swamp. Sadly, they will never be seen or heard under our current 2-party system.

They are:

- Concerned citizens who are not beholden to lobbyists, special interests, and large corporations.
- Patriots eager to create the change that is urgently needed at this time in our history.
- Neighbors that could use our help and support.

They are not:

- Career politicians honing their skills at the art of re-elections.
- People who willingly cave into special interests, lobbyists, and corporate pressure.
- Puppets of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

Possible Changes to our Election Process

Here are some of the changes that are possible to improve our election process, but there is no point in going into detail about these possibilities since no Democrat or Republican will ever consider changing our election laws. Quite the opposite. Any discussion about changing our laws is intended to make the situation even worse. This is only what's possible under an honest, democratic election process.

- Abolish signature gathering and replace it with an on-line system to vet 3rd party candidates.
- Abolish Gerrymandering
- Implement Recall Elections
- Rewrite Campaign Finance Laws
- Restrict Lobbying
- Introduce national referendum questions
- Implement same week National Primary so that all votes are counted and counted equally.
- Create an independent citizen's commission to make the rules that effect the members of Congress including their powers, compensation and rules regarding conflict of interest.
- Reigning in the expansion of political powers.
- Limiting the power of the President. With every term, the Office of the President assumes more control and becomes more powerful.
- Redefining the role of the House and Senate leaders. One person should not decide which bills are voted on. If a job effects all people, then all people should elect them. These positions have more power than the President since they can stay in power for much longer.

Let us examine these 3 changes to our election process in more detail.

17. Term Limits

Passing Term Limits legislation is like passing a law to allow us in to have dinner. We're already going to have dinner. We don't need a law that allows us to eat.

In researching the data for this book, I was both impressed and frustrated. I am impressed that the American People already know that we need this to happen.

A president can only hold their office for two terms, but no such law exists for Congress or judges. This proposed change in our election laws is already incredibly popular, even in our current divisive political environment. 80% of voters (from "both sides") want Term Limits. (Keep in mind that this number only reflects voters. It doesn't include all those who don't vote because they are already checked out. But these people are also angry and demand change.)

The bad news is that it will never pass with our current class of career politicians. Legislators can pass whatever laws that they want to stay in office. Not surprisingly, they oppose Term Limits. Their argument is, "Hey... if voters don't like what we do, then they have the right to vote us out." But they know that we won't vote them out of office because of the many re-election advantages that they give themselves.

Politicians know that the American people want Term Limits, so while they're campaign, they endorse them. But when they are in office, it's an entirely different story. This is especially true for the President who desperately needs Congress on their side and won't propose anything that will threaten their relationship.

- Candidate Trump argued Term Limits would help him "drain the swamp" when elected, much to the delight of his anti-establishment base.
- President Obama supported Term Limits and argued foreign leaders to limit their time in power to provide "new blood and new ideas" in their countries.

However, both of these people changed their positions as soon as they were sworn in as president - and the Democrats didn't pursue this issue even when they had the presidency and a majority of Congress. Surprised?

Benefits of Term Limits

- Since legislators can't run for re-election, they don't need to raise as much money (i.e., collect more bribes) to fund their re-election campaigns.
- Term limits will encourage Congress to stop avoiding dealing with serious issues and encourage them to make unpopular decisions which are now ignored because of retaliation from voters.
- It will motivate members of Congress to "seize the day" while they still can to make a positive impact to our country – and before there's time to sell-out to special interests.
- It will create equal footing for members within their party and eliminate the good old boys club. No member of Congress will have any special position, seniority or rank thereby ensuring that all members have equal influence in the policies that shape their districts and our nation.
- It will weaken the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups. With a high turnover rate, lobbyists will have less time to buy members of Congress.
- Politicians lose touch with the people. By cycling leaders in-and-out of office, Congress will be represented by people who know what life is really like in their communities.
- With Term Limits, the era of the career politician is over. We all know the phrase "power corrupts". Well, if power is greatly reduced, then so will corruption.
- It will encourage a new generation of leaders, with new ideas, techniques, and technologies to tackle a new generation of problems and threats. X⁵¹

Here's another reason why we need Term Limits. It's nearly impossible to beat an incumbent, so when a seat opens up, there is a rare opportunity for the "other side" to gain a seat. Realistically, there's no other opportunity when one side can take power from the other. This motivates current legislators stay in office longer than they would like since they don't want their seat to be taken over by the opposing party.

I'm a Realist

So, if Term Limits make so much sense, and voters overwhelmingly support it, then why doesn't it happen? Obviously, a politician is not going to support a bill that would end their gravy-train lifestyle. (This is just one example of many of the serious conflict of interests in government.)

No existing members of Congress will threaten their power and lifestyle. Therefore, I reluctantly propose that any changes to our election laws do not apply to current politicians. This will allow them to do what's right while still keeping their jobs.

For me, this is a tough pill to swallow. These politicians are treasonous and do not deserve another penny from us. But our situation is desperate. We need to pass Term Limits if we have any chance of saving our way of life.

Personally, I feel that a senator should only serve one 6-year term. This will encourage them to get as much done as possible, without spending all their time running re-election campaigns. It will give them no incentive to sell out for campaign contributions and much less time creating ties with lobbyists and special interests. A congressperson should only be able to serve 2 two-year terms for the same reasons.

