

Alabama

Copy

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Opening the Political Process

Dear President Obama:

The depressing results of the mid-term elections move me to urge you to rethink opening the political process to independent voters to better allow all their passionate voices to be heard and counted.

My deepest appreciation for all of your efforts and for your consideration of this recommendation.

Respectfully,



Gloria Solomon, Ed.D.
3105 Chestnut Oaks Drive
Birmingham, AL 35244

Arizona

Al Bell
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cosmatom@cox.net

October 18, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

You are the first President to whom I have written during my 76 years as an American. I don't take this first one lightly and I hope you don't either. I was born during FDR's first term. The intervening years provided enough drama to fill a set of encyclopedias.

You are a remarkable entry in this panorama for many reasons. I'll mention only two. The first is that you occupy center stage while our national divisions are immense. The second is that you have what it takes to do something about it. This letter suggests how.

Please give credence and attention to an emerging force that can help you do the job you want to do. It helped you get elected. I believe it can help our Nation return to a more balanced approach to our serious challenges—a theme I often hear from you.

This is not a new request. Jacqueline Salit and Harry Kresky, of IndependentVoting.org urged it over a year ago. "It" was to appoint at least one member of the Federal Election Commission from the ranks of independent voters. Please consider it now.

Independent voters may soon be half of the voting public (now over a third), yet we continue to fight for our voting rights. This is because the democratic and republican parties fear losing power. They have already lost it by demonstrating repeatedly that they care most about their own agendas rather than America. How terribly disappointing.

This is why caring citizens are leaving the parties in droves. I urge you to respond to this growing phenomenon by appointing two independent voters to the Federal Elections Commission. I believe it would mark a huge gain in legitimacy of our political process.

The main thing that counts for the major parties is votes—and the money to get them. An analogy helps to see the result. We are a nation going down the road with one foot on the gas and the other on the brake pedal. That is a prescription for disaster and we are already seeing many of its dimensions. We can surely do better and I know you agree.

The analogy continues. It is impossible to reach any destination by driving part way at full speed and then reversing course to speed in the opposite direction. That's how the democratic and republican parties now behave. The functional and dollar cost of this pattern is astronomical. We simply can't afford it. Our deficit is measured not only in dollars, horrific as that is, but in paucity of sustainable accomplishment.

The tragedy is that each party actually offers real substance that merits consideration. But statesmanship has been abandoned and that substance is lost in the noise.

Yes, I know. You are a member of the democratic party. You cannot lose their total support. And you also need significant support from independents. I believe you can help to legitimize the political process in a way that appeals to thoughtful citizens over a wide political spectrum by broadening true representation on the Commission—including currently disenfranchised independents. It would allow the original intent for this body to be performed with much greater fealty than has been the case, especially recently.

Combined with a growing pattern of open elections among the states, I believe there is a good chance that it will force the two parties to operate in a more productive way, one that curtails the currently prevailing motivation to demonize and destroy each other.

Of course, this is risky. Risk is not unknown to you, before or since your election. What is at stake is restoring congressional ability to solve real problems. You need—and deserve—a congress that is capable of governing. Current party dogma is a poor substitute for thinking. I believe your thoughtful approach to problem solving can be significantly reinforced by the influence independent voters can exert on the process. In any case, isn't a continuation of the current mode of operation an even greater risk?

Mine is only one voice. But there are millions who would sign this letter.

Thank you for stepping forward to lead us. I am grateful for your commitment and admire what you stand for. I only ask now that you take this step toward recognizing this reality: our nation can no longer afford a political process that treats over a third of the voters as if they didn't exist—or matter. That must be changed if the political parties are ever to manifest the best instead of the worst of what they have to offer. For that matter, independent thinkers may have a few ideas of merit as well. Let's find out.

I hope you find this helpful, Mr. President. That is my intent and desire.

Sincerely,

Al Bell

Dear Mr. President,

As this election day rolls to an end, I am reminiscing about the many years I have been exercising my voting right since turning 18 back in the 70's. What has changed drastically over these many years is the volume and tone of the rhetoric and the increasingly mean and nasty accusations lobbed by both republicans and democrats. Where is the thoughtful discussion on what we need to do to move America forward?

The underlying problem in American politics is that there are only two sides of the aisle (the other minor parties have never managed to break into the fray in a meaningful way). I would argue that there are certainly many, many more than two types of citizen and two types of political ideology. Each of the parties is too ideological and unwilling to compromise for the good of the whole. Our two party system is extremely outdated, bought and owned by the biggest donors and totally ineffective when it comes to meaningful reform. One has to look no further than the crisis of these past several years – economic, financial, regulatory, educational, health care, etc. etc.

Americans felt a great deal of HOPE when you were elected. There was HOPE that things would change in Washington, perhaps leading the way to a sweep of common sense across the states and maybe even the ability to work together on issues that matter to citizens. But, that hasn't been the case. With all due respect, you and your team have found that the parties control the actions of every elected official in the Beltway. And, to a lesser degree, the same holds true in most states. While I know things aren't simple on Capitol Hill, we all really did have great HOPE for change.

It is time to break the lock the two major political parties have on our elections. I am asking you to help by working to shift politics to a truly independent system so that we can all get back to serious business of making this country great again.

If we don't do this, the future looks very dim for my children and my grandchildren. You are the biggest HOPE we've had in years. Please help steer the ship in the right direction towards true political reform. Imagine how great America could be, once again, on the world stage. If we don't, we will continue to lose ground and who knows where that may lead. We need this reform – NOW.

Respectfully,

Brenda Sperduti
Brenda@Sperduti.net

Dear President Obama:

The Declaration of Independence was written, not the Declaration of Democrats and Republicans. Unfortunately, that is the way the world sees us and the ways our U.S. is working; totally locked up due to the dual nature of party politics. How could the U.S. go so wrong, and exclude so many Americans? It reminds me on the 3/5 policy of the Constitution, now amended. Basically, you and the media, and the elected officials only see 2/3 people, and leave the other 1/3 out. Too bad. Maybe we should get a constitutional amendment adding the Independents (not "undecideds" as they are patronizingly referred to) to be counted and have a whole country.

Yours in independence,
Ellen Rauch

California

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to you to urge you to change the course of your administration - not in the way Republicans want, but in response to the independent movement in this country.

40% of Americans identify themselves as "independent" voters. They feel that government is run for the parties and special interests, not what's best for the American people.

During your campaign, you promised to "Change" politics in our country. To your credit, you tried to reach out to Republicans on several occasions. But bipartisan is not the same as nonpartisan. And while you need to reach across the aisle in Congress to "get something done", you also have to open up the process and expand the partisan boundaries. You have let new political forces -- like independents and young people -- in.

So what new direction should you take?

First off, stop handing over your policy initiatives to the Nancy Pelosis, Harry Reids, and Rahm Emmanuel. These Democratic Party partisans think about party first, and despite them having the same party ID as you, they are not allies in changing politics.

Secondly, start building relationships to the independent movement that is building across this country. Contact Jackie Salit of IndependentVoting.Org. Contact my California affiliate at IndependentVoice.Org (my number is 415-606-

4130). Reach out and start building some relationships to the folks who got you elected in the first place - independents.

Thirdly, start fighting to open up the process to independent voters. On your Daily Show appearance, you specifically mentioned Redistricting Reform. It's 2010, and redistricting is happening right now, so we need to hurry up with that one. Fight for non-partisan open primaries in every single state in the country.

That 40% of Americans are forced to register in a party they don't want to be in to participate fully in the political process - or that they become outsiders altogether - is crippling the "immune system" of America's political process. The partisan infection can be repelled, but first we must remove the roadblocks that keep it's defenders (independents loyal to America first) locked out of the political decision making process.

What I've laid out is going to be extremely hard. Your partisan insiders will tell you it's nuts. They'll fight everything about it at every turn. But that is, of course, why we elected you.

