

COMMON SENSE II

THE OVERDUE VOTER REVOLUTION

A NON-PARTISAN INDICTMENT OF THE DNC & RNC

RICH FOR
DISTRICT
ONE OH



85%
NON-PARTISAN
VOTER
MAJORITY

US CONGRESS

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NON-PARTISAN VOTER PLEDGE

I, _____ PLEASE PRINT _____, the undersigned **citizen** of the United States of America, do pledge before Nature's God and my fellow citizens to legally register and vote in all local, state, and national elections for the rest of my life. I consider the bipartisan power struggle between Democrats (**DNC**) and Republicans (**RNC**) a threat to the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America. Special interest money donations to the **DNC & RNC** two-party monopoly robs our citizens of representation within legislative bodies and executive branches at all levels of government. I must withdraw wholehearted support from any bipartisan candidate of the monopoly Democratic and Republican Parties. I pledge to support qualified **non-partisan independent** and **minor party** candidates in order to elect government that represents people at the local, state and national levels.

My legal residence, Address _____, City _____, State _____, qualifies me to vote in precinct # _____, in _____ (City, Village, or Township) in the State of _____.

My pledge signed this _____ day of _____, _____, at (City) _____, (State) _____.

My Signature _____

We need new political leaders free of party control. We need to petition to put more non-partisan independent and minor party candidates on every ballot. Read the pledge. Be active as a petition circulator and Election Day participant. Join the non-partisan political movement to establish a *more democratic republic*. Vote for candidates not owned by any political party or any other wealthy special interest. We still have a democratic republic, if we can keep it.

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Photo and quote of Doris "Granny D" Haddock printed with permission. Thank you, Granny D!

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A BIOGRAPHICAL PREFACE—WHY THIS PAMPHLET?

These are my own conclusions on the state of our political system as it appears to me at present. My overall conclusion after sixteen years of study is that we have a corrupt political system, which can be fixed by an informed electorate within a few years.

In the winter after the 1996 elections, in which political reforms made no apparent gains, I wrote a two-page synopsis on what I thought was wrong. In the years since I have constantly revised my written evaluation, pausing to publish, by copier, fifteen 100-copy sets of this pamphlet. Copies have gone to members of congress, minor party leaders, friends, and family. I imagine my words have seeped through and added to minor party political discourse, especially in the Reform Party where I had long been active.

My concern is our ineffective *democratic republic*. Why does it not work? Problems persist through generations of career politicians. Explanations from numerous and varied sources have all seemed insufficient. Reasonable demands of our citizens for change have not been met.

I imagine the reluctance to use available solutions is due directly to excessive human greed. Our monopoly “two-party system” is bought with huge political contributions. In exchange, the two parties keep power in the hands of a tiny wealthy elite. Elections are staged to divert attention from the underlying bipartisan struggle for power. Voters are left out. “Liberal” and “conservative” name-calling is used to divide the electorate. Also, selected controversial issues are used to divide voters into hostile voting blocks to win elections without a need to solve problems.

Many problems remain unresolved after decades of neglect. The same problems remain that have been the basis of all the false promises made by generations of career politicians. If you feel isolated and devalued by government, you have been correct for many years. Something is wrong.

On the positive side, enough voters going to the polls would have the power to make all the changes needed to solve persistent problems. Already 60% to 80% of our peo-

ple know there are many problems not being addressed by the bipartisan “two-party” monopoly. Now, we need to have 60% to 80% go to the polls and vote for non-partisan political candidates who will represent people, not corporations, unions, political parties, or any other special interest.

We need to elect people who will open politics to the competition of ideas on issues and open debate on workable solutions. With only 10% of elected offices occupied by moderate middle-of-the-road non-partisan independent or minor party candidates, needed reforms will become possible.

Specific political reforms can create a sustainable society based upon “democratic” small “r” republican ideals. For instance, a constitutional amendment is needed to establish the public policy that “money is not speech.” The same is true to establish the public policy that corporations are not “people” entitled to the benefits of the bill of rights and to equal protection under the US Constitution. We need to correct the late-1800s errors of the Supreme Court, which eroded and decreased the sovereignty of American citizens. Corporations are not citizens, either good or bad.

With our constitution we forever removed the divine right of Kings from our lives and left that *autocratic tyranny* in the Old World. We accurately located divine rights in the hearts and minds of our people, with protections in our Bill of Rights for freedom of religion and of speech.

In our time we need to dispose of the *autocratic tyranny* of corporations linked with *bipartisan* two-party politics. Our *unarmed revolution* will occur by winning ballot access for our *non-partisan independent* voter majority. Our votes can then win actual representation for our people. The principle of *citizens as sovereign* can then become public policy in our everyday lives. In our time *political sovereignty* can be located in the hearts and minds of our people.

I am forever indebted to Jane Williams, for her formatting genius, Janna Chappell, for her expert advice on income taxes, Jean “Budd”, my grammarian, and others too numerous to mention for proof-reading and advice on content. I am constantly amazed to have so many loving friends in this world. I dedicate my work to my son Brad, and to my own dad. — Revised February 2006 — Rich

Addressed to the
CITIZENS OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On the following interesting

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Doris "Granny D" Haddock

This 91-year-old grandmother walked across our country coast to coast to call attention to **Campaign Finance Reform**. I was privileged to meet her and hear her speak at two Reform Party National Conventions and in Cincinnati, Ohio. I walked with her for a few hours on two separate days. If you would like the privilege of knowing a woman filled with love for our country and our people, you can find her at...

www.grannyd.com

Please visit her. She is a true American hero. I love her and all that she represents.

Common Cause provided assistance for her courageous coast-to-coast walk.



Granny D
Washington D.C. 2000

"Yes, it is a long road ahead. But what nation can look at their neighbors with such pride as can we? Who thinks they can stand in the way of our need to be free, to manage our own government, to be a force for good in the world, to protect our children and our land, to sweep away before us anyone who tries to turn our sacred institutions of civic freedom to their greedy purposes?

On the road so far, I have seen a great nation. I have felt it hugging my shoulders, shaking my hand, cheering from across the way. I am so in love with it.

I know you are too.

Thank you. Don't argue ... friends — come together. Act in unity to save our dear democracy.

Thank you all."

Granny D, Dearborn, MI, 1999 Reform Party Nat'l Convention

THE OVERDUE VOTER REVOLUTION

Below is a quotation from the first **Common Sense** pamphlet written in 1776, which gained necessary support for our Revolutionary War more than 225 years ago: (Many thanks to **Thomas Paine** for his wisdom and his title.)

“But as the colony increases, ...too inconvenient for all of them to meet on every occasion as at first, when their number was small, ...This will point out the convenience of their consenting to leave the legislative part to be managed by **a select number** chosen from the whole body, who are **supposed to have the same concerns at stake which those have who have appointed them, and who will act in the same manner as the whole body would act were they present...**” as the numbers increase “...augment the number of the representatives,..., each part sending its proper number; and that the **elected** might never form to themselves an interest separate from the **electors**, prudence will point out the propriety of having elections often; because as the **elected** might by that means return and mix again with the general body of the **electors** in a few months, their fidelity to the public will be secured by the prudent reflexion of not making a rod¹ for themselves. And as this frequent interchange will establish a common interest with every part of the community, they will mutually and naturally support each other, and on this (not the unmeaning name of **king**)...” (Not the unmeaning name of **Foreign** or **Multinational** Corporations)² “...depends the **strength of government, and the happiness of the governed.**”³ (The **bold Italics** above within quotes are mine.)