Lifetime appointments for judges are also a problem. There are currently about 900 federal judges that have lifetime appointments. This policy was enacted 235 years ago when life expectancy was much lower, plus it leads to mental debilitation, lack of accountability and, most recently, high-stake confirmation battles in the Senate. Despite all this, the US is the only "democratic nation" that has lifetime appointments for judges. X⁵²

18. Ranked Voting

But just replacing career politicians isn't enough... The vacancies will still be filled by the 2 parties so nothing will change. People won't vote for who they really want because they may take a vote away from someone else who has a better chance of beating the person who they hate even more! This is what we call the "spoiler effect" and this leads to the lessor of 2 evils.

So, there's another thing that we must have, and like Term Limits, it's another change that most of us already know that we need and that's providing competition to the 2 parties... Again, this is not a hard sell since 2/3's of the public already want 3rd Parties.

The solution to the spoiler effect is Ranked Voting. This is where you vote in order of your preference... so if the person you like has the lowest vote count, then your vote goes to the next person on your list. This way you can vote for who you really want and not risk electing your opponent.

There are different types of voting methods. The type of voting method influences who we vote for. Obviously, this shouldn't be the case. We should only vote for who we want to elect, but in reality, this is not the case. The worst one is called, Past the Post (or winner takes all.) As you probably guess, this is the one that we use. There are 2 common ways to conduct voting for an election. They are "Past the Post" and "Ranked Voting.

1. Past the Post

(This is what we currently use)

How we cast our votes also effects who we vote for. We vote using a 2-party single-vote system. But, over time, this system always ends up with people voting for the "lessor of two evils". There's even a mathematical reason for this. Also, past-the-post is responsible for producing the spoiler effect which prevents people from voting for who they really want.

2. Ranked Voting

Ranked Voting is a far better method to conduct elections. With Ranked Voting, you vote for **all** the candidates you like — in the order that you like them. If your ideal candidate doesn't have enough votes, then those votes go to the next candidate on your list. This way, you can vote for anyone you want without any risk of taking votes away from another candidate who has a better chance of beating the candidate that who you hate even more.

In 2000, Ralph Nadar helped George Bush get elected because he took enough votes away from Al Gore in the swing state of Ohio. Even worse, winner-take-all voting can produce winners that a majority of voters don't want. Candidates can squeak into office only because two or more rivals split the opposition. This occurred in the 2016 Republican primary when Trump received only 8.4% of his party's vote, but with Ranked Voting, the winner would have needed to receive over 50% of the vote. X⁵³

Here's how Ranked Voting works:

1. Voters rank the candidates for a given office by preference on their ballots.
2. The tally is conducted. If no candidate has still won an outright majority, then the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated and the votes that were cast for that candidate goes to the next person on your list.
3. The process is repeated until a candidate receives a majority of votes (that is, 50% or higher.)

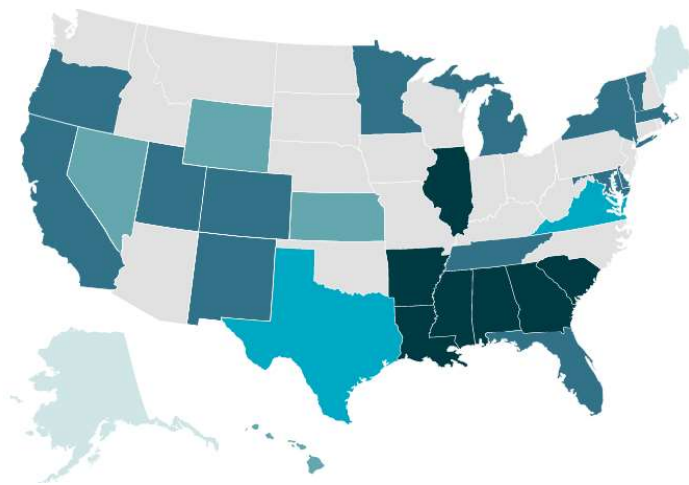
In the past two decades, Ranked Voting has spread from a single outpost in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to dozens of US cities and states — most of them within the past five years.

Here is a map of the states that have adopted Ranked Voting. This does not include the 2022 election in which Ranked Voting appeared on many state ballots. X⁵⁴

With Ranked Voting, candidates won't attack their opponents because they want to capture the votes from their opponent's supporters. If you malign their candidate, then you will be far less likely to get their

Ranked-choice voting is spreading rapidly in the US

- RCV used statewide and for presidential elections
- RCV used for 2020 presidential primaries
- RCV used/enacted for local elections
- RCV used for party elections
- RCV for military and overseas voting



The initial results show that this new method of voting is working just as intended, but there was even a consequence that was not expected.

In the past, the candidates would debate, argue, and fight each other. The relentless barrage of attacks had a negative effect on all the candidate's favorability ratings. But with Ranked Voting, this does not happen. The candidates were not attacking each other. Instead, they are working cooperatively with their opponents.

votes if their candidate doesn't make it to the next round. In fact, you'll find candidates cooperating and respecting their opponents rather than attacking them. This promotes discussion, collaboration and teamwork which are not found inside our current 2-party system. It doesn't matter what "side" you're on, Ranked Voting benefits everyone.

Obviously, the Washington establishment hates Ranked Voting because it's a great threat to the status quo. So they need to invent problems with it - even if they are not true. For example, they say that's it's "too complicated." But this is false. You simply rank the candidates in the order that you like them. How complicated is that? (I've even heard Anderson Cooper complain about Ranked Voting being "too complicated." Really? I guess he likes our current system since Ranked Voting is one of the only (and easiest) ways that we can fix our political system. No, let's stick to voting for the lesser of two evils. That's just working out great for us!)