Sincerely,

Jason Olson
IndependentVoice.Org
San Francisco, California

Dear President Obama,

I've been an independent voter for many years and chair IndependentVoice.org which represents the 3.4 million CA voters who self identify as independents. I also direct a youth organization that is privately funded by a network of SF Bay Area business leaders and professionals. Partisanship is bad for kids living in poverty and bad environment for business. I was glad to hear you mention your support for redistricting during your interview with Jon Stewart. That support is timely and needs to be stepped up. At the same time open primaries - is a foundational political reform that needs the weight of your office. Independent voters in open primary states enthusiastically provided your margin of victory in 2008. As the director of Independent Voice.org, Jason Olson, wrote in a recent letter to you: that 40% of Americans are forced to register in a party they don't want to be in to participate fully in the political process - or that they become outsiders altogether - is crippling the "immune system" of America's political process. The partisan infection can be repelled, but first we must remove the roadblocks that keep it's defenders (independents loyal to America first) locked out of the political decision making process. I'd strongly encourage you to begin direct contact with Jackie Salit of IndependentVoting.Org. She is in daily/hourly contact with independents from coast-to-coast, coordinating and leading on the ground organizing of independents, legal and media battles to remove the roadblocks to an open political process and the inclusion of all in the American community.

Respectfully,
Joyce Dattner

Dear President Obama:

I am a black independent, a Board member of IndependentVoice.org, a pediatrician and a mother of four young adults--one a Green, one an independent-minded Republican, two Decline to State like me. I also volunteer with a successful after school program where I help poor and minority youth to see themselves as citizens who have a lot to give to the building of their communities.

My 4 kids and I followed your campaign very closely, and had endless discussions about your strategy; how you were able to build a coalition outside of your partisan box, given the fact that you weren't suppose to win the Democratic nomination; how in the states with open primaries, independents chose you. We weren't so interested in the issues as we were in the notion that you had suddenly become a part of a different kind of conversation in America--that of structural political change--that of 40% of Americans. You had the audacity!

My children and I are now so disappointed, and not because of your ideas on reforming the economy, immigration, education, health care, energy policy and etc. As a mother, physician and community organizer, I am with you on that. However, we can't even begin those discussions in any meaningful way without structural political reform--open primaries, same day voter registration, redistricting reform, campaign finance reform.

Independents voted you in to office and since then, have been ignored by you. It's been a painful experience to see you battered by both major parties and not reach out for support from the very folks who elected you. You're being pulled back in to your partisan box as independents stand outside, continuing to build across the country. We'll be here when you believe again that yes, **we** can!

Sincerely,

Elouise Joseph, MD, MPH, FAAP
Oakland, California

Dear Mr. President,

It's disturbing to me that I had to choose "other" as a subject for this email. Political reform should not be an afterthought.

I'm an independent who voted for you with pride and hope. I was proud of you as a candidate and proud of the American people who were embracing you. I had hope that your no-nonsense straight-talking way of handling your campaign would make a difference once you were elected. You talked of change; you talked of a new way of doing politics and of new priorities.

Since your election (a day which electrified millions of us Americans) the partisanship of our political process has thwarted every attempt you've made to respond to the needs of the American people. I appreciate your efforts to "reach across the aisle." Don't you agree that you need to more than that? Won't you lead us in opening up the political process beyond the two parties?

Marge Golden
A Californian Independent

Nancy Corradini
P.O. Box 5129
Santa Barbara, CA 93150

October 30, 2010

President Barack Obama
White House
Washington D.C.

Dear President Obama,

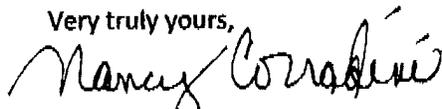
I have watched with growing frustration how partisan your campaigning for the current mid-term elections has become. When you campaigned you spoke of bridging the gap between parties as well as independents and many people voted for you because of those statements. The many problems (and opportunities) our country is facing can be dealt with together. Making enemies in a political sense of those in the opposing party only delays the needed solutions that can emerge by slowly cooperating to build a consensus that will move forward win-win solutions. I believe a more acceptable plea to independents would be to remind them why you were elected and to lay out a timeline that will get you back on track during the next two years working towards your original goals.

A mid-term adjustment is normal. A true leader accepts that and campaigns from a platform of strength of previous victory, not from sending a message of fear of the opposition. You all need to get back to work after the election and the bitter ping pong of this election cycle makes me concerned if anything will be accomplished.

Have faith that the independent base will react positively to your repositioning yourself as the peoples' President starting November 3, 2010 and putting this partisan misstep behind you. True leadership will bring progress to an agenda that tackles the country's problems, not just one party's wish list.

My best wishes for your health, strength of spirit and success in the near future.

Very truly yours,


Nancy Corradini

Dear President Obama,

I'm a life-long independent voter who, like many other independents, proudly voted for you in 2008. We voted for you because we believed in your message of change – especially your commitment to change the way Washington works.

The political pundits would have us all believe that tomorrow's election is a referendum on your Presidency. I don't believe that for a minute. I believe it's a referendum on the status quo and that there is a very deep discontent with partisanship and the damage that has caused to our country.

You have certainly made efforts to reach out to Republicans on numerous occasions. But bipartisan is NOT the same as nonpartisan. While you need to reach across the aisle in Congress to “get something done”, that simply isn't enough! You also have to open up the political process to let new political forces in – forces like the 40% of Americans who consider themselves independent and who are locked out of the process in so many ways.

We independents are not the “swing voters” we're cracked up to be. We want to break the stranglehold the parties have on the political life of America to create an environment in America where the people, not the parties, can come up with some solutions to the serious problems we face as a nation.

I was happy to hear that you mentioned your support for redistricting during your interview with Jon Stewart and I urge you to intensify that support. Like other independents, I also urge you to use everything you have at your disposal to work for other critical reforms that would do away with party domination such as: Open Primaries, non-partisan elections and non-partisan election boards including appointing an independent to the Federal Election Commission. And lastly, I urge you to reach out very actively to independents across the country who have supported you but feel very disappointed that you have not reached out to us since your election nor worked to see us included in all levels of the political process. I encourage you to reach out to Jackie Salit of IndependentVoting.org. She speaks with independents across the country daily and has been leading, for many years, the grassroots efforts of independents working to open up the political process.

Sincerely,
Eunice Stronger

Colorado



Joelle Riddle ~ Commissioner

November 1, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Sent also via email: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

To: The Honorable President Barack Obama

Dear President Obama,

I am a county commissioner who writes to you as an independent leader in my community. I, like you, ran as a Democratic candidate for office and it wasn't long after taking my seat in our small county in Southwest Colorado that I started noticing something rather disturbing. I began taking note that my constituents and the issues of greatest concern to them were being pulled back and forth in a no win tug of war. This power struggle between two teams was being fueled by many things, but the most powerful was and is the two-party political system that governs, or perhaps a more appropriate statement would be to say "dictates" our country. This partisan sickness is more powerful than anything else in determining the future of our ability to solve problems and serve the people of our country. In my opinion, this monopoly, or duopoly of our political process is the greatest liability to our current economic crisis and is at the heart of the problems we as a country continue to struggle with on a daily basis. It is a myth to think that partisan bickering and back door dealings happen only in Washington, they happen even in our rural communities and we must work together, at all levels to change it.

I chose to change my political affiliation, to put aside the partisan labels and better serve the people in my county. I assumed that I would have equal rights under the laws in Colorado, to run again for another term as a county

commissioner, what I found was quite the opposite. I began researching state statutes and found that “unaffiliated” or independent voters, as well as candidates do not share in the same privileges as those who choose to affiliate with one of our two major political parties. I was and am greatly disappointed that we tolerate a democratic system that is not serving its people in the best way possible. I firmly believe this will continue to be the case until other elected officials as well as leaders in our country stand up to the biggest special interest groups in our nation, the Democrats and the Republicans. We desperately need political reform and we must recognize and work for this as soon as possible.

I urge you to use whatever time you have left in office to do whatever is within your power to reform our political system. I realize this won't be an easy task, but one that we owe to the people we serve. Please begin with appointing an independent representative to the FEC (Federal Election Commission) as well as any other boards or commissions where there will be a possibility for over 40% of our country who identifies themselves as independents to be represented. We are asking for a long overdue opportunity to help you and others in bringing a more unbiased problem solving opinion to the table.