Interests of **electors (voters)**⁴ and **elected (legislators and executives)** have been in tranquil discord for decades. The *elected*, usually bipartisan career politicians, live in a political culture that must oppose any change in our political process in order to retain power. The *elected* enact laws

solely intended to win over *likely voters*.⁴ With all public pronouncements to the contrary, the *elected* share interests with “Multinational Corporations,” “Foreign interests,” and “super wealthy constituents.” The *elected* share few or no interests with voters.

Interests of all human beings become what they do in their lives. We all, to a person, are what we do. The *elected*, to a person, spend over 50% of their time fund-raising, not governing as a stand-in for their electors. Under the current system the money comes from “Multinational Corporations” and “Foreign” interests linked to the wealthiest Ten Percent of electors. Wealthy electors have *continuous access* through lobbyists, who are mostly members of wealthy legal firms. Many lobbyists are former political office holders who once claimed to represent elector interests.

Lobbyists are a major deterrent to legislation drafted and passed in the interests of a majority of electors. Also, humans act on what occupies their minds. Re-election dominates the minds of “career politicians.” “*Voter access*” is every two to six years in the voting booth. A machine-signed form letter is the typical “representative” response to the average *voter*. Most *voters* give no campaign money.

Legislation is the item on the market, and the selling goes on day and night. Sales are about access to the market, and enticement to buy. Campaign Contributions are the hook to gain access to the *elected*, and to ensure the inclination of the *elected* to pass legislation in the interests of their contributors. The result is, in fact, legislation written and produced to agree with contributor interests. Legislation enacted in conflict with majority elector interests and national interests is common.

The wealthiest 10% wage war against political reform to retain a nearly 100% market share of political access and influence. Most office holders are already wealthy or they want to be. Over 90% of voters have no input or access to

the legislative marketplace. The marketing and sale of our political process is a reality on the local, state and national levels. The entrenched interests arrayed against democracy and “the natural rights of man” are powerful. Multinational corporate “Money” has replaced the “King” as the enemy of our “natural heritage.” Never more pervasive than today, corporate “Money” has ruled our system of government throughout most of our history!

Our territorial size no longer grows. Our population grows with thunderous speed. We must learn to share our resources more equitably with no new territories to populate. “Growth” is a two-edged sword. Elected public servants must learn to listen more closely to *our* huddled masses.

One purpose of this essay is to suggest creative solutions* that the 90+% might want to make into law if they had representation. Are there ways to provide significant Campaign Finance Reform, Incumbent Turnover (rather than Term Limits), and Strict Limits on Lobbyists to provide Information Only, without violating the bill of rights or constitutional limitations? The answer is yes, but we must enact every one of these reforms to secure significant representation for the lower 90+% of our citizens.

Common sense indicates the existence of nearly zero access and representation for most electors. A minimal amount of legislation, somewhat favorable to the majority, is in place intended to satisfy a shrinking base of elector (voter) support. The *elected* will not do anything that might diminish their power. The moneyed elite and the *elected* skillfully hide their bond of greed from easy view. The expensive crumbs of entitlement programs are not entirely supportive of elector (voter) interests.

The two corrupt parties that dominate our political life have no interest in giving up their power and influence. The *elected* represent their parties first. Needed reforms can be enacted only as a direct result of pressure from a well-

* see “Some Other Worthwhile Reforms” page 29

informed electorate. Voters must be determined to *not elect* Democrats & Republicans (Ds & Rs). Ds & Rs write unworkable and unconstitutional laws, which obviously cannot pass, so they can vigorously claim to support the various reforms demanded by the overwhelming majority of voters. With their consistent lies in plain view, can we expect the Ds & Rs to create necessary legislative solutions? Can we avoid the ongoing breakdown of our free social and political institutions? Common sense must tell us that Ds & Rs, the entrenched political captives of the DNC & RNC⁵, are not merely part of our problems. In fact, the *party interests* of Ds and Rs complicate and perpetuate all of our problems.

ON THE VARIETIES OF CAREER POLITICIANS: The purpose of CONSERVATIVES is to conserve the existing system, thus preserving their privileges and power along with those of their cronies. LIBERALS favor or tolerate purposeful change of the existing system to expand the power and privileges of their cronies who likewise reciprocate. MODERATES pursue any course that does not decrease their power and privileges or that of their cronies. Any differences are nearly imperceptible to common sense analysis.

Our strength, and stability, over our history, has been contingent upon the belief of the majority that our country has a representative government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Our growing instability proceeds from the reasonable conviction of a majority of our citizens that we no longer have such a government. The survival of our constitution depends upon immediate decisive reforms. We must strip money from the political equation so that the *elected* do not continue to sell our future and liberties to the highest bidder.

“RADICALS,” like Thomas Paine and me, think people have a “natural right” to substantially reform an existing corrupt system. You and I do have a civic and moral duty to one another. The existing system must be changed through

peaceful means, or any means necessary, even armed revolution. Failure of our citizens to alter our present political system with their votes will lead to pursuit of the unthinkable latter course to regain the promises implied by our Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. The use of arms to force needed changes could occur within fifty short years. Without reforms our civic breakdown will probably occur within the lifetime of our youngest citizens.

The horror of *armed revolution* can and must be avoided. A majority must vote to make the DNC & RNC⁵ give up monopoly power. The electorate has this *peaceful means* to gain meaningful political representation for all future generations. In order to gain any significant change, the DNC & RNC monopoly must be given an unmistakable vote of no confidence. We must elect non-partisan independent and minor party candidates. The electors, all of us, have a duty to return political access and representation to a majority of our citizens. Why do we tolerate our corrupt bipartisan two-party "dictatorship"(Ralph Nader)⁶?

THE PERCEPTION OF "RIGHT" AND "WRONG"

"Perhaps the sentiments contained in the following pages, are not yet sufficiently fashionable to procure them general favor; a long habit of not thinking a thing **wrong**, gives it a superficial appearance of being **right**, and raises at first a formidable outcry in defence of custom. But the tumult soon subsides. Time makes more converts than reason" (Thomas Paine).⁷

The *elected* have an easy time gaining acceptance for the "long habit" of our ineffective "representative" political system. The Ds & Rs can convince most of us that they appear right. But more than mere appearance is needed to make our system right. The vested interests of the *elected* are in direct conflict with all needed reforms. And the *elected*, Ds & Rs, are the only ones who hold enough elective offices to enact

reforms. How can any reforms take place? Common sense tells us reforms will not happen voluntarily. DNC & RNC campaign money and habit effectively prevent change.