It doesn't matter how we got into our current situation. It doesn't even matter who is to blame. All that matters is what we do from here.

19. Equal Campaign Rules & Laws

Donald Trump said that the system is rigged. That might be the one thing he said that was true.

I'd like to stop with Term Limits and Ranked Voting, but there's one more equally important change that we must have and that's Equal Laws for 3rd Parties. I am mentioning this here because it's one of the 3 policy changes that we need, but most of the specifics of how campaign laws are not equal appear in the chapter, "It's a War against 3rd Parties on page 38.

The easiest way to be re-elected is simply to not allow competitors to run against you. But nothing in our government will change until competition is injected into the process. Without healthy competition, the 2 parties will continue to destroy our country and our way of life for their personal gain. Our election process has been so poisoned by the 2 parties that "reform" is not enough. It needs to be reset.

We need a system ...

- Where the rules are the same for all parties.
- That doesn't give incumbents huge advantages to help them win re-election.
- Where all parties have the same access to the resources and events that the 2 major parties have monopolized for years.
- That removes all conflict-of-interest in our election rules and process.
- That is not manipulated so horribly that we end up with 95% re-election rate with a miserable 7% approval rating.

All the money that 3rd parties raise is spent collecting signatures so that a candidate's name can appear on the ballot. There's never any money left for promotion, attracting qualified candidates, recruiting people with marketing and fundraising, podcasts and videos, building a volunteer army, helping candidates run and fundraise, and so on and so on. I have had enough of this... have you?

In my opinion, if an independent candidate fulfills all the requirements to run for office, then they should be given the same opportunities as the Democrats and Republicans.

Why is this too much to ask?

20. The Electoral College

I'm often if I want to end the electoral college. With regards to our goals at Reset America, the answer is No.

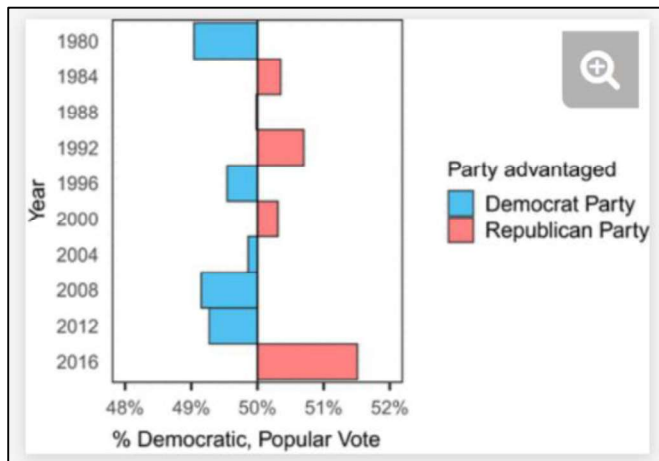
Our goal is to elect people who will have an honest conversation about our options and what's in our best interest. We already know the issues both for and against the electoral college. The purpose of this book is not to promote my personal opinions on this or any other issue.

The electoral college is not a Democratic or Republican issue because both parties have wanted to end it at different times. The last serious attempt was in the late 1960s. It was a bipartisan effort, and it was even backed by Republican President Nixon, but it was killed in Senate.

This chart shows how the electoral college has benefited each party since 1980. These values show how much of a percent advantage that each party had for each election. As you can see, the Democrats benefited by the electoral college in 5 elections and the Republicans in 4 elections. Now, it's the Republican Party that benefits from it and doesn't want to see it abolished.

Which party benefits the most from the Electoral College?

The graph represents the range of the national popular vote for which one party would win the Electoral College without a popular vote plurality. X⁵⁵



There are 3 reasons why it hasn't been abolished.

1. There's always one party that is benefiting from it and doesn't want to see it go.
2. There's no lobby called the "get rid of the electoral college lobby" that sinks millions of dollars into re-election campaigns.
3. With a 95% re-election rate, the system is working perfectly as is. Why change a thing?

All political scientists agree that the electoral college serves no useful purpose. It is solely a political issue. This is proven by the fact that, at one time or another, both parties have wanted to end it. Public opinion polls have shown that the majority of Americans favored abolishing it by 81% in 1968; and 75% in 1981. X⁵⁶

Even today, with all of our partisan bickering, a full 61% of Americans still believe we should abolish the electoral college. X⁵⁷

It never occurred to our Founding Fathers that our country would grow into a nation with 50 states and that the electoral college would still be in effect. If the delegates were voting today, the electoral college wouldn't even be considered. Unfortunately, as we've learned, it's become much harder to update the constitution than our Founding Fathers had anticipated.

As a matter of fact, the electoral college was an afterthought. All the important issues were settled, particularly passing the Declaration of Independence. It was the last day of a weekend, and the delegates were rushing to get home with the big news. A small number of delegates kept the issue alive. The majority were not in favor of it, but they were tired of debating and let it pass. Their attitude was, "we're giving future generations the ability to update the constitution as they see fit. So, what harm could there possibly be in passing it?"

[The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact](#)

Remember, I'm not taking sides on this issue. Nevertheless, I'd like to tell you about a serious movement to abolish the electoral college. It's called the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

The agreement calls for states to award their electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote once enough states join the agreement. So far, 15 states and the District of Columbia have approved the pact. This represents 196 electoral votes of the required 270 to win the presidency. By doing this, the electoral college will be nullified.