I appreciate your time and honor you as our President.

Sincerely,

Joelle Riddle
Commissioner

Connecticut

Maybe I didn't send it to you. I can't find it in my sent messages. I don't have a copy because I did it from his website.

but here are the points I made.

I am writing to urge you to support open primaries such as was passed in prop 14 in California. It's important for our country to start thinking beyond the partisanship we're currently experiencing.

Secondly, I'll ask for your support to remove the politics from redistricting. We have to stop the parties from creating safe districts that become more and more extreme.

A third issue is financing. I support public financing for campaigns. Decisions such as the recent Supreme Court decision, Citizens United, make it more essential than ever to stop this huge flow of money from interested parties to the political process.

Thank you
Bill Cash

Florida

Dear President Obama,

I am an NPA from Florida who supported you in the last election and who still wholeheartedly supports you. I have been horrified by the extreme partisanship that has been displayed in this current election cycle and the discourteous lack of cooperation between the parties in this current session of Congress. We need unity, not division. Independents need to be able to participate fully in the electoral process, including the primary process. Your administration needs to take leadership in making this a reality. Independents make up more than a third of the electorate and the percentage is rising. Like the Democrat party, we are a diverse group. We deserve full participation and recognition.

Yours truly,

Linell Wootton Ela

Florida

Ernest Paskey

From: "Ernest Paskey" <epaskey@tampabay.rr.com>
To: "http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact"
Cc: <national@culp.org>
Sent: Monday, November 01, 2010 4:55 PM
Subject: Independent Party representation

Dear President Obama:

In the past I have served as a mayoral candidate for the Republican Party in a community of 11,000. As an Independent I now look back with dismay at the cumbersome processes we endured due to obsolete thinking and infighting within the party. Now I see the same problems with the two party system and am writing just to say I look forward to the time when Independent Voters will exercise their rights under the Constitution and have access to the entire process and the process will be truly transparent to serve the people who vote and pay the taxes: shared governance across the board!

Ernest L Paskey
Florida

11/1/2010

Georgia

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to you as one of many independents who supported your 2008 run and victory for the presidency. I am a fan of yours. You have inherited some incredibly hard economic and political challenges. And I appreciate your efforts even though I may not agree with every decision you have made.

I think the biggest challenges that the country is facing and you are aware of is structural...the domination of a hyper-partisan political environment that has made reforms very difficult and highly polarized. Independents of all stripes have been watching you address many important social policy reforms, but have felt left out with your not handling the importance of political reform, and issues that affect independents across the country.

These issues include a restructuring of the FEC to include independents, or support for non-artisan and open primaries in the many states where independent voters are excluded by the first round of voting, to reviewing the way in which the electoral system is biased and unfair to the growing number of independent voter who hover around 40% of the population.

Please do not neglect a key base of yours. By doing so, you show that you are representing a smaller partisan sector of Americans rather than all Americans. Independent need you to show us otherwise.

Respectfully

Murray Dabby
2964 Whitby Drive
Doraville, GA 30340

Dear President Obama,

I am an independent voter in Atlanta, Georgia, and I work with many other independents here and around the country. In November of 2008, for the first time in my life, I felt proud of a vote I cast in an election, and I wanted to share some of my thinking and concerns with you as we come to the two-year mark in your administration.

Independents were excited in 2008 - we felt we had begun to create a political environment in which it had become possible for a strong candidate to emerge who might truly have an impact on the way politics is done in our country. Of course we also shared a belief that you would run into all of the same roadblocks, and the same limited strategies available to anyone who ends up in the highly insular and polarized Washington system, so we continued to build our networks.

Two years in and we continue to build. Your administration has achieved some things, but there is so much more that needs to be done. As we believed then, and as we believe now, the same old political system will more than likely create the same polarized environment which has proven incapable of solving our most important challenges.

In order to really address poverty and healthcare, and our other critical challenges, we need a transformation of our political system. The parties' power and influence is too great, and limits possibilities that can be considered (or even conceived of). We must open our political system to more voices - not alongside parties, but as with California's Proposition 14 (which voters approved by millions of votes, and which institutes a top-two primary system, radically reducing the influence of party organizations), in lieu of parties.

You could have an enormous impact on the possibilities available to our country if you would take on reforming our political system so we can truly tackle the critical issues you have rightly talked about. A national voter registration program that automatically registers voters when they reach the age of 18, a national Initiative & Referendum, independents on the Federal Election

Commission, universal ballot access rules, protection of open primaries and institution of top-two style primaries are all examples of the kinds of structural reforms that independents are working towards all over the country, and we need your help with these initiatives.

I hope you will engage us. We would gladly work with you in taking these reforms on. And we will continue to build.

Sincerely,
Mike Pickering
co-founder, Georgia Independent Voters

October 19, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

I write to you as a supporter and as an independent. I grew up in a household of Democrats where FDR was referred to with reverence. During the Watergate hearings, Barbara Jordan became a hero of mine and I wish I could have given her my vote for President. However, I found it almost as exciting to vote for you and I cast that vote with only one reservation. I was concerned when I voted that you belong to a party. And still I joined millions of people around the world who cried with happiness when you were elected.

When I say that I am an independent, President Obama, I do not mean that I am a swing voter. We desperately need to break the stranglehold that the parties have on the daily lives and deaths of ordinary Americans and of ordinary people around the world. This two-party system is entrenched and opportunistic and we independents do not want it. We want non-partisan structural reform. We want what you seemed to be campaigning for. We independents elected you and we want to be recognized by you as the force that we were for you and the force that we are for democracy reform. We are your partner and we wait at your door. Independents are 40 percent of this nation. We are non-ideological. We want to be represented on the FEC. We do not yet have one independent there, Mr. President, and we are 40 percent of the nation. We want open primaries and we celebrate that victory in CA. We believe that you are at heart a crusader. And we believe that you love the youth of this nation who turned out for you with their hearts on their sleeves. Our independent youth stood up en masse for you and for your independent spirit. They did not cast their votes for parties. Please do not let our young people down. We are independents and we wait at your door.

Sincerely,
Diane Dickson
dianedickson723@hotmail.com

Dear President Obama,

I have been watching election results tonight and am concerned about the impact on your efforts over the next few years. I voted for you as an independent and remain supportive of your general social policy efforts.

However I am concerned that you have been insufficiently listening to independents around the country. There are many things to listen to, in general about the way the government is broken. As an independent, I see the process as broken. One important way it is broken is that independents are locked out of the process in many states around the country, as well as how major parties work together to keep independents from having a voice.

Independents need to see you stand up for their interests by reforming the political process, making the electoral process more democratic and inclusive, and opening primaries where they are closed.

Please consider these areas as you reach out to independents to be sure that we continue to stand behind you in years to come.

Respectfully,

Lori Abramson
1758 Century Blvd.
Atlanta, GA 30345
lfabramson@aol.com

Illinois

President Barack Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am a 50 year-old African-American man who lives in your home city of Chicago. I am an independent who voted for you in the Democratic primaries for U.S. Senate in 2004 and for President in 2008 and urged other independents and everyone else to do the same. I voted for you in the general election in those years was very happy with your victories. Standing in Grant Park watching and listening to your acceptance speech as you stood with your beautiful family was one of the most joyous experiences in my life. It was wonderful to see so many young people enthusiastically cheering for you in the crowd and across the city that night.

Some of these young people are now dead. The blood which flows from the bodies of children and adults is one of the consequences of the poverty and underdevelopment in the same south side neighborhoods where you once were a community organizer. Please don't believe the hype that all independents are white "centrists" who are indecisive about whether they want to be Democrats or Republicans. An increasing number of independents are progressive African-American and Latino former Democratic voters

who are witnessing the bloodshed and the devastation in our communities at the same time as Democrats celebrate their political dominance at every major jurisdiction in this state. Democrats control the politics in Chicago; Democrats hold all of the countywide seats in Cook County; Democrats control the House and Senate in the Illinois legislature; Democrats hold all of the statewide constitutional offices and both U.S. Senate seats. At the federal level, Democrats control the House and the Senate and we have you as President. Our partisan two-party system obstructs possible solutions on how to bring development to the poor communities. Just as you inherited a wrecked economy, you also inherited a partisan political system which prevents us from having principled dialogues on how to fix the economy and all the other crises our nation faces.