Electors⁴ are also what they do. Time used to watch movies, TV, sports, and Internet content grows rapidly each day. The Mass media has pulled nearly all electors toward political inactivity in the 20th century. Today, “celebrities” and “entertainment” are discussed endlessly, *ad nauseam*.

Bipartisan politics is a huge con game. Nearly every potential voter considers political parties suspect and unworthy of serious consideration. “Truth” has many bipartisan versions. The electors are disgusted. They contentedly occupy themselves with the concerns of work, family and religion. They ease the stresses of life, which are not minimal, by pursuit of many worthwhile non-political activities.

Less than half of our citizens perform their only clear political duty. Registered voters, who actually vote, vote out of “long habit.” Their vote is their duty, their extent of the right thing required. Political activity is foreign to our lives. Our interests are elsewhere, and we continue to hope the “politicians” are right despite growing evidence to the contrary. Since there are no “right” choices, at least half of *likely voters* vote for the “lesser of two evils,” and the rest of us *choose* to not vote or to not register to vote.

The wrong in our politics is legislation for 10% without representation of the other 90%. The 90% are bowling, gardening, reading, volunteering, going to school, working multiple jobs, and doing 100s of other worthwhile “pass time” activities calculated to realize the good life. What the electors do is *not* politics. The Ds & Rs distract electors (voters)⁴ from politics in every way they can to maintain control. The DNC & RNC⁵ monopoly depends upon “long habit” to make the electors unaware of anything wrong.

Voters⁴ have historically colluded in the fantasy that all is right. Can all of the electors be fooled all of the time?

All of our citizens of all ages have always been assured that we live in a “representative democracy.” Periodically, small proportions of voters go to vote for the *elected*, who go away to live in a capital city. While there, the *elected* raise money to win the next election, so they can stay in the capital city to raise enough money to win the next succeeding election. Usually, the *elected* stay as long as they can. The *elected* occupy their time by taking money from, and talking to, lobbyists who are not concerned with electors’ interests. Electors’ interests are overlooked.

The *elected* talk of motivation to do public service. Have they stepped down from their already privileged place in life to serve others? The *elected* are also motivated to have a place for their name in history (ego), to guarantee their next job as a lobbyist (greed), to increase their wealth (greed), and to increase their personal power (ego). Unimpeded, *greed* and *ego* increase without limit. If allowed.

Initially the *elected* seem like ordinary people, human. Like everyone, they have weaknesses. Electors need to protect public servants from their basic human greed for prestige and power. Our laws need reform to protect the *elected* from themselves and us from them.

The *elected* are too few in number to have so much power. On the national level, 535 members of Congress equal two ten-thousandths of one percent (0.0002%) of a population of 273,605,861.* Are members of Congress so rare in ability? People with leadership abilities on the same level are probably a minimum of 1% to 2% of our registered voter population. For example, if we consider the approximate 115,000,000 registered voters, there are 2,600 to 5,200 such leaders in each district. (435 representatives in the US House of Representatives equal one representative per 264,000 registered voters.) Decide for yourself. Do we need career politicians? Why?

*9-26-99 US Census Population clock

Unbelievably, all incumbents are re-elected 99+% of the time they choose to run for re-election? Can one *elected* equally represent every voter in a district? Probably not, but if you think of the US House as representing the top 10% of American citizens by wealth, which is probably nearer to reality, then each representative works for 26,400 registered voters. The *elected* can more effectively represent that number of voters, and they do. They pass laws to benefit their *chosen* peer group. When the solutions are debatable, greed dictates making laws that benefit themselves and friends, common sense. We, the electors, let them stay in office.

0.0002% + < 10% ¹ > 50%, A Majority

THE NEED TO INCREASE VOTER CHOICES

The electors, unless they are among the small number of local D & R leaders, have little or no input in selecting candidates who become the *elected*. Almost 100% of the *elected* on every level were candidates approved of and selected by the DNC & RNC⁵ monopoly. Many of the people elected possess the required greed; tenacity, egocentricity and unprincipled party loyalty are also needed to get the money to win. Once elected, the *elected* tend to be jealous of the prerogatives gained by their extreme persistence.

Depressed voter⁴ turnouts prove elector⁴ wisdom. The *elected* represent the DNC & RNC. Voters are not represented. Wisely, 85% of registered voters in my congressional district (OH 1) are “non-affiliated” independents on election reports. Non-partisan independents are a super majority in every electoral district in the USA. Unaware of their numbers, most non-partisan electors⁴ do not vote or continue to vote for undesirable DNC & RNC candidates. Ds and Rs are less than 15% of registered voters in “OH 1.” What percentage do they share in your electoral district?

Less than 25% of *age eligible electors* vote! One hundred million electors are not registered to vote. Since voters

and non-voters remain uninvolved; the DNC & RNC select candidates who are public figures with one essential element of electability, positive name recognition. *Likely Voters* are offered a lineup of charismatic sports stars, entertainers, news broadcasters, space heroes, war heroes, and descendants of well-known politicians. “Everyone” knows them by name, so they are chosen. Wisdom, broad knowledge, honesty, integrity and experience are not at or near the top of the list of necessary personal characteristics.

Can they get the votes? Will they doggedly pursue money and power? Almost any public figure will do who has not been caught and found guilty of a felony. Sometimes, judging from casual observation, it appears that most public office holders have not yet been caught or tried.

TERM LIMITS (INCUMBENT TURNOVER)

Frustration at being unrepresented by an aging incumbent power structure and widespread corruption are the reasons electors have passed term limit laws by huge majority votes in every state where the question has been on the ballot. With persistent efforts, we can draft constitutional laws that give American citizens the “turnover” desired. The Supreme Court says we cannot restrict the right of the elector to choose. The point is well made.

One approach would be to limit the number of years an incumbent can campaign or have his/her name appear on any ballot. We could avoid restricting the electors’ right to choose by allowing incumbents to be re-elected for an unlimited number of terms by write-in votes on the ballot. Would the strain be too great on boards of election? If not, limiting incumbent ballot access may be a solution that would satisfy legitimate concerns of the courts. Prohibiting incumbent “campaigning” after a limited number of terms may also satisfy the courts.

Ideological differences between Ds & Rs have all but disappeared. The drive for money has transformed our political parties into powerful opponents of political freedom. However, Ds & Rs are still distinctive in the minds of most

likely voters. Each *likely voter* has just one choice between one D (“liberal”) and one R (“conservative”) candidate on his/her ballot. In that situation actual *voters* will vote their ideological needs even if the bipartisan monopoly keeps on running the same incumbents for a lifetime. What choice?

Political parties control the behavior of incumbents who want to stay on the ballot or seek higher public office in future elections. Ds & Rs, under DNC & RNC⁵ control, erect a wall between electors and open competitive elections. Our votes do not count. One of the candidates selected by the bipartisan monopoly wins a primary and a general election. Each winner *selected* follows the orders of *their* party.