21. Campaign Finance Laws

Every year, the 2 parties give their wealthy benefactors more ways to buy their influence. There seems to be no limit to how far they will go to sell out our nation for their own benefit.

Another reason is that fundraising (on “both sides”) is skyrocketing – so both parties must raise even more money to keep up with fundraising from the “other side”. Of course, this means selling out even more.

Note The details reported in the chapter were written following the 2016 campaign. It will be updated at some time in the future. However, by then, I’m certain that that the data will be even worse than reported here.

I’d like to stop for a minute and check in with you. If you’ve gotten this far then I thank you. I’m hoping you’re finding this information eye-opening. If there’s something that I could be saying differently or doing better, please let me know.

The next topic you’d like to discuss is campaign finance. Let’s start with a few definitions...

Hard Money

These are donations to individual candidates that are often called hard money. Hard money has firm restrictions and is highly regulated when it comes to how much can be donated, where it can be spent, and on what. Soft money has no such restrictions. So, to bypass these restrictions, soft money donations became the prominent form of political giving. X⁵⁸

Soft Money

Soft money is donated to political parties and political action committees (PACs) where the purpose is not to promote a specific candidate. Soft money is mostly unregulated, and there is no limit on how much can be given in exchange for influence. The PACs can spend it on whatever they want as long as it fits a generic objective to “increase the vote.” It became very popular after the Federal Election Campaign Act (1974) placed restrictions on how much money people could donate to campaigns.

Dark Money

The 2 parties have now decided that permitting soft money is not bad enough. Encouraging people to spend more money to bribe them is pretty sweet - but what if we allowed them to be anonymous as well. This way, the people won’t know where the money’s coming from in the first place.” Welcome to Dark Money.

The Supreme Court case, Citizens United removed the limits on how much you can donate to campaigns and which opened the door to dark money.

Such organizations can receive unlimited donations from corporations, individuals and unions. What’s worse, the super-rich can spend funds to influence elections without voters knowing where the money came from. X⁵⁹ Do I really need to say that we should know who is paying both parties to influence public opinion and elections?

There are many ways to change our campaign finance laws. But like other details in this book, it’s just a waste of time to discuss these if we just keep electing the same corrupt individuals over and over.

The situation is “effectively a form of legalized money laundering and it is something that we’ve seen on both sides,” says Brendan Fischer of the Campaign Legal Center.

Since the Federal Election Campaign Act, the amount of money that campaigns received has mushroomed. During the 1992 election, there was less than \$100 million in soft money used by political parties. By the 2000 election, this amount had reached \$750 million. In the 2012 and 2016 elections, nearly two billion dollars were collected in direct campaign contributions, and the 2020 elections appear to be on track to continue or increase that number. X⁶⁰

Are you as Confused as Me?

You may be confused about how campaign contributions work. I’m sure you know that there’s a limit on how much a person can contribute to a political campaign. But we also know that the elite can donate millions while being completely anonymous. How can there be such a contradiction? Here’s how it works.

The maximum amount that a single person can donate to a politician is \$2900 per election. However, there’s a tiny loophole. If we give our money to someone – except a specific candidate – then there are no limits to how much you can “donate”. This is called soft money and it’s mostly paid to political action committees (or PACs). PACs get away with this because PACs don’t promote a specific candidate – but the money CAN be used to bash an opponent. So naturally, this little loophole is the reason why we see so many negative campaign ads.

Both Parties work the System Equally

Both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton took great advantage of this soft money system. When, for example, Clinton’s main joint fundraising committee received a contribution, it divvied the money up among her campaign committee, the DNC and a gaggle of state-level Democratic Party committees. State Parties then shifted the money from Clinton’s joint fundraising committee right to the DNC, allowing the national committee to pocket significantly more cash than federal contribution limits would allow.

Republicans did the same, an even higher percentage of the time: Republican state parties shifted more than 90% of the dollars they received from the Trump Victory committee to the Republican National Committee. X⁶¹

22. Our Constitution has been Perverted

Our constitution was adopted in 1787. It was not meant to last forever. In the brilliance of our forefathers, it was meant to be a “living document” – to see what works, what doesn’t and change it to reflect the times. They provided mechanisms to allow us to update it and even take back government if it no longer represents the interests of the people. It was even suggested that all laws should revert back to the way they were for each generation so that they would have the chance to govern themselves as they see fit.

There are Two Problems with our Constitution

1. Our Constitution is very Old

First, it was written over 235 years ago. There were no states, just colonies and citizens associated with their colony and not the federal government. It was written in a different time with different ideas, different challenges, and different threats. They did not foresee 13 colonies becoming 50 states and 14 territories. There was no plumbing, electricity, telephones, roads, television, spam, satellites, nuclear weapons. It would be a full 78 years before slavery was banned.

Does it make sense to let our society get destroyed because we’re forced to obey a document that was written over 235 years ago?

2. Our Constitution has been Corrupted

Even worse, they did not expect that government would be poisoned by career politicians who rig the system for their benefit and who would have no chance of being re-elected if elections were fair.

They did not foresee taxes, dark money, gerrymandering, standing committees, filibusters, insider trading, social media, tribalism, gaslighting, disinformation, the expansion of powers, lobbyists, net neutrality. There is no mention of any of these issues because they did not exist.

As a result, the laws surrounding these issues were made by Congress and the 2 parties. These laws were not made by the same group of altruistic selfless people who put the needs of the American People before their own. They were created by the 2 parties... and whose interests do you think they are protecting... yours or theirs?