As a community organizer who currently works with people on the south side and west side, I proudly stand with the people in these neighborhoods who are your biggest fans. We continue to root for you to be a successful President. Now we need you to root for us. We need you to become the independent President we all voted for. We need you to lead the way to politically reform the politics in our country. We need you to put the best interests of the people ahead of the best interests of any political party. We need you to be our champion for open primaries, non-partisan elections, supporting initiative and referendum efforts, appointing independents to the Federal Election Commission and other political reforms to include independents as full participants in our democracy. We need you to choose independence over partisanship if we are to truly bring the United States of America together as one nation.

Sincerely,

David Cherry

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I've been a social activist and community organizer for more than half my life. Two years ago, at the age of 42, I moved to Chicago from NYC to build a youth development organization that brings kids from the South and West Sides into a growthful partnership with caring middle class and affluent adults.

I'm an independent. I became involved in electoral politics 20+ years ago to build an independent movement that would allow progressives like me to effectively use our democratic process to express our concerns for the disenfranchised and for a humane and prosperous future for our country.

As an independent, I was particularly inspired by your campaign, during which you expressed your desire to transcend deadly political partisanship in favor of human progress. As an independent, I identify more with that vision than with any political party. I believe that our

exclusive, two-party system does not allow the American people, and inspirational leaders like you, to change our country for the better.

I'm so happy I was in Chicago the night you were elected. I'll never forget how it felt to walk down Michigan Avenue to Grant Park with thousands of people in the streets. The feeling in the air was electric. It's how people feel when they make a difference.

I want to continue to make a difference. I believe you do too. If your first two years in office have shown anything, it's that two-party control of the political process is a hindrance to progress.

You've spent the recent part of this election season campaigning for your fellow Democrats. I understand why you must do so. But the election will be over tomorrow, and you will still be President. You have the capacity to initiate political reform in our country that will break this dangerous political stalemate.

I urge you to listen to independents and support the real issue that brings Americans together: curing our democracy. Add your eloquent voice to our grassroots movement to open up the political process, win non-partisan elections and fair ballot access. Appoint independents to the FEC and support initiatives that expand citizen participation in politics.

Speak to the independents who elected you, rather than to the partisans who care more about winning elections than moving our country, and all it's people, forward.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julie K. Lenner

From: Lawrence Redmond, Illinois
Subject: Letter to the White House

I am an independent voter. Four years ago, I voted for the Democrats. They had a clear mandate at that time to end the war. They didn't do it.

Two years ago, I voted for President Obama. He had a clear mandate to undo Bush-era policies in the areas of foreign policy and the wars in the Middle East. Those policies are still in place.

President Obama's handling of Honduras is appalling. His handling of Haiti is no better. His handling of Israel is exactly the same as Bush's.

So now you come to me claiming that the Democrats are better than the Republicans. I beg to differ. I voted for change, but everything is exactly the same. We gave the Democrats a 60-vote Senate, and they squandered it.

This time, I and people like me will be voting for a third party, and that will probably cost you seats in both houses. I wish you well, but I can no longer waste my vote on a two-party system that is so clearly not working for the benefit of the people.

Clearly, real change is coming. Equally clearly, it is not coming from the Democrats or Republicans.

Iowa

Dear Mr. President; I am writing to you from Iowa , a state that gave you a big push to your victory as President.

As a lifelong Independent I had "HOPE" that you would start to dig this countrys electoral process out of this two party ditch that both parties drove us into.

Whether the car is in "R" or "D" our electoral process is still stuck in the ditch .
We are not a corrupt two party system , we have a system that has been corrupted by two parties !

What about open debates?

What about equal airtime for all choices on the ballot?

What about Independents on the FEC ?

WHAT ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION ???

Your administration is on probation and slipping fast in the eyes of the Independents, and Independents have a very very long memory.

See you soon in Iowa .

Larry Reinsch
Independent Voters Of Iowa

Kentucky

President Obama,

I was reluctant to write at first but this letter may be our only discourse. As an independent in

Kentucky I have been treated like a 2nd class citizen, told I need to move to another country, and sued for trying to give my Legislative district a choice this November. All this by Democrats in Kentucky! I tell you this because I heard your message of "Change" in 2008. Now all I think changed was the leadership nationally, and voter empowerment initiatives have failed. You talk about the GOP and Democrats needing to work together, I agree they do but you have to cross the middle before you reach the other side! As you know Independents were a growing force, they are now a large bloc of the electorate and hold the keys to political movement!

Mr. President when you are ready to move forward Leaders from across the country are ready to sit down and help our Great Nation!

Michael Lewis

Louisiana

Dear President Obama,
On Meet the Press the Dems are saying they believe you will be elected a second term again even though they wont have a majority. They are siting the Independents as the reason you will get elected.

I realize that politics start on a local level. I myself recently ran as an Independent and did quite well for a first run. What happened was, we identified Independents locally and now have a viable base to organize.

My request to you is to please work for the working class. In your campaign you ran for us. We are struggling as hard now as we did in the Bush years. Please, dont forget us. We need your help.

Thank you.
Deborah Allen

Dear President Obama,

I am an independent voter and while I did not vote for you in the last election, you have my support now as my President. I am proud of you and of my country.

However, I detest the partisan politics that are dragging down your administration. I am deeply disappointed you have not reached out to all independents and formed allegiances that would strengthen your ability to move forward in a progressive and positive manner. I want to work with you to make our country stronger on every level. I do not want to be involved with all the special interest groups and political parties that corrupt the democratic system.

In contrast to the media's message of independents moving towards the Republican party, I am still standing strongly in the middle seeking support for restructuring of our political system. The needs of the American public are being lost in the din of partisan bickering and the gridlock is counterproductive and, quite frankly, exhausting! The system is broken and the only way to move forward is to take a different approach.

I desire and every other independent desires and has the right to be included in the political process at all levels. I will continue to push for political reforms such as open primaries at all levels of local, state, and federal government as well as nonpartisan redistricting.

President Obama, I need your help. Please appoint an Independent to the Federal Elections Commission that will represent all independent voters and work towards policies that support the people of America and not the political parties.

Thank you for your time,
M'Lissa Peters
mlissapeters@yahoo.com

Maryland

Dear President Obama,

“Let us resist the temptation to fall back on the same partisanship and pettiness and immaturity that has poisoned our politics for so long.”

- Grant Park, November 5th, 2008.

These were the words you said to a captivated crowd two years ago, a speech that inspired a nation. We look back today with a sense of loss and regret for two years of ambition and real success marred by the politics as usual pace of Washington.

I give a sincere thank you for all that you have done. I understand that change is not an instant process, and I am still encouraged for the years ahead.

However, I write to you today as a politically-independent voter. Much has been made of Independents and their ideology by the politicians and pundits alike. But despite media portrayals and self-affirming conclusions, Independents are *not* a group of right-leaning, white men. They are *not* a group of dissatisfied Democrats. They are *not* the tea-party right with a conservative bent too radical for mainstream Republicans. Independents, by and large, are concerned citizens who see this country's problems not as the result of the parties' inaction, but as a result of the party system itself. We have made progress in the past two years, but long-term solutions must be built behind consensus. True consensus cannot be achieved in a political system fed by contemptuous partisanship and political deadlock. We must find a new way forward.

Independents realize this. They realize that you are still the man for that job. Now is the time to embrace that kind of movement, one calling for a change in the political status quo. We can support real democratic reform - whether it is redistricting reform, campaign finance reform, or open primaries - real structural solutions exist to our political malcontent. We ask that you join us in this effort. This 2010 election should not be seen as a rebuttal of Democrats; it should not be seen as a referendum on your presidency. Neither should it be seen as a win for Republicans. It should be seen as a refutation of the entire political status quo. In fact, now is the ideal time for real and meaningful solutions - but the game must be played from outside the conventional framework, working with people rather than parties. The idea is radical, even if it is so basic to our country's most valued principles. I believe you are the voice that can find the path towards this people-driven democracy. I believe that the time for such a change is now. Thank you, and good-luck.