A vote for the “other Party” can only be a protest vote “against interest” of any elector. Gerrymandering, begun in 1812, allows Ds & Rs to divide control of electoral districts between them. They re-draw boundaries so a decisive majority of voters within each manipulated district are likely to vote either D or R. With *selection* of a partisan list of *likely voters* in a district, another wall of control is erected. Again, voters⁴ are likely to choose one candidate *dictated* by the DNC & RNC monopoly. With the outcome of elections all but pre-determined, why vote? Nearly all elections are fixed.

Bipartisan parties that run an incumbent candidate must put a good second candidate on the ballot. There would be less reason to gerrymander districts. Incumbents and other candidates for public office would need to find common sense solutions to public policy problems and divisive issues. This reform favors a *more democratic republic*.

To invalidate the powerful effect of name recognition on voting, the word “Incumbent” will appear on ballots, not the incumbent's name. Incumbents will have to consider the concerns of their electors, to serve majority interests, and to have meaningful dialog with their actual human constituents. With huge “name recognition media campaigns” no longer useful, the need for campaign money would decrease and incumbents could safely ignore strict party orders. The huge 99% incumbent re-election rate based upon name recognition would be a relic of past political corruption.

With reasonable reforms, only the best and most valued incumbents would be re-elected. A few could survive, but only by serving the interests of their electors and the nation. The division of votes between more than two candidates would increase the election of non-partisan independent and minor party candidates. With more candidate choices, the electors' chances for representation would be greatly increased. Courts should have no legal grounds for disapproval. These reforms provide solutions that favor a *more democratic republic*.

The *elected* will not establish permanent residences or own "real estate" of any kind in local areas where they go to serve. Violation of this provision will make the *elected* ineligible to serve. The *elected* could not reasonably be expected to represent their electors' interests with their homes or major financial interests removed from their electors' districts.

TO RECAP

- The name of incumbents will not appear on any ballot, but they can be re-elected by write-in votes. They may be barred from "campaigning."
- And/or, the word "incumbent" will appear on the ballot along with the name of a good second candidate from the same Party. This gives the elector two choices in the incumbent's party and other choices in each non-partisan independent or minor party candidate on the ballot.
- Each elector has more choices so he/she can decide to vote an "undesirable" incumbent out of office. For the first time an elector has a real choice to vote an incumbent "in" or "out." All electors will have a reason to vote.
- More choices guarantee better legislation in the interests of all electors and the preservation of our constitutional republic.
- Each *elected* will maintain his/her financial "home" in the electoral district represented, or he/she will become ineligible to serve.

Next, we address the heart of the reform problem. “Where’s the money?” The pot is always “right” in the political poker game. The rich and powerful are in the game. In contrast, most other citizens are not even at the table.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM (CAN'T VOTE, CAN'T CONTRIBUTE)

All money to finance each election campaign will come directly from legally registered electors eligible to vote for the candidate. All contributions will be made to campaign committees by signed legal instruments matched with the signature on record with the “county election commission” where the elector is registered to vote. The total responsibility for the validity of each contribution belongs to the candidate and his/her campaign committee. The candidate would be a Payee on all instruments. If the candidate spends more money on his/her campaign than is allowed by law, the candidate would be barred from assuming or retaining office. Spending additional money as indicated in the 2nd bulleted item below in “Recap” would subject the candidate to criminal prosecution. Can local financing raise enough money?

Each registered elector could contribute to all candidates in each election in which he/she is eligible to vote. A \$100 contribution limit per candidate seems reasonable. For instance, with 264,000 “registered voter” donors in a US congressional district, \$10 per “registered voter” (or \$100 from only 10% of registered voters) would exceed \$2.5 million (\$2,500,000). Is that enough money?

Unused campaign funds would be returned to the “county election commission” general fund to be applied to future election expenses in order to save tax dollars.

No money could be accepted from funds of any political party or PAC for use in any political campaign, local, state, or Federal. All “get out the vote money” would be illegal during elections. Any money controlled by a political Party used

to pay for ads that portray the name or image of any candidate in a race would bar that Party's candidate from assuming office or retaining office, if elected. In addition, the guilty Party and the media outlet would be assessed a fine of 1000% of the amount illegally spent. The runner-up candidate would then be the candidate elected to serve.

Soft money or PAC money contributions to candidates would be totally banned. In order to avoid violation of the constitutional right to free speech there would be no limit on money spent on issue ads that contain continuous and obvious identification of the *real* sponsor(s) of the ad. Ds & Rs and other political parties would obey this law.

Again, issue ads could not contain any portrayal of the names or images of any candidate in the current election or past related elections. Any ad broadcast in violation of the law would impose a fine of 1000% of the projected cost of the ad on each sponsor and on each media outlet. The amount of the fine would be multiplied by the number of times the ad was contracted to run. Again, any Political Party violation would bar the Party's candidate from assuming office or retaining office, if elected. This is a basic grass roots solution. Only the electors⁴ could support candidates.

Participation in any political campaign fund-raising activities outside of the candidate's electoral district would be *prima facie* evidence of treason punishable by the loss of the right to run for any political office or to continue in office, if elected. Accepting funds from "Multinational Corporations" or other "Foreign" sources would be *prima facie* evidence of treason punishable by a maximum penalty of death.⁸

Adoption of this method of campaign finance would drastically reduce the power of the bipartisan DNC & RNC monopoly. These reforms provide solutions that favor a *more democratic republic*. We could have representative government at all levels.

TO RECAP

- Campaign contributions can be accepted only from legally registered electors eligible to vote for the candidate. Spending is strictly limited to elector contributions. No cash; contributions only by legal instruments bearing the legal signature of the elector for comparison with the signature on record with the “county election commission.”
- Any candidate who spends any amount above the contributions legally collected, plus his/her own personal limit of contribution and the amount spelled out by criminal statute as constituting a “felony”, would be subject to prosecution for a felony. If elected, he/she would be barred from assuming or retaining office. Votes for guilty candidates would become invalid in a vote re-count.
- All other fund-raising or contribution violations would be punishable by fines, denial of office, or criminal sentences to include death for treason.
- All persons convicted of a political campaign violation would be barred from ever seeking political office at any level of government. The guilty person would also be barred from becoming a local, state, or Federal government employee or appointee in any government branch on any level.
- Eliminating the influence of money guarantees better legislation in the interests of all electors and for preservation of our constitutional republic.
- There is no constitutional basis for a two-party political system. In fact, the long-standing monopoly of the DNC & RNC has legislated against our rights to petition our governments, and to free association and assembly, especially when related to political opposition to the Ds & Rs.

LIMITATIONS ON LOBBYISTS (INFORMATION ONLY)

Washington, DC is the secular Temple of our democratic republic and of the world's hopes for democracy and human rights. To honor our sacred trust to preserve the constitution, the bill of rights, and the principle of "one man, one vote," we must throw the moneychangers from the Temple. The moneychangers in our political system are obviously the lobbyists and registered foreign agents operating with unlimited access to all elected legislators, executives and staff decision makers in our capitals. There are no consequential legal limits to their behavior or activities in our law. There are no appropriate penalties for their bribery and influence peddling. Instead, we allow their legislative interference. Any time an *elected* spends with lobbyists outside of committee hearing rooms is a fraud perpetrated against the electors. The District of Columbia was established to serve every American citizen.