Our Founding Fathers would be horrified if they knew that the Constitution and election laws have been so polluted. They would be rolling in their graves if they knew that...

1. There are 2 parties and they put their interests above those of the people.
2. People didn't think for themselves and just voted like everybody else.
3. That people took for granted the sacrifices made by the millions of patriots and families throughout our history who give us the freedoms that we piss away.

At the time, political parties were regarded as evil. Our Founding Fathers warned us that if they were allowed to take control, then they would cause the downfall of our government. I think it's safe to say that they were right.

"I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical world."

Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson said, "A little rebellion now and then is a good thing." Sure, we've all seen this quote on t-shirts and bumper stickers. I have mine pinned above my bed. We find the statement cute and maybe give it a quick chuckle.

But just think about this for a moment. This statement isn't from some anarchist. This is from the guy who fucking wrote the Declaration of Independence that we fought the Revolutionary War over. If anyone should get upset with this statement, it should be him! Yet HE was the one who said that revolutions are necessary, and as the rest of this sentence says, "...and as necessary to the political world as storms in the physical."

Suffice it to say,
we have his permission!

5. DON'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU THINK

- 23. Why we make Bad Decisions
- 24. Unconscious Behavioral Responses
- 25. What is Herd Stupidity?
- 26. How 1% Controls the other 99%
- 27. How to Deprogram a Cult Member
- 28. Examples of Herd Behavior in Society
- 29. Agreeing with the Enemy and the EGO
- 30. Perception, Branding & Neurons

6. OTHER INFLUENCES

- 31. Behavioral Influences
- 32. Human Behaviors
- 33. Unconscious Biases

7. THINKING FOR OURSELVES

- 34. Who's really the "Crazy" ones?
- 35. Why we like Trump
- 36. They want us Polarized (and we're letting them get their way)
- 37. Manipulating Public Opinion
- 38. Social Media & Disinformation for Sale
- 39. Vulnerable to Foreign and Outside Attackers

8. WHO'S BEING CRAZY?

- 40. The Stories we Create in our Minds
- 41. My 2008 Presidential Campaign
- 42. The Swamp is Everywhere
- 43. Government should run like a Business
- 44. It's the Perfect Time to Start a New Party

WHY INCUMBENTS CAN'T LOOSE

- 45. Rise of the Career Politician
- 46. Re-election Advantages for Congress
- 47. Expanding Political Powers
- 48. Re-election Advantages for President
- 49. The Debates

9. A SEPARATE CLASS w/ DIFF RULES

- 50. Conflicts of Interest & other Perks
- 51. Controlling Public Opinion & Censuring the News
- 52. The 4th Branch of Government (the Hidden Government
- 53. How Lobbying Works
- 54. Treaties & the Military Industrial Complex
- 55. The End of Antitrust laws & Small Business

10. TIME IS RUNNING OUT

- 56. Our Current System is destroying our Way of Life
- 57. The US Crisis Chart
- 58. Time is Running Out on Practical Solutions
- 59. Part 2: Fixing the Problem

11. THINGS WE CAN DO NOW

- 60. The Best Government that Money can Buy
- 61. Stop supporting the 2 Parties
- 62. The Media is Not our Enemy
- 63. We need a 3rd Party Response Network
- 64. Help us to Protect your Voting Rights

12. TOP 10 MISTAKEN BELIEFS

13. THE RESET AMERICA PLAN

76. Our Mission

This brings us to the question, What can we do to fix this mess? It's not enough to get the American People to understand the truth. The change that we desperately need requires us to act.

Reset America is a simple plan for the American People to take back government from Career Politicians and the 2-parties. We have 3 immediate goals:

1. Our first goal is to convince all Americans to only vote for candidates who support these 3 specific changes to our election process:
 1. Term Limits This will replace Career Politicians
 2. Ranked Voting This will avoid the Spoiler Effect
 3. Equal Laws This will end the 2-party Monopoly

We're not saying that once we adopt these policies that all our problems will go away overnight. What we are saying is that if we don't make these 3 changes first, then we will have no chance of saving our nation.

2. Our second goal is to persuade candidates to endorse our list of principles. If a candidate swears to support these conditions, then they may display the Reset America logo in their promotional materials.
3. If a politician pledges their support for these principles, and they don't try to make them happen in their first year in office, then we simply vote for new candidates who will. We keep doing this until we have a Congress that is working for the people and not themselves.

This will motivate our "leaders" to do the right thing if they wish to be re-elected. I don't know how we can make this any easier or convenient to cause the changes that we need – and we know that we need.

77. We must put our Differences Aside and Work Together

We must work together towards our common goals and put aside distraction issues that the 2-parties use to polarize us and prevent the changes that we know we must make.

The Issues don't Matter.

It doesn't matter what we want to see changed in Washington. The only chance that you will ever have to achieve your particular goals is to join together towards our common goal of creating a real democratic election process. It's a complete waste of time, money and energy to debate policy on any issue until we hold our leaders accountable, and this starts by changing how they are incentivized.

The Reset America plan does not embrace any specific issue (other than resetting our election process of course.) We purposely don't take sides or even care about how you feel about any partisan issue. You can be Democrat, Republican, liberation, green, or even fluorescent. Our only goal is to unify all people around our common desire to take back government from career politicians and the 2 parties.

We must Fix the Root Problem First.

Whatever is your particular concern, no changes are possible because our system was built by the same people who are still profiting by it.