Sincerely,
Nolan DiFrancesco

Massachusetts

October 31, 2010

Dear President Obama,

I was so happy when you were elected, I stood at work with many others who wept as you spoke. I'm sure your learning as president that when you get in there it's a whole different ball game then when you were running. Partisanship – people in office being more concerned about keeping their job than about the people in their districts – makes for ineffective government.

What we independents, are trying to do is get “we, the people” involved to take care of this ineffective mess. We need your help in that on several fronts. The FEC needs independent representation and we need open primaries in all states so that independents are included in all rounds of voting. Don't forget, if it wasn't for open primaries, Hillary Clinton would be president and not you!

We, independents are interested in opening up the political process. “We the people,” need to be at the table to break out of the partisan stranglehold. The electoral reforms that we're trying to protect and initiate, will open up the political process and have Americans performing their civic duty by really participating in developing and creating public policy and figuring out what's needed in our communities.. Once we have people at the table, we can actually have a debate about the issues. Until the American people are at the table, it's really not a democracy worthy of the name in our country so diverse and rich in culture.

I hope your well and enjoying this beautiful fall weather,

Sincerely,

Evelyn Dougherty
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

November 1, 2010

Dear President Obama,

I have been one of your biggest fans. When you were elected, I was thrilled for our nation to have an opportunity for change.

Being an independent I am interested in the political process and opening it up. The two party systems have failed to help Americans to become more united and democratic as a nation. Partly, because of the stranglehold it has with the current two party system. In creating an opportunity for all to be a part of I feel strongly that the electoral reforms that

we are interested in implementing would truly be beneficial in creating a fair and more equal opportunity for representation. This would also help serve as a beginning toward opening up not only the political process itself but would help identify what policies are needed in order to help out communities. Again I believe real positive change can only begin when we can all be truly represented at the table. I hope this note finds you and your family well and would dearly appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Denise Darmetko

Michigan

141 East 12th Street
Holland, MI 49423

November 2, 2010

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The political tides in America are changing. Though long the staple of our democracy, American party politics has of late become so divisive an issue that voters across the country are abandoning their traditional “partyism” for the freedom of choice extant in political Independence.

We Independents are more numerous and powerful than ever this November, enjoying solidarity across the nation not along a traditional party platform but rather in a spirit of honest cooperation, discussion, and dissatisfaction with the status quo. Our desire to find actual solutions to the challenges that face us – solutions that solve not just the symptom but the root problems themselves – is mightily attractive and quite effective. America faces many challenges in the years ahead and needs such strong leadership from outside the constraints of political pandering.

Two years ago our group of like-minded students on the campus of Hope College in Holland, Michigan founded the Hope College Independents as a response to growing campus-wide political division due to party-driven polarization. Today, we strive to do our part on campus to inform and inspire discussion and participation in our American democracy. And we will this Election Day elect candidates who set aside politics for statesmanship and will responsibly represent and govern.

We ask that you, Mr. President, join us in the patriotic spirit of non-partisanship and lead by example. America needs it.

A response would be appreciated. Thank you for your service and your time.

Sincerely Yours in Democratic Freedom,

The Hope College Independents

Minnesota

Dear Mr. President,

I am an Independent voter. If I am forced to choose between two choices, I will often go left-so I guess I could be considered a moderate leftist. I think you are doing a good job in spite of the vitriol slung at you from both ends of the political spectrum. (Must mean you are doing something right.)However, we need: more voices at the table; more nuances to solving issues; less personal attacks;a civil, yet passionate, method of agreeing to disagree while actively finding solutions to our country's problems.

Peace to you, Mr. President. Steve O'Toole

Missouri

18 October 2010

Dear Mr. President,

I am an independent conservative working in a conservative work environment. I voted for you and was actively involved in carrying the water concerning the "Health Care" issue and other issues. This letter is not about that.

I think you are doing an "ok" job but I am disappointed that the two political parties cannot get beyond bickering, while our nation needs non-partisan solutions and direction. As a Conservative, I could have supported and worked even harder for a Single or Regional Payer, possibly with oversight delivered by a Public Service Commission, regulating overhead and profitability and we failed to even discuss it. My voice is rarely represented in either the Democratic or Republican Parties. I truly believe the Country needs a fresh political restructuring, shifting the current political paradigm. I am going a different direction.

Mr. President, with all due respect and admiration, I will be working to see the Independent Movement in this country grow in a non-partisan way. We need solutions that are only available outside the political quagmire that grips our Nation. We need to think beyond the current political structure.

I am asking you to consider joining us and include Independents at every level within your Administration and to support the many Independents who are committed to having Open Primaries in every State. "Non-Partisan Solutions", this is a "Change We Can Believe In".

Sincere Regards and wanting you to succeed,

John Giancola
Citizen

Dear President Obama,

October 19, 2010

Nebraska

Mr. President,

Had it not been for independents in states that had open primaries swinging for you in your primary struggle with Hillary Clinton, you clearly would have never made it into office. With this in mind, it is particularly disappointing that you've so ignored us in several important ways over the last two or so years since you took office.

It is particularly disappointing for me, as I spent what some friends and family called an unhealthy amount of time doing what I could to help your campaign from my part of the country, founding and running the local volunteer organization, and even helped form, and then run, a nonprofit that registered over ten thousand voters in our area. You won our district, and got our electoral vote... and I'm wavering on whether I want that time, and my vote, back.

You've lost the confidence of so many independents... not because of bad public relations, but because of your actions. Independents are hypersensitive to spin both from the GOP and your party and administration, and its disturbing that your talking heads refuse to see the writing on the walls (or in this case, clearly laid out in the polls) that show that our displeasure is from actions you knew we didn't support, but you went ahead anyway... NOT because of losing some silly narrative game. Quit fooling yourself, quit listening to talking heads and the political hacks I'm sure you're surrounded with... and **start listening to us instead.**

We wanted health care reform, but the bill you pushed through was a giant mess. We wanted job stimulus, but you over-promised and under-delivered... putting hundreds of billions towards programs that have little to no proven stimulative effect and into programs clearly meant to placate special interest supporters of your party. You pushed a card check law that was wildly unpopular. You flip flopped on your opposition to the individual mandate.

You promised you would stick to PayGo rules, but the loopholes built into it have made make calling it Pay as you Go a joke. You lied to us about Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Your administration obfuscated the data during the oil spill crisis. Your Race to the Top (a great idea) funding has been anything but fair... I could go on, but you get the picture.

You've accomplished some things that we have supported as well, and most independents can see through the garbage that the right wing tries spinning about you being a socialist, or any number of crackpot theories wingnuts email around to each other about you. We see through **your** spin too though.

Pointing your finger at your opponents doesn't fly when you're the one in the White House, and in control of both houses of Congress. Telling us that you are better than they would be is not good enough either. If you want our support, you need to start listening to us, and quick. You can't talk your way out of this, even with your talent at high rhetoric.

All the garbage from the talking heads... throw it away and listen to this:

Follow through on the promises you made on the campaign trail, and when the polls tell you moderates and independents are against something your administration, or your party, is working on, change course... or we will not be there for you on November 6th, 2012, and you very well might be more like Carter, when you could be more like Clinton – if you choose to see the writing on the wall.

Nevada

I am an independent voter who is politically active in my community, and concerned with the divisiveness of our current political system. Through my political activism, I have had the opportunity to discuss multiple issues with people, and every single voter I have spoken with does not believe that any voter should ever be excluded from any part of the political process. Unfortunately, that is exactly what our current two-party system does, and that is why we believe that the two-party political system no longer has a place in our 21st Century Republic. Instead, we believe it is time to move our country forward by embracing non-partisanship and opening up the entire political process to include independents. We believe that the well-being of our nation depends on unity rather than divisiveness, and doing away with partisan politics and ideologies will help make that unity possible.

Sincerely,
Catana L Barnes
reno-independent-examiner@yahoo.com

New Hampshire

Dear President Obama,

I like to consider myself as an independent voter. All the same, I went out and knocked on a lot of doors for yourself and the Democratic party in 2008 and voted Democratic.