"Fund-raiser" activities of any kind should be banned from Washington, DC. Any citizen attempting to give illegal funds to an elected office holder, candidate, or any civil servant, or who offers future gain or employment to such persons would be justly tried and punished for treason. Any "Foreign" businessperson or foreign diplomat guilty of the same crimes should be declared *persona non grata*, and barred for their lifetime from ever re-entering the United States on any basis.

Any person who has been a Federal elected office holder, civil office holder, or congressional employee should be barred for their lifetime from accepting financial compensation as a lobbyist on behalf of any entity, domestic or "Foreign." Such persons could testify before congress to provide information relevant to legislation. Former Presidents and all persons in the executive branch or the judicial branch should also be barred from paid lobbyist activities.

Even their unpaid lobby activities should be barred if there is the slightest indication of any conflict of interest.

The revolving door should be permanently barred and locked shut. No one has the right to run our government based upon favors from those in power with whom they have had former associations. All these corruptive influences represent unjust power over the lives of our nation and its citizens. People currently in such positions are traitors to our dreams of democracy within our constitutional republic.

Lobbyists who are registered foreign agents, or who represent “Multinational Corporations”, should be limited to contact with the relevant department in the executive branch of government, such as the commerce department. They should be *barred from access to or possible influence of* elected representatives and their staffs. The only official contact allowed should be limited to the rare instance when “Foreign” agents or “Multinational Corporations” are called upon to testify before congress.

TO RECAP*

- Close the revolving door completely and permanently. The approximately 200,000 lobbyists and influence peddlers in our national capital, Washington D.C., are less than seven ten-thousandths (0.0007) of our population of 273,605,861. ** They supply undue influence that robs 90+% of our electors of their legitimate share of political access and representation. ** See pg. 7
- Protecting elected politicians from temptation and freeing more of their time for work guarantees better legislation in the interests of all electors and for preservation of our constitutional republic.

* Principles should also be applied to state and local governments.

REFORMS FAVOR DEMOCRACY, SUFFRAGE

With all campaign money given at the local level by eligible voters we would have grassroots politics with the loudest voters' voice in our history. Power in American politics would be in electors' 4 votes. Power would be centered in our local voting booths. The role of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) would be restricted to giving matching funds and convention money to candidates and parties. The Commission on Presidential Debates would still schedule presidential debates. However, minor parties, the D and R parties, and non-partisan independents, would all share FEC membership structures equally. All Presidential debates would include all candidates on enough state ballots to have a numerical chance to win the Electoral College. Voter participation would be >70% of *age eligible* voters in all elections. The above reforms favor a *democratic republic*.

NATIONAL ELECTION HOLIDAY: To promote democracy, our elections must be our most honored national holiday. Our election holiday could last up to four days, with voting *Saturday through Monday*. The Polls could close at the same time in each time zone throughout the nation, all the way to the most Western time zone. On Tuesday at noon, with all the polls closed, the voting results could be officially released from the "local election commissions." Polling results could not be legally released or broadcast before the official release of "local polling data." This delay would promote political discussion with candidates on the local level during this most revered of our holidays. This would, in fact, teach the civil values we claim with our words on the less meaningful 4th of July holiday. Nearly all eligible citizens would vote.

All of the above reform ideas are thoughts derived from one elector 4 proactively focused on political reform since the 1980s. There is little doubt that many aspects of these ideas, and ideas not included, have been rejected by DNC & RNC "think tanks" fed by bipartisan political money. Their

vested interests totally block any creative tendency. Filling in the details of reform depends upon motivation and determination. Many reform ideas have been given detailed thought. Many can be made workable. Numerous other ideas, to replace or add to the above, can achieve reform within constitutional limits.*

The American electorate can put these or other reforms into law only through continuously expressed outrage. To cause meaningful reform, the DNC & RNC bipartisan two-party monopoly must be given an unmistakable vote of no confidence. Non-partisan independent voters must never, ever vote for Ds & Rs. The DNC & RNC will notice the anger that elects non-partisan political candidates to public office.

Anger and apathy are the twin symptoms of extreme frustration. Disgust with our out-of-touch, scandal-ridden, Federal government over the last forty plus years, has produced severe political apathy in half to three-quarters of our population. The twin, "anger," though it barely showed its head in 1992, produced a record voter turnout. In 1996, the "apathy" twin won. A majority of voters could not focus on one alternate presidential candidate. Voter turnout was low.

"Seething anger" is still everywhere, disguised as apathy and expressed as disgust and frustration with the political process. Many electors have no "voice." Militia groups, and violence against Federal employees and buildings, are symptoms of this fact. A small portion of the apathetic drifting toward anger commits violent acts. The drift toward anger, toward violent action, will continue, as more people find no answers to their perceived economic and social losses. We urgently need to make all Americans part of the political process. More ballot choices and ways to participate will give all electors a reason to hope for representation.

The above reforms would serve as a good start to remove corrupt money from politics. With the *elected* free of

* see "Some Other Worthwhile Reforms" page 29

outside influence, the electors would gain confidence in the political process. More important than improved confidence, the enactment of appropriate legislation would encourage the growth of a strong and prosperous middle-class.

The strength and stability of any *democratic republic* is directly proportional to the strength and size of its middle-class. We could have an actual representative “government of the people, by the people, and for the people” (Abraham Lincoln). A few legislative changes would do a lot to encourage the pursuit of happiness and upward mobility for persons stranded near the lower end of the economic ladder.

MINIMUM UNTAXABLE EARNINGS

By legislative definition, a “poor” person or family has to spend their entire earnings on basic necessities. Under whatever tax system we have, there should be *no income tax on earnings needed to buy basic necessities*. \$24,960 (\$12 per hour) is “working poor” for an adult with two children.⁹ The basic 1996 Federal income tax for that head of household is \$1,714 on a taxable income of \$11,410. The amount left is \$23,246, \$1,937.17 per month for three people, with nothing deducted for Social Security tax (5.9%), Medicare tax, state tax, local tax, sales tax, health insurance (premiums, deductibles, and co-insurance), car insurance, education, retirement, savings, transportation, food, housing, and clothing. One person in Washington, DC, former President Bill Clinton, 1993 to 2001, declared these to be “high wages” even with the family classed as “working poor.”⁹

It gets worse. Minimum wage, last increased to \$4.75 in 1996 and to \$5.15 on 9-1-97, was \$9,880.00 in 1996 gross wages. For the single taxpayer, the 1996 Federal income tax owed was \$499.00. That left \$9,381.00, \$781.75 per month, with nothing deducted for the numerous items listed in the example in the above paragraph. There would be no Earned Income Credit (EIC) for the single taxpayer earning the

minimum wage. However, the single parent filing as a head of household (\$5900 standard deduction) and claiming exemptions for one or two children would owe no tax and would receive EIC payments, \$2,152.00 (\$179.33 per month) for one child or \$3,556.00 (\$296.33 per month) for two children. This nets a monthly income of \$1,002.67 with one child and \$1,119.67 with two children at the minimum wage level. This is \$220.92(28%) or \$337.92(43%) more net income per month than the \$781.75 net income of the childless single taxpayer. Does the EIC make survival possible on the minimum wage? Could that encourage teen pregnancy for hopeless teens who also want children? How desperate are the poor?