For example, there has never been a greater threat to our species than global warming. Fortunately, we know what we need to do to address this crisis. But, this will never happen while nearly all of Congress has some level of interest in the success of energy companies.

Take for example Senator Joe Manchin (Democrat). He chairs the Senate Committee on Energy. It is the top position in ensuring we pursue more climate-friendly policies - and he is adamantly against addressing global warming. Why? Do you think that it has anything to do with the fact that he owns a coal company, Energysystems, and last year alone, he was paid \$491,949? X¹⁶⁹ Or that he receives the most funding from the oil and gas industry? X¹⁷⁰

He's not alone. All members of Congress are allowed to use inside information gained from doing their job. Even as chairman of his committee, he can trade stocks based on the decisions his committee makes and how he votes. But he's not the only legislator guilty of insider trading. Most of Congress engages in practices to make money for themselves, while jeopardizing the future of our children and nation. Worst of all, this is all legal.

Is there any more obvious conflict of interest? Regardless of which "side" you're on, please tell me that you believe this is wrong. If you're desperate to latch onto a conspiracy theory, latch onto this one (only it's not a theory!)

So, as you can see, we are not going to address global warming while Congress is owned by the energy industry. Here are other issues that need to be addressed and why this can't happen under our current system.

Your cause

Why it doesn't stand a chance

You can try to **End Wars**...

But not when the defense industry gives billions to Congress.

You can fight **Global Warming**...

But not when Congress is in the pockets of energy companies.

You can try to get **People Healthy**...

But not when big pharma, health care and insurance are some of our nation's biggest lobbies.

You can fight for **Election Reform**...

But not when both parties are making it harder and harder for 3rd parties and independent candidates to compete.

You fight **Unlawful Convictions**...

But not when everyone down the line, from law enforcement to prosecutors, judges, prison officials are incentivized to keep more people trapped in the system.

You can get people to **Buy Local**...

But small businesses don't stand a chance when Congress is controlled by corporations.

You can try to expose **Gov't Waste**...

But not when the entire Washington establishment profits from excess spending, expanding control and the exchange of favors for jobs and jobs for sale.

You can fight for **Finance Reform**...

But not when the entire system is about re-election and fundraising.

- You can promote **Personal Savings**... **But** not when our government gives tax breaks for adding more debt and taxes income from savings.
- You can fight for **Social Justice**... **But** not when Congress doesn't understand the needs of the disadvantaged since most of its members are old, white, rich, male, career politicians.
- You can fight for **Term Limits**... **But** you don't stand a chance when Congress is able to pass laws regulations that directly apply to themselves. What ever happened to checks and balances, or conflict of interest?
-

Get the point?

These are all worthy causes – as well as dozens of others - and we commend you for being involved. But regardless of what you want, nothing will change while career politicians fight to protect the status quo and expand their powers. This is why it is vital that all people, regardless of the issues, unite over our common goal of electing legislators who are not for sale.

There are Never just 2 sides to an Issue.

What's more, there are never only two solutions to a problem. In fact, there are practical solutions that cost nothing to make happen, but these are not even considered because they don't benefit those in power. In contrast, the only solutions that are considered are those that help Congress win re-elections which involve returns for favors and putting money in their pockets.

The Book: Mistaken Beliefs

Can this change happen? Yes, but first, we need to understand the reasons that are preventing it. These are the hidden causes that stop us from creating the very change that we want.

These obstacles are the result of 'mistaken beliefs' that we embrace as a society. These beliefs are terribly wrong, and they effect how we think and act. In the book, we reveal the real problem in government, and it will probably surprise you.

We fought a revolution to take control of our government from the British.
It's time for us to take back control of our government from the two parties.

78. The Reset Principles

Who's really to blame for our problems? ... the politicians who are simply human and looking out for themselves, or us for failing to hold them accountable?

Attention Candidates: Accept our Challenge

Here is the Reset America List of Principles. These are the standards that we demand from every candidate who seeks public office. If you're a candidate, or even a current legislator, who shares these values, then take our pledge.

If you pledge your support to these principles, then we will include your name and organization on our website, in all social media, press releases and so on. In turn, you may include the Reset America logo on all your promotional materials. You'll also have access to resources to help you achieve our mutual goals. There's only one catch. If you don't follow through in actively pursuing these principles, then we will drag your name in the mud.

The Reset America Principles

1. Create an Honest and Democratic Election Process

Your top priority is to update our election process and ending all illegal practices that makes us tied for the least democratic nation in the world.

- You will not be affiliated in any way with either the Democratic or Republican Parties.
- You will work toward limiting the influence of political parties and special interest groups.
- You will not worry about being publicly attacked because you know that you will need to make tough decisions.
- You will work to create a more level playing field in the campaign and election process.
- You will not let politics enter into any of my actions or decisions.

2. Put other People's Interests and Sustainable Policies First

- You will put the interests of the people of this nation and the world above my own.
- You will not become a lobbyist after you leave office or use my influence for personal gain at the expense of the American People.
- You will consider the long-term implications in every decision that you make.

3. Recognize the Urgency of the Problems and Focus on Solutions

- You will promote and foster a non-political, friendly, and collaborative environment.
- You will not be distracted by trivial issues and debates.
- You understand that there is an urgency to address the issues facing our nation.
- You will direct my attention toward implementing viable solutions that are available today and will work to implement these solutions before time runs out.