I'm doing it again this election season because the Republicans so far haven't changed what I view as a serious hypocrisy on the subject of fiscal responsibility.

I believe you have and are doing a good job and not getting credit for it. I applaud your early efforts to work with the Republican congress.

BUT..... haven't you now got to scale back your goals and form some new political partnerships? I'm not sure just how it could be done and maybe I'm dreaming, but some form of working with the Committee for a Unified Independent Party (CUIP) might make the Republicans open to doing the same and hence be more willing to cooperate.

Sincerely,

Phil Johnson
Durham, NH

New Jersey

November 1, 2010

Dear President Obama:

As a supporter, I appreciate all that you have accomplished in the past two years. Health care reform, financial regulation, the federal stimulus package are major achievements. In my own life, they have made a difference. As a woman, I think it is no small thing that your two Supreme Court choices were female, and that you signed into law the Letty Ledbetter Act. We still lag so far behind other countries in political gender balance, and you have helped move that needle forward.

That said, extreme partisanship still has this country in a vise. As long as this continues, progress will remain at a virtual standstill on the environment, education and so many other reforms that we need to move the country forward. Because the Democrats and Republicans are not interested in anything except control, I have become an independent, and I'm working with other independents to promote political reform. A key element of this reform is open primaries, which will enable independents to fully participate in the political process, i.e., equal access to primaries, such as was just ratified in California.

I am urging you to support open primaries as a way to begin doing what you have always said you wanted to do – break the stranglehold of partisanship. I am also asking that you begin listening to independents and working with us to support a progressive agenda by getting beyond a two party system that is failing America.

Best regards,

Patricia Garrison
New Jersey

Dear Mr. President:

This is to urge you to pursue political reform and include more independents in the process. As an independent voter and former Democrat, I share the disillusionment of many at the troubled state of politics, and the resulting delay of solutions for immigrants and other neglected populations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours.

Philip J. Malebranche

New Mexico

CUIP: We have corresponded before, I have been working on keeping the Aging process at bay with medicines and therapy. The gridlock in Congress overwhelmed me - this is an issue with me and I hope something can be done. Do what you can - keep me informed.

N M Newkirk
800 W Buckeye St Apt 37
Deming, NM 88030

Marshall Newkirk
10-19-10

10-18-10

Dear Prs. Obama

No matter how the coming election turns out: YOU MUST get started on ~~removing~~ ^{removing} the GRIDLOCK of the 2 PARTY SYSTEM.

Get your smart Aides working on this. There are other systems available to help: Citizens Party USA, Public Citizen ^{Committee} For A Unified Independent Party, Independent Voting.org, The Tea Party with all their angry people.

~~Russ Feingold~~ ^{Russ Feingold} and John McCain in addition to Ron Paul Sr. had good ideas about Public Financing and Independent Voting.

The Gridlock and Campaign money must change if we are ever to get good government.

There must be a better way; You and your smart Aides need to some how get to FORUM system of Government with a FACILITATOR without the PARTY System of unknown money coming in to support their ^{and their agendas;} growth, but with intelligent people solving problems to benefit the Nation.

Get to work we are counting on you.

I am 91 and have seen this forever - I would hope to see this changed in my life time! When it comes to choosing a leader (Facilitator try to get an intelligent female - with children and grandchildren they will not vote for War.) This includes MICHELE!

I would appreciate a reply,
I do not want to find out I am
talking (writing) to a VACUUM!

Sincerely,

Marshall Newkirk

Marshall

Mr. Marshall Newkirk
800 W Buckeye St
Deming, NM 88030

New York

Dear President Obama...I'm an independent from New York City who has been active in electoral politics for some 30 years now. You are only the 2nd Democrat I've ever voted for...George McGovern being the first.

I caught you on Jon Stewart's show last week and really liked what you had to say.

I thought your response to Jon on the issue of partisanship was honest and sincere. I'm very glad that you pushed your legislative agenda. Finally some steps in the right direction coming from Washington.

That said, I urge you to take some affirmative steps toward political reform to start addressing the rampant partisanship, not just in Washington but in state capitals across the country. I can think of 2 specific reforms for you to push:

(1) Endorse open primaries. Open primaries would go a long way toward undercutting the stranglehold the parties have on our political process. And, after all, it was the votes from independents who were allowed into the presidential primary in their state that put you over the top in '08.

(2) Propose changing the membership on the Federal Election Commission so independents have EQUAL representation with the Democrats and Republicans. We are after all 40% of the electorate, so even that has us slightly under-represented.

Thank you for considering these things, Mr. President. Good luck in the next 6+ years of your administration.

Respectfully yours, David Belmont

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to you as a teacher and as an independent voter. I realize that education is one of your priorities, but I believe that you cannot accomplish the reforms you want in the present two-party morass that we are living in now.

I want you to know that many of us in the independent movement support you and what you have been trying to do. There are many progressive independents even though the media wants to say that independents are mostly conservatives. I would like to see you talk more directly to independents and address some of the reforms that we are organizing for, especially non-partisan elections...

Diane Buscemi

October 20, 2010

President Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

I am a long time independent who has been helping to build and shape the independent movement for over 18 years. I have worked on many independent candidate campaigns and have worked to bring ordinary people into the political process that is so uninviting to ordinary people.

I've always voted independent and you are the only person I have ever voted for on the Democrat Party line. I did this knowing that independents propelled you in winning the Democratic nomination. I voted for you for a couple of reasons, first because I thought it would help the country move forward on the issue of race and your election did that. Second, I believed that you would be sensitive to the outsiders, the independents. Like the Black community, we are proud of our country and saw you not as beholden to the partisans who run our government. I realize running our government is different than running for office and I know that leadership in government has historically been able to create a fairer election process.

What we independents want is fairness, equal access to all rounds of voting, such as the top-two system just ratified in California. And we want our election system to be governed by more impartial bodies, such as having equal representation on Federal Election Commission and on the local Board of Elections. These are the critical political reforms that can help create a less partisan election process.

What needs to happen in this county is a structural political reform so that more Americans can participate equally in the political process. These are the reforms that may not help your party but will help the country to move forward. I will continue to work on these reforms.

Sincerely,
Robert Conroy
Chair, Independence Party of Kings County (NY)

October 28, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I have been an independent voter since 1966 who voted for you in the 2008 election. Your message of transparency and a change in the culture in Washington resonated with me. I am also a political activist supporting a national strategy for the growing independent movement. My work from NY puts me in touch with independent voters all over the country. We are a non-party, non-ideological, pro reform movement of Americans. We're 40% of our nation.

You are president today because of independent voters. We understand the partisan pulls on you, but Americans want real change. Independents are deeply disturbed by what the insiders: the parties and special interests are doing to our country. Independents recognize that change will only come from the outside in. That's why we are going to continue to push for political reforms that can shake up party domination. Independents want open primaries where voters can vote for the candidate and not the party. We want nonpartisan redistricting reform, nonpartisan elections, and nonpartisan election administrations including appointing an independent to the Federal Elections Commission. In other words, we want policies that support the people, not the parties. The parties make progress impossible.

While most of us were not under the illusion that radical change could happen overnight and recognized that there are deep structural issues which pervade our political process. We hoped that we had a president who, because of how you campaigned and were elected, saw that to develop this country effectively and change political culture in Washington, you'd have to go outside of the box and strengthen your connection with outside forces, in particular with independents. By doing so, you make a statement about the kind of America you are fighting for - one that is inclusive of all people.

Thank you

Michael Drucker
www.ipview.blospot.com

Dear President Obama,

I am a long-time independent voter who proudly voted for you – and organized many others to do so – in 2008. We did so in large part because a centerpiece of your campaign was the recognition that America has to change the culture of politics in Washington if we are to move forward. It was one of the proudest moments in my life and I continue to stand behind you in a climate in which your efforts are too easily ridiculed and demonized.

With this support, however, comes deep disappointment with your failure to deepen your connection to independents, who were so responsible for your victory two years ago. Contrary to what the media is constantly telling us, independents are not moving in a more rightward direction – if we are moving, it is AWAY from partisan politics.