Job prospects are worse now because fewer jobs include benefits. Where benefits exist, they usually require employee contributions. In fact, employers are attempting to totally avoid providing benefits by downsizing, and using as many part-time, temporary, and contract workers as possible. Falling "real wages" over the past 25 years are further squeezed by the need for *employees*, now called *associates*, to purchase their own benefits or do without. Health care is too often obtained as public assistance at emergency rooms. Retirement may be limited to social security, which many people fear may not survive congressional cuts. Age eligibility for social security retirement may be raised to eighty, which would assure no payments to the living below that age. In which case, most potential retirees will have died.

Why can the *elected* not comprehend the dire circumstances of the poor? Perhaps the poor are seen as *irrelevant* because most of them do not vote or give campaign money. Perhaps our *politicians* do not understand. All citizens are "constituents."

Incorrect perception of today's low wages as adequate may derive from the outdated viewpoint of older generations. Today's "working poor wages" were "good wages" in *number*

of dollars back in the formative years of our middle-aged and older *career politicians*.

Most *electeds* are older and have never experienced low wages, even long ago. They have no basis for judging the situation faced by the underemployed poor. There is little understanding of the hardship. In fact, people in power think any hardship that exists for “lazy” poor people could easily be escaped by good hard work. Should all the poor take two “high wage” jobs to get a little ahead for extras like health insurance? Could eighty hours per week cause unbearable fatigue and loss of a stable family life? Is this the “pursuit of happiness?”

A person can work very hard for subsistence wages. Betterment is not possible through taxed legal wages at “working poor” levels. Any “pursuit of happiness” requires entering the huge underground economy. The low wages are illegal, but taxes and other deductions can be kept. Illegal aliens are the competition. Merely to avoid costs, employers pay needy US citizens, or illegal aliens, under the table.

To step up from low wages in the illegal underground economy, the dangerous drug trade is available. The plentiful money and excitement tempt our young despite heavy negatives. So what? You may *already* be illegal, desperate, and on the edge. Illegal drugs may allow survival on a higher level for as long as it lasts. “Till death do us part” has a new meaning for the '90s and beyond.

Before the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, the young female with children got some benefits allowed by her low minimum wage income. She may have had a better chance to avoid the illegal underground economy. However, with the loss of welfare benefits the same woman (or girl) may be forced into the huge underground economy, prostitution, or even into the dangerous illegal drug trade.

In the interest of social stability, we need to rescue *our* people from the need to be criminals to survive. We could

establish a *Minimum Untaxable Earnings* level within which people have a chance to save and work hard to better themselves without government assistance. \$8 to \$10 per hour would be a good place to start. \$16,640 to \$20,800 would be tax-free income. The highest possible *untaxable* income would be best. Dependent tax exemptions would not be allowed at any income level. Say “Good-bye” EIC? Love should be the main incentive to bring children into our overcrowded world, not the economic needs of potential parents.

The only *income tax return* necessary for personal or *business* incomes at the untaxable level would contain one number, gross income, and one signature, the taxpayer’s, in simple affidavit form.

FAMILY INCOME: A couple living together with children would be entitled to 2.5 times the tax-free wages of a single person with children. This would encourage one parent to nurture the children at home. One or two parents could earn the tax-free family income. Married couples living together with children would be entitled to 3.0 times the tax-free earnings of a single person. This would encourage the social stability derived from the institution of marriage, and further enable one parent to nurture their children at home. One or two parents could earn the tax-free family income.

The incentive for “poor people” to better themselves would yield dramatic results. The encouragement of family life would dramatically reduce the social pathology seen today. The level of social pathology anticipated by our social scientists would be reduced. The work hours saved for productive pursuits by eliminating tax preparation would have an overall positive effect on the economy. The poor could have discretionary income for savings, education, and capital accumulation. Upward *social mobility* would again become a realistic possibility for everyone.

THE LONG OVERDUE MAXIMUM WAGE

Consider “King of the hill,” the game in which kids fight to occupy the top of a dirt pile. Our usual leaders are “type A” controlling types who fight all their lives to be on the top of any dirt pile within reach. They search for higher dirt piles constantly. They never cease play. To be on top is an end in itself for political, labor, and business leaders.

“Top of the hill” wages are proportioned entirely too far above the lowest wages. *Top wages* are in “social status” competition with rubber-faced comedians who “earn” \$30 million per motion picture. In the mass-media world these are median wages. One hundred million dollars is paid to talk show hosts, entertainers, athletes, newscasters, and trial attorneys. Greedy agents continually push the wage envelope to unbelievable limits. Our corporations have become *inhumanely* gigantic also. Can the “game” be stopped?

The bigger the corporation, the higher the dirt hill won. These “little boys” with the highest wages control society. Winning the “game” is the ultimate end. Do the “Kings of the Hill” have values beyond that? Many of our children are misled to believe success is achieved only by earning a multi-million dollar annual salary. They desperately aspire to “make it” in entertainment, sports, or other means to “national level” fame and wealth. They overlook the spiritual wealth found in family and friends. Some would rather die than “grovel at the bottom.” What life can you make for yourself there? They fail to see beyond media-induced material values. Some misguided youths kill for status symbol “king of the hill” tennis shoes. Obviously, we must end the “game.” The “game” erodes our sense of community.

Any maximum gross wage (MGW) should have no numerical limit, but should be aimed at being in reasonable proportion to the lowest wage paid in our society. The MGW could be no more than 100 times the annual wage derived

from the minimum wage. At \$5.15 per hour the MGW would be \$1,071,000 per year. A \$1.00 increase in the minimum wage to \$6.15 per hour would boost the MGW to \$1,279,200 per year, an increase of \$208,200 per year.

TRICKLE UP: Our best and most creative minds would find ways to boost our lowest wage by training or whatever means necessary. Increasing the bottom line for the wealthy would no longer be the only path to financial rewards. For once, increasing the stability and strength of the middle-class would have definite rewards for the “kings of the hill.” Their natural human greed would be harnessed to level the economic playing field and to bring our country the wealth inherent in having a robust middle-class. The minimum wage could double within ten years in terms of “real wages.” The people who build our middle-class would be well rewarded while saving our economic future. Their MGW could also double. The *trickle-up* economic model actually works!

Any amount of compensation over the MGW would be 100% taxable.¹⁰ Perhaps income for hourly and salaried personnel would be raised based upon the annual percentage increase in the minimum wage. MGW reductions in executive salaries, and *living wages* tax breaks paid to employers, may allow for more money to spend for research and development, or capital equipment. For sure, a MGW law would not lower 90+% of US wages.

For anyone who would condemn these measures as *Social Engineering*, recall the “Declaration of Independence.” The King² was offended. In essence, all legislation is *Social Engineering*. Perhaps our privileged class would let the people “eat cake” as suggested long ago by Marie Antoinette in pre-Revolutionary France.