4. Cannot Lie, Exaggerate or Dodge Questions

- You will speak honestly about our nation's current state of affairs.
- You will not refuse critical interviews or dodge questions, except in matters of national security.
- You will present accurate estimates of economic, environmental, and social-impact projections.
- You will be honest about my relationships and reveal the sources of my campaign contributions.

5. Eliminate Conflicts of Interest and Obey the Same Laws

- You will work toward eliminating the separate class that has been created by career politicians to live an easier life and avoid responsibility... and removing laws that gives to Congress any special treatment over regular citizens. The "government class" should not have an easier life than the average American.
- You will work toward eliminating the conflict of interest that was created by politicians to profit personally while in power.
- You will support legislation that makes it illegal for Congress to pass laws that directly affects them personally, such as: pay, benefits, election policies, campaigns... in other words, anything that could create an incentive for them to put their interests above ours.

The Reset America plan is a peaceful transition of power that is guaranteed to us in our constitution. Literally any solution to any problem starts by having the courage and common sense to vote for candidates outside the 2 parties.

This transition is inevitable, but unless this change happens now through a voter revolution, this impending transition of power will not be a peaceful one.

79. Message to Democrats

There is no more proof that people are outraged than the fact that Donald Trump was elected president.

Dear Democrats,

Imagine this. You are a professional gambler and every week you place a bet for your favorite football team, the Springfield Isotopes to win. But each week they lose. Do you continue to lose money each week or do you start placing bets on another team?

Despite what you may believe, you do **not** have a majority of support from the American People. As I noted, 40% of Americans don't vote. This is not because they don't care. It's because they dislike both parties. Out of those, half vote for the Democrats and the other half vote for the Republicans. This means that your party only has 30% support from the American People.

So, although you might **think** that you have all the answers, 70% of the population doesn't believe that you do. It was these failures of your party that created the environment that got Trump elected - and despite his poor performance and self-interest, he maintained a 45% approval rating.

Think about it. These people think that Donald Trump was a better choice than the leading candidate from your party. That's how much they hate your party... and don't think that this was some mystical event that will never happen again. If we don't change the system now, then the tribalism that got him elected will only get worse.

The proof that the system is broke comes from Obama himself. He was a decent well-spoken and caring man, but he was not able to get his programs past or make judicial appointments. He freely admits his frustration in trying to get anything of substance accomplished and he blames our divisive 2-party system. It's a testament to the stranglehold that our obsolete system has over our nation.

Obama couldn't even pass legislation that the Republicans **themselves** wanted passed. I'm not referring to any pieces of controversial bills. I am referring to simple legislation that even the Republicans favor when they are in office.

The 2020 Election

A few months before the 2020 election, this quote appeared on CNN.com.

“[Biden's] best approach - for as long as he can get away with it - may well be to give scripted speeches and remarks and avoid doing anything to drop the spotlight onto him. That's especially true if Trump continues to look as though he is withering under the bright lights.” X¹⁷¹

Just think about this. The smartest thing that you could do to win was to do nothing at all.

- No strategy sessions with a transition team.
- No solutions, guidance, or useful information.
- No daily updates with news and events.
- No reports or success stories, acts of heroism or kindness.
- No discussion groups or online forums for people to connect about common concerns.
- No information about resources for issues related to the pandemic and protesting, like dealing with your family during the lockup, mental health, domestic violence and stress.
- No recommendations from modernizing or reforming law-enforcement.
- No national “get fit campaign.” I explain this on page _____. Increasing our happiness and energy will boost our immune systems, use up fewer medical resources, saves money and save lives, including reducing suicides. The Trump administration has ignored this opportunity to increase people's immune systems. But why don't the Democrats step up?

Biden has the enviable position of having a limitless mouthpiece to the world. Yet he (and the Democratic Party) chooses not to take advantage of this opportunity to help us.

This begs the question, what is the goal of the Democratic Party?
Is it to help the American People or is it to win elections?

I agree that Pres. Biden will make a better President than Trump. But that does not discount the fact that he is the lessor of two evils, and that the lessor of two evils is still evil.

Just because you believe that your party looks much better than the other, it doesn't mean that our country's not going to collapse given our uncontrollable debt, global warming, lack of water, depletion of resources, foreign competition, over population and so on. Even the Soviet Union collapsed in our lifetime. How are we any different?

Just because one party happens to look much better than the other, it doesn't mean the country's not going to collapse. Seriously, do you honestly believe that America is not going to fail due to our uncontrollable debt and other serious threats like global warming, lack of water, depletion of resources, foreign competition and a dozen other impending disasters? Even the Soviet Union collapsed because of their debt. How are we any different?

In the end, the only difference between Pres. Biden and the Republicans is that under the Republicans, our collapse will happen sooner.

I hold the unusual opinion that the lessor of two evils is still evil... and I'm betting that you do too.

80. Message to Trump Supporters

Dear Trump "Supporters",

I want to thank you for reading this book. I know that it may appear that I'm picking on you, but that's not my intention. Trust me, I flip-off the Democrats too. (Just read the previous chapter.)

I understand why you voted for like Trump. Many of my friends also voted for him. I don't hate them for doing so because, up until now, there hasn't been a way for us to force change that we need. But now we have a course of action (or plan) to save our nation... and it starts with adding much needed competition to our 2-party system.

Notice that I put the word "supporters" in parentheses. I did this because I don't believe that all of you fully "support" Donald Trump. I believe you tolerate him because of what he stands for. He's anti-establishment, not politically correct, and breaks the rules. He speaks in a familiar language that's appealing to regular people.