If you are serious about transforming the poisonous partisan political environment that pervades American, we hope you will do so by going outside the two-party framework and deepening your connection to outside forces, including independents and the independent movement I have so proudly helped to build over the last 30 years. These forces – who represent the plurality of Americans who identify as independents – need to be included at all levels of the governing and policy process.

Mr. President, independents are not going away and, with or without your support, will continue to do all that we can to create an America that is inclusive of everyone. We hope you will join us.

Respectfully,

Mary Fridley

Dear President Obama,

In 1963, as a college student, I marched in Washington with Dr. King. I believe in his dream as much today as I did then. Years later I became an independent out of the recognition that the Democratic Party, like the Republican Party, isn't -- and can't be -- the political instrument for realizing that dream because regardless of the good intentions of individual party leaders, parties themselves are partisan: self-perpetuating, self-aggrandizing, fundamentally self-serving.

I voted for you joyfully, and I continue to support you wholeheartedly, not because you're a Democrat but because among other things you're not fundamentally a party man. More than this, I think you take seriously George Washington's warning against the "baneful effects of the spirit of party."

Two hundred-plus years later, the American people -- and most particularly the 40% of us who identify ourselves as independents -- know what he was talking about. And many of us are working to do something about it. I'm part of a broad and growing national movement of independents who are seeking not to create an alternative party but an alternative to parties, and partisanship, by bringing about structural reforms like open primaries and nonpartisan redistricting.

We need your help, President Obama: Appoint an independent, or two, to the Federal Elections Commission; the umpires shouldn't be playing for one of the teams. Call for open primaries for federal, state and local elections; independent voters must be allowed to play on a level playing field. Support efforts to create nonpartisan redistricting commissions; gerrymandering state legislators should no longer be able to call elections even before they're held.

Of course I understand that you have the economy to fix. There's terrorism. There's climate change, and the deficit, and a host of other issues that demand your attention. But surely the overriding issue is the quality of our democracy, which the "spirit of party" has systematically despoiled. It's the reform of American democracy, after all, that makes everything else possible.

Sincerely,

Phyllis E. Goldberg

Dear President Obama,

I am an independent voter and while I did not vote for you in the last election, you have my support now as my President. However, I detest the partisan politics that are dragging down your administration. I really don't care if the Democrats succeed. I REALLY don't care if the Republicans succeed. I only REALLY care that the United States of America succeeds. I am PRO-America and ANTI-Political Party.

Steve Guarin

Dear President Obama,

The Partisan Revolution is over. The time for partisanship and factionalism has passed. Whatever the midterm elections "reveal", real progress for our country cannot be made under the current partisan system. I am writing to you as part of the campaign by CUIP/ independentvoting.org to encourage you to support structural political reform [such as open primaries, ranked voting, nonpartisan elections, etc.] as a way forward for our country and the whole world.

I'm sure I am only one of many people who called my daddy on election night November 4, 2008, to celebrate a moment of magic. I got home around 11:30pm to Sunnyside Queens from Harlem New York, after the clear and decisive numbers were announced. Voices resounded from kids in my neighborhood yelling "OBAMA" out their windows as I lingered on the stoop to my apartment building. "I never thought this would happen in my lifetime" my dad said to me.

My father and I are both transplanted Arkansans:

He now lives in Richmond VA
I'm a New Yorker
He's a Kennedy-Clinton Democrat
I'm an independent
He was in charge of a unit of the Arkansas State Guard that was mobilized under Pres. Eisenhower's federal authority in Little Rock in 1957 that effectively tested the integration of public schools in the South

I helped put Lenora Fulani on the ballot in all 50 states in 1988, effectively testing the possibility of an independent run against the Democratic and Republican parties for President of the United States of America.

(My daughters Lucy and Rena, who were 8 and 6 years old respectively in 1988, were a great source of support and inspiration to me then, and continue to be so now.)

I worked for you as a volunteer on the streets in Harlem during the February (closed) Dem primary when every black elected official in NYC was supporting Hillary Clinton. I received emails from your campaign that pegged me as a Hillary Clinton supporter. (I'm female and over 50.)

I urge you to reconsider — and get to know — who independents are.

As Jackie Salit said in her most recent conference call: President Obama, We mean you no harm but we will press ahead to build our movement and pursue the structural reforms that will create more uncertainty for your party and for the Republican Party and you may not like it....”

America needs to change. Independent voters are growing in numbers and organization. We need structural political reform. I STRONGLY urge you to get to know and support the independents in the independent movement.

History demands it. And America could use your leadership to develop.

In solidarity,

Nancy Hanks
The Hankster

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

October 28, 2010

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you today to tell you what I as a true independent, want from my elected leaders and especially you. I have been a registered independent since 1984 and have been a member of the Executive Committee for the Independence Party of Richmond County (New York City) since 2006. What I mean by “true” independent is that I am not “undecided” and much more than non-affiliated. Quite the contrary, I am affiliated with a movement that wants non-partisan government. Mr. President, I am one of many, many thousands who believe the nation needs a different way of operating and that you would be the one who could begin a new process. It has not exactly worked out that way.

What I see too much of these days is a defeatist spirit. Pundits opposed to Cap and Trade or just moving to more green technology keep saying “We can’t do it.” Or “It just can’t be done.” Once upon a time, when this country was faced with a challenge, our scientists, technicians, captains of industry would ask “When do you want it by?” I think a lot this lack of “Can do” attitude is because of the relentless, never-ending partisan battling; these political power shows. We have become so used to nothing major getting done, that we are sure *we* cannot do it. And if it somehow does happen, it must be bad and therefore, should be undone.

More than anything, I want to see non-partisan government in action. Failing that, I will take bipartisan, but a government that is working, first and foremost, for the citizens and not the political parties. I would like to hear you say that you may have been elected as a Democrat, but you are now the President of the United States: party no longer matters.

I would like to hear your vision for this nation: for President John F. Kennedy, there was Camelot; President Lyndon B. Johnson was the Great Society; President Ronald W. Reagan showed us a Shining City on the Hill. Give us a vision, Mr. President, and then challenge us to get there before the end of the decade. More than anything, this nation wants to move forward, but some are only offering a return to past. They want us to look at that city on a hill, but the past is the past. *That* vision is only a snow globe now. Lead us forward, one and all, to the power of “Can Do!”

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Hicks
360 Harbor Road – 2nd Floor
Staten Island, New York 10303

Dear President Obama,

I am one of the millions of independent voters in our country and a leader of IndependentVoting.org. Independents elected you because of your nonpartisan vision. You passionately said “We are not the blue states - we are not the red states – we are post partisan - we are the United States.” **Tomorrow is election day. Where is your statement and outreach to us?**

IndependentVoting.org is a growing force for non-partisan, pro-independent reform. Meaningful political reform of any kind – in education, on Wall Street, energy policy, immigration, **can’t happen under the present political circumstances.** Every day that passes where partisanship rules is a day where damage is done to the American people and the future of our country.

As independents and as organizers, we hear voters’ frustrations and denunciations that government is broken, their calls for shrinking the government, for taking back our government – our solution is to **take our government back from the parties, to shrink partyism.** We want nonpartisan elections, initiative and referendum, independent redistricting, fair ballot access laws. In other words access to our government – input into the issues that effect our very lives.

Parties restrict our choices, lock independents out of party primaries, decide who gets on the ballot, what legislation is proposed and voted on, what and who gets funded. Parties control our relationship with our government. They demand that we accept their rules because they run the show and they know best. If we don’t like it, leave! Building brick by building brick we are showing them that **Independents make up 40% of registered voters. We are the country!**

President Obama, we partnered with you to elect you President and we’re proud of it. You were the first independent President of the United States of America. Throughout your campaign and on Election Day we stood with you - your victory was ours - we danced in the streets.

While we recognize that the bipartisan system is a meat grinder – and that your job is a thankless one, we urge you not to get further mired in the bipartisan swamp. Don’t desert our historic partnership. We will continue to do what we must do – to fight for fairness and democracy, to reform the corrupt culture of bipartisan politics with structural political reforms. Support our fight for justice. Hear us. Rejoin us. June Hirsh

Dear President Obama:

I am an independent voter and activist who supported your campaign with great enthusiasm and periodic donations. I was, however, very disappointed when I began receiving correspondence from the Democratic National Committee. My support was for your progressive agenda and message of reform, not for the

Democratic Party. Much attention is now being paid to news media reports that Independents are deserting you and the Democrats in droves. But like most Independents I know, I am not a swing voter. I don't see any rationale in voting for the "other guy." Rather, I abhor the extreme partisanship that is making it impossible to address the very serious issues that face our country.

Independents are now 40% of voters and we deserve equal voting rights and a seat at the table – including and especially non-partisan elections and a place on the Federal Elections Commission. We're not interested in which party is up or down; we want the structural electoral reform that will make it possible to really fix our broken education, financial and immigration systems, and seriously try to save the environment.

I recently read a review of a book in which you were described as one of only five or six "philosopher Presidents;" others included John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln. I can't imagine a more significant Presidency than one that leads us out of the morass of partisanship. After all, that is what you promised. But bi-partisanship (which is quite impossible at this point in our history) is not the same as non-partisanship. I hope you will take steps to support critical structural election reforms. That would truly change our nation's future. In the meantime, we will keep building the bottom-up independent political movement that is now growing by leaps and bounds.

Yours truly,

Harriet Hoffman
New York City
harriethoffman.ny@gmail.com

Dear President Obama,

I am an ordinary African American woman from the Bronx. I have been an independent my whole adult life and all my family members are independents, as well. I am the Secretary of the Bronx [Independence Party](#), which has over 13,000 members.

I voted for you because I admired and was impressed by your book "Dreams of My Father" and your fight against the Clintons. I also loved the message of your campaign. I thought "He's a man who will take care of the [American people](#)."

While I think you are doing a pretty good job, especially considering the mess that you have inherited, I do have one **SERIOUS** complaint: You are neglecting a key base that created your Presidential win -- we independents!!!!

During your campaign we had a beautiful partnership. We came through every time you needed us most. What happened to the partnership post election? Why do right-wing Tea Partiers who want to destroy you, get your attention more than we, the people who love and believe in you?

It's not too late. I want to urge you to rekindle that partnership with us, and save the country with non-partisan leadership (not to be confused with bi-partisan stagnation!). We independents, like you, have a lot to offer the country. We are not ideologically or issues-focused, we are process-focused. We simply want this country to run better, to be more inclusionary and democratic. We strongly believe in political reform -- from non-partisan election to same day voter registration and a multitude of other critical reform issues.

We are doing our job at the grassroots, neighborhood by neighborhood, state to state, organizing ourselves and challenging the exclusionary policies that keep ordinary people locked out of the political process and disgusted by it.

Now we need you to step to the plate. I understand that the political parties, including your own, are not always thrilled about political reform -- they would be forced to change their ways. However, we ordinary folks are not concerned about that. Because YOU have the platform to open up the dialogue on these issues and actively pursue them, we need you on the case. I voted for you not as a [Democratic Party representative](#) but as a person and LEADER who I thought had the interest of the people, not his party, at heart.

I hope that I and the millions of others who voted for you were correct. We still have a lot of faith in and you and desperately need for you to be a non-partisan and people-oriented leader who moves the country -- democratically -- forward.

Much respect,
Tara Lewis

SARAH D. LYONS

36 Hamilton Ave., Apt. 3N, Staten Island, NY 10301

October 29, 2010

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

I went to Harlem recently to hear Dr. Lenora Fulani interview the director and all black cast of an avant garde play^{1[1]} based on the writings of Heiner Müller—the famous German dramatist.

The four cast members who were interviewed spoke about how important it was for them to be able to perform outside the roles typically available to them as black actors. Watching them on stage, the joy and power they express as they “go new places” is deeply impacting—liberating not only to themselves but to audiences, the playwright Müller, and the whole of European and American theater traditions.

During the election, and as a candidate, you blew past so many prescribed roles, and the American people did too. It was a *great performance* and the world applauded. As an independent, a progressive, and a political organizer for over 20 years, it was especially gratifying to me to mobilize independents across a national network built over two decades time, to back you in the Democratic Party primary (in open primary states) and be a vital part of the coalition that propelled you to victory.

To say the “show” in Washington is somewhat of a comedown by comparison is an understatement. Partisanship, with its predictable drawing of battle lines, prevails. Of course, I appreciate governing in that environment is not the same as being a candidate. Thankfully, the independent movement is not hindered by such constraints and our efforts to move our country beyond partisanship have expanded since 2008. The election of Mike Bloomberg as an independent Mayor of New York City with 150,000 margin-making-votes on the Independence Party line and the passage of Prop 14 in California allowing 3.4 million independents the right to vote in each round, are just two examples.

The outcome of the mid-term elections, while of great concern to the parties, has little bearing on our ongoing work to open up the political process so the American people can

^{1[1]} *Playing with Heiner Müller*, stars Keldrick Crowder, Fulton Hodges, Ava Jenkins, Sylenia Lewis and John Rankin. It is a production of Castillo Theater and presents texts by Heiner Müller, songs by Fred Newman, and is directed by Gabrielle Kurlander.

produce *change from the bottom up* in a more continuous and sustained way. We are eager for you to reach out to us, play a more active role in our campaigns around the country for structural political reform, and create with us a new performance of democracy to move America forward.

Sincerely,

Sarah D. Lyons
Staten Island, NY

Dear President Obama,

I am an independent voter and a proud supporter of yours. I not only voted for you in the 2008 election, but organized others to do so as well. I am also a longtime political activist and an organizer for Independentvoting.org, a national strategy and organizing center for the growing independent movement. As such, I speak with many independent voters and wanted to share with you, not only some of my own thoughts, but also what independents are saying to me.

Like myself, many independents were happy to support your candidacy and were proud of your election, not only as the first black man elected president but also as someone elected with a broad base of independent support. While most of us were not under the illusion that radical change could happen overnight and recognized that there are deep structural issues which pervade our political process, we hoped that we had a president who, because of how you campaigned and were elected, saw that to develop this country effectively and change political culture in Washington, you'd have to go outside of the box and strengthen your connection with outside forces, in particular with independents.

Mr. President, most independents I speak with - despite what the media focuses on - are not looking to demonize you and have not "moved to the Right." In fact, we don't like partisan politics at all. Our message is one in support of restructuring our political process. There is a movement growing from the bottom up that does not equate bi-partisanship with non-partisanship. While we understand the realpolitik considerations that might prompt you to make some decisions, we are greatly disappointed that you have not reached out to independents and the independent movement and made it clear that you want us included in all levels of the process. By doing so, you make a statement about the kind of America you are fighting for - one that is inclusive of all people.

Thank you

Gwen Mandell
gmandell@independentvoting.org

J.B. Opdycke
75 West End Avenue, R19C
New York, NY 10023

October 31, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

My name is JB Opdycke and I am an independent voter from New York City. I voted for Mike Dukakis, Lenora Fulani, Ross Perot, John Hagelin, Ralph Nader and...you, and I am proud to say that voting for you in 2008 was one of the first times I've had a smile on my face when I entered the voting booth, both because I was enthusiastic about supporting you, but also because when I voted at 6:05 AM there was already 100 people lined up at my poll to vote.

I understand the tremendous pressure on you in these first two years of your term, and respect what you have accomplished under difficult circumstances. And I feel that you have kept yourself distant—even disconnected—from an important conversation being led by independents such as myself about the need to reform our political process.

I hear you mention the Senatorial filibuster as an example of what needs to change, and while I certainly support procedural changes in the Senate, reforms to the legislative/lobbying process are just the tip of the iceberg. Our very system of elections is broken! Gerrymandered, uncompetitive, districts are the norm in every state. Primary elections are off limits to non-party voters in 25 states. The political parties have been given a free reign for 50 years to re-write election laws so that their needs are met while the voters needs are ignored. How can it be that while the fastest group of voters in New York is independent, “no-party” voters, we are