The MGW would reduce the ability of “Multinational Corporations” to bribe overpaid executives to ignore their social conscience. Corporate “hatchet men”, females included, who sacrifice the American people for a healthy bottom line would be moderated.

Extremely high salaries at the top with a weak middle-class to anchor them represent a bubble of huge proportions. Inflated earnings, based upon world markets scaled beyond reasonable human control, produced much of the 1990s bubble. A MGW could slow the inevitable feeding frenzy that will no doubt help fill the next bubble.

Bubbles, if they are bubbles, always pop.

All people have equal intrinsic value and are entitled to “the natural rights of man,” equality, justice, and democracy.

THE DNC & RNC ⁵

UNITED AGAINST THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

The DNC & RNC both say in different ways, “limiting soft money contributions will disenfranchise thousands who want to participate in the election process.” If giving money is participation, nearly all Americans are disenfranchised. The Companies they work for, the unions they belong to, and other organizations presume to participate for electors. Usually *soft money*, and PAC money, strengthens participation and access for special interest groups whose *vested interests* are already extremely well protected politically. The DNC & RNC turn a deaf ear to the public.

Majority voter participation would enfranchise more electors. The goal is active participation in our electoral process by each elector⁴ before the current generation votes in their last election. The goal is to secure equal representation in our electoral process for future generations. The goal is to preserve our constitution so it will continue to be the hope of the world for freedom and democracy.

We must protect our political process from outside money influences. Money corrupts all human institutions through appeals to human greed. The only question is how much money buys how much influence? Money buys influence. This is a statement about human nature, not an accusation leveled against any individual or group.

Many of the *elected* are quick to say the American people need to force their representatives to pass reforms. The American people have screamed at the top of their lungs for term limits. Former Speaker of the House, Tom Foley, filed suit in the state of Washington against the will of the people for term limits. He lost his next bid for re-election in 1994.

Campaign finance reforms recently proposed and passed in congress are merely cosmetic. In twenty years we will have more scandals over the loopholes left in these laws as passed or proposed. Our elected legislators and executives are either incompetent or they have no will to enfranchise the American people. As we drift toward further anarchy or armed revolution, the DNC & RNC stubbornly support endless re-election of monopoly bipartisan D & R incumbent candidates to retain total political power.

The silence in this country is deafening. "One hundred million (100,000,000), over 50%, of 196,000,000 age eligible citizens did not vote in 1996."¹¹ All non-partisan voters have ideas and feelings about politics and government; they usually express disgust and spit in some general direction as they decline any political discussion. The monopoly bipartisan two-party system ignores their interests. The DNC & RNC seem focused entirely on the battle to be the majority party in power. Are money and power the only goals?

Age eligible non-voters, over 50%, will not contact their elected "representatives." They will not vote in a system where their participation gains no representation. Ask them. Big money controls the monopoly bipartisan DNC & RNC. The story does not end there. The tendency of the currently apathetic disenfranchised citizen to become "anti-social" is a threat to the overall stability of our society. Instability, if allowed to grow, threatens our domestic tranquility and the constitution.

The buck stops here for all public office holders. Each *elected* must reach deep inside and find the courage of a *statesman* there. Re-shape our political process and our society. Let us live in a country where the *elected* “have the same concerns at stake which those have who have appointed them, and who will act in the same manner as the whole body would act were they present” (Thomas Paine). **12**

PEACEFUL CHANGE, NO D & R VOTES

In truth, the possibility of reform is in the hands of an enraged electorate. Registered and *unregistered* voters are the only hope for peaceful preservation of the constitution. Voting Ds & Rs out of political office and petitions for ballot access are the only direct means available for electors to build a *more democratic republic*.

To take our country back from the bipartisan DNC & RNC monopoly, we need an intentional non-partisan political mass movement to elect non-partisan independent and minor party candidates. They will represent all of us.

Read the **NON-PARTISAN VOTER PLEDGE**. (See the inside front and rear cover.) Fill out and sign the voter pledge. Make a commitment to speak to the people who surround your everyday life. Express your dislike of our corrupt bipartisan D & R political system. With your vote and voice our non-partisan independent super majority can elect non-partisan candidates to public office on all levels to take the legislative majority away from bipartisan Ds & Rs. Public policy can then be made to fulfill the interests of our people.

Be active as a non-partisan petition circulator and as an Election Day participant. Elect non-partisan leaders.

Make today the last day of your political inactivity. Join the non-partisan independent political movement. Be the cause of a *democratic republic* worthy of our highest political ideals. We still have a democratic republic, if we can keep it.

FOOT NOTES (SOME BASIC DEFINITIONS)

1. "Making a rod" meant owning or buying land, or "making a home."
2. Contributions from "*Multinational Corporations*" are just as corrupt as contributions from "*foreign*" interests or governments. Corporate interests are *also* not the interests of electors (voters).⁴ "**Inc.'s**" are **now** our "**Kings**". *We permit their political tyranny.*
3. Thomas Paine, *Common Sense* (Penguin Classics, 1986), p. 67.
4. **Electors:** Every age eligible **human** constituent, citizen, within an electoral district. **Voters:** The media manipulated citizen minority that participates in **DNC & RNC**⁵ controlled elections. *Likely voters* are a very small minority.
5. Democratic National Committee and Republican National Committee. **DNC & RNC** bureaucrats select all **D & R** candidates; the incumbent "two-party system" is the "dictatorship."
6. Ralph Nader, Independent Presidential Candidate and champion of civil justice. His efforts helped to expand consumer rights and worker safety rights for our people. *Google* his name.
7. *op cit*, *Common Sense*, p. 63.
8. The death penalty for treason or desertion during military wars is acceptable as a reasonable punishment due to the devastating effect on our troops and the nation. Treason in the economic wars of today has an equally devastating effect on a majority of our working citizens and the nation. The punishment for economic treason should be equally severe.
9. Barlett, Donald L. and Steele, James B., *America: Who Stole the Dream?* (Andrews and McMeel, 1996), p. 112.
10. We could revive the 91% Federal income tax bracket of the 1950s for wages above the MGW. Progression within the taxable wage range, minimum untaxable to MGW, could stay at current levels or be adjusted.
11. Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, former Director, Curtis Gans. *2004 VOTERS AND NON-VOTERS:* <http://www.gwu.edu/~action/2004/electrte.html>. Web page with many links, and shows the 1996 election numbers.
12. *op cit*, *Common Sense*, p. 67.

- “Instant runoff voting”^{*} powerfully increases voter choice. Each voter casts a vote for each candidate on their ballot, ranking their choices by number. Your vote for a non-partisan or minor party candidate would no longer be a “wasted vote.” Your first choice, or other choice, could win as one of the two candidates in the final instant runoff. Ranking all candidates gives you a vote on every candidate on your ballot. You would have more than one vote to decide who is elected to represent you. The winner always has a majority of votes.