When I ask supporters, "Why do you like Trump", they say, "He tells the truth." On the surface, this sounds absurd, but I believe that what you really mean is that he is rebellious. He likes to fight the system with his you-can't-touch-me attitude. I can appreciate that. These are qualities that I might look for in a president myself.

Some of you are Republicans who don't support Trump. I have great respect for that. You are willing to go against the mob to protect your conservative values. You are not on the train or in the cult.

Some of your colleagues have already taken the lead and left your party. Others have decided not to run for re-election and quit politics altogether. This is quote from your former colleague, Rep. Justin Amash, one of many lawmakers and pundits who have abandoned the GOP.

"Modern politics is trapped in a partisan death spiral... No matter your circumstance, I'm asking you to join me in rejecting the partisan loyalties and rhetoric that divide and dehumanize us. I'm asking you to believe that we can do better than this two-party system - and to work toward it. If we continue to take America for granted, we will lose it." X¹⁷²

Are you okay with the fact that your party no longer publishes a legislative agenda? Why?... because it's safer to criticize than it is to take a stand which opens you up for criticism and attacks.

Regrettably, the era of policy announcements and legislative agendas is over. From now on everything will be about attacking and nothing will be about setting goals and exchanging ideas. I just criticized the Democrats for doing this during the 2020 election. Now it's the Republicans that are doing the same thing.

Any changes made to our election process by the 2 parties has the same likelihood of pigs flying out my ass.

81. An Open Letter to Current Members of Congress

Like it or not, change is coming.
How do you wish to be remembered?

Dear Current Members of Congress,

Let's face it. Our system is broken. Furthermore, you know that it is. Our problems are growing in number and their consequences are worsening. The situation is so bad that it can no longer be fixed. We need to start over. If you don't agree, then you are either (1) lying or (2) lack the intelligence to do your job. There is no third possibility.

You put your hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution to our once great nation. Then, overtime you forsake that promise for world of bickering, partisanship, and personal gain.

Certainly, you may have gone to Washington with the best of intentions, but after being engulfed in this corrupt system, the corruption rubbed off. It became acceptable to lie and cheat because everybody else lies and cheats.

No one expects you to own-up to the fact that your 2-party system is at fault. Very few people have the courage to change a system that propelled them into a powerful and separate class. No, I expect you to fight tooth and nail against a system that supports policies that help people and not the special interests who pay for your campaigns.

Your colleagues are jumping ship... why don't you?

A record number of your associates have given up altogether. Justin Amash was one of the first to quit Congress and the Republican Party because of our failed political environment. He said...

"Both parties mislead, misdirect, employ double standards, and lie. When you point this out, each side attacks you for suggesting their team is anything like the other team. Wake up, partisans—you are a mirror image of the other side, just with different biases and blind spots."

Former Presidential Candidate Andrew Yang quit the Democratic Party and plans to create a new party called the Forward Party. Others have announced plans to start 3rd parties, but as soon as they realize the number of unfair advantages created by your 2 parties, they quit.

I wish them well, but no 3rd party stands a chance when the election laws that you created prevent fair competition. You are always talking about how competition always helps companies and people in every industry. Why then do you prevent competition in our political system? Does it have anything to do with the fact that you maintain a 95% re-election rate with a 9% approval rating?

If you really care about our
great country, then resign
and support our principles.

But there is one way that you can redeem yourself... and possibly keep your job. Pledge your support to these three policy changes - and if your constituents feel that you kept your promise - then might be re-elected.

1. Ranked Voting to eliminate the spoiler effect.
2. Term Limits to replace career politicians.
3. Equal Campaign Laws to give 3rd party candidates an equal chance to be elected and provide much needed competition to our corrupt, destructive 2-party system.

This is a real once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go down in history alongside our Founding Fathers – and the millions of people who died to give future generations a chance to live a better life. But instead, you bankrupted our nation, restricted our freedoms and built a system where - in the first time of our nation's history - future generations will have lower life expectancies and a lower standard of living. It's time for you to step aside.

**Signed,
the American People**

PS... If you are a former Democrat or Republican who agrees with this message, then contact us immediately. With your leadership, we can return our national back to a true constitutional republic based on Fair and Equal Democratic Elections. Is this asking too much?

82. Please take this Oath

Democrats & Republicans. Please take this oath.

I am sorry for voting for a _____ [circle Democrat or Republican]. It wasn't my fault. I was sold a bill of goods. I was coerced into thinking that all our problems were caused by the other party. But now I see the truth. In the future, I will vote to change the system by supporting candidates from outside the 2 parties.

I know now that this is the only way that we can create the real change that we need.

Signed, _____
Former _____ [circle Democrat or Republican].

Competition is a good thing.

Even if you're a Democrat or Republican, you must agree that having more options
is better than having none.

14. APPENDICES

- 83. Common Questions for Independent Candidates
- 84. US Crisis Chart
- 85. 5 Famous Filibusters
- 86. The Truth about Health Care
- 87. Our Response to the Covid Virus
- 88. The Truth behind the GDP
- 89. The Truth behind the Debt
- 90. The Truth behind the Dow Jones Industrial Average
- 91. The Truth behind the Unemployment Rate
- 92. The Truth behind Climate Change
- 93. Overhauling our Justice System
- 94. Script for the Video, "Kiss Freedom Goodbye"

95. Notes

This section has not been cleaned up.

- We will formalize the structure of the Notes before the final version of the book is published.
- Also, I am trying to figure out why the notes only appear at the bottom of each page. Mike Gozian.

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