^{*} John Anderson, 1980 Independent Presidential Candidate

- Finance campaigns with public matching funds for small contributions. Match very small contributions with several times the amount contributed. Give no matching funds for large contributions over \$100 or \$500. Level the playing field and promote open political competition. Candidates who participate can accept contributions only from qualified voters.
- Require all election days to be paid legal holidays. This would allow all people ample unhurried time to vote. This would also make *same day voter registration* easier to accomplish.
- Tailor FCC radio broadcast licenses to fit the size of electoral districts. Eliminate the high cost of ads covering areas larger than the candidate’s electoral district. Level the playing field and promote political competition in all elections.
- Make corporate ownership of patents and intellectual property illegal. Make technical patents last as long as artistic and intellectual copyrights. Make individual persons the exclusive owners of patents and copyrights.
- Fully fund all undergraduate tuition for colleges, universities, and accredited technical schools. The huge social benefits would cost a mere “\$25 billion.”⁶ Reduce the \$350 billion corporate welfare budget to pay the cost.
- Fully fund public radio and television services. Corporations have full control of all commercial broadcast and cable outlets. Foundations partially finance public TV and Radio, and corporations are moving toward complete control. We need a reliable public “Radio Free America,” to counteract corporate propaganda and content control of all media outlets.

A "SOMETHING WRONG HERE" READING LIST

- BEN H. BAGDIKIAN, *THE MEDIA MONOPOLY*, FOURTH EDITION, BEACON PRESS, BOSTON, 1992, 1ST EDITION 1983
Discusses in detail the control of the media by fewer and fewer owners. Censorship and information control by media owners is common. A source book relating to the decline of journalistic freedom and expression!
- RALPH NADER AND WESLEY J. SMITH, *NO CONTEST, CORPORATE LAWYERS AND THE PERVERSION OF JUSTICE IN AMERICA*, RANDOM HOUSE, NEW YORK, 1996
Confirms your belief that "something is deeply wrong" with our legal system, which has all but abandoned the ideal of providing every American access to justice. Corporate lawyers routinely nullify, misuse or break the law.
- DONALD L. BARTLETT AND JAMES B. STEELE, *AMERICA: WHAT WENT WRONG?*, ANDREWS AND MCMEEL, 1992
The dismantling of the middle class by moving jobs out of the country, by increased tax burdens, and by corporate purchase of the political process. Tax policies push our nation toward a two-class society, rich and poor.
- DONALD L. BARTLETT AND JAMES B. STEELE, *AMERICA: WHO REALLY PAYS THE TAXES?*, A TOUCHSTONE BOOK, SIMON & SCHUSTER, NEW YORK, 1994
More about the tax war you lost and the corporations won. Suggests ways to fix it, if we demand the necessary changes.
- MICHELE MITCHELL, *A NEW KIND OF PARTY ANIMAL, HOW THE YOUNG ARE TEARING UP THE AMERICAN POLITICAL LANDSCAPE*, SIMON & SCHUSTER, NEW YORK 1998
Generation X'ers are actively involved in volunteer work to help others and have no interest in political parties. They vote on issues and for candidates who believe in their issues.
- BERNIE SANDERS WITH HUCK GUTMAN, *OUTSIDER IN THE HOUSE*, VERSO, LONDON AND NEW YORK, 1997
How one independent candidate from Vermont persisted and won elections to represent his people as mayor of Burlington and in the US House of Representatives. There are only one or two independents in the US House.
- ROBERT ROTH, *A REASON TO VOTE, BREAKING THE TWO-PARTY STRANGLEHOLD*, ST. MARTIN'S GRIFFIN, NEW YORK, 1999
How integrity in new political leaders, working to solve problems based on what works, can give you a reason to vote. We can have government based on your interests, not special interests. We can have a democratic republic.
- DORIS HADDOCK WITH DENNIS BURKE, *GRANNY D, WALKING ACROSS AMERICA IN MY NINETIETH YEAR*, VILLARD, NEW YORK, 2001
How to have a purpose in your life, and friends: Give yourself away.
- RALPH NADER, *CRASHING THE PARTY, TAKING ON THE CORPORATE GOVERNMENT IN AN AGE OF SURRENDER*, ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, NEW YORK, 2002
How to tell the truth and still run for President: The 2000 Nader campaign.

THE BEGINNING

PRACTICE ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

*

THE INDEPENDENT VOTERS ALLIANCE (USAIVA) is one good place to become involved in your future.

Meet the IVA: www.geocities.com/dist1oh/IVA_Opinion/MeetTheIVA.html

Internet Home Page: www.geocities.com/dist1oh/usaiva

Other CSII Political Tools: www.geocities.com/dist1oh/index10.html

NON-PARTISAN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES
YOU LIKE

MINOR PARTY CANDIDATES YOU LIKE

YOUR LIST OF WORTHWHILE REFORMS

CREATE THE FUTURE
CONSIDER THE NEXT SEVEN GENERATIONS

THE OVERDUE VOTER REVOLUTION for your friends, family, church group, political interest group, and community:

Read between the lines to find your own level of disquiet. If you deem it appropriate, promote the long overdue *voter revolution*. Give our children the gift of a humane and democratic republic. We can return to the ideals of our founders. We can perpetuate the principles of our Declaration of Independence and of our US Constitution. Representative government is fragile. As Thomas Jefferson said, a democracy needs a revolution every ten years to stay healthy. Many changes have occurred over the years, some major, even revolutionary, but none have eliminated the selection of legislative and executive candidates through "primaries dictated by wealth."* Some political reforms are 220 years overdue.

Social justice demands equal access to the political process and representation of every elector (voter).**4**

* BONIFAZ, JOHN, *CHALLENGING THE WEALTH PRIMARY, CONTINUING THE STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE* (THE NATIONAL VOTING RIGHTS INSTITUTE, BOSTON, 1995) (<http://www.nvri.org>)

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NON-PARTISAN VOTER PLEDGE

I, _____ PLEASE PRINT _____, the undersigned **citizen** of the United States of America, do pledge before Nature's God and my fellow citizens to legally register and vote in all local, state, and national elections for the rest of my life. I consider the bipartisan power struggle between Democrats (**DNC**) and Republicans (**RNC**) a threat to the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America. Special interest money donations to the **DNC & RNC** two-party monopoly robs our citizens of representation within legislative bodies and executive branches at all levels of government. I must withdraw wholehearted support from any bipartisan candidate of the monopoly Democratic and Republican Parties. I pledge to support qualified **non-partisan independent** and **minor party** candidates in order to elect government that represents people at the local, state and national levels.

My legal residence, Address _____, City _____, State _____, qualifies me to vote in precinct # _____, in _____ (City, Village, or Township) in the State of _____.

My pledge signed this _____ day of _____, _____, at (City) _____, (State) _____.

My Signature _____

We need new political leaders free of party control. We need to petition to put more non-partisan independent and minor party candidates on every ballot. Read the pledge. Be active as a petition circulator and Election Day participant. Join the non-partisan political movement to establish a *more democratic republic*. Vote for candidates not owned by any political party or any other wealthy special interest. We still have a democratic republic, if we can keep it.

COMMENTS TO: COMMON SENSE II POLITICAL REFORMS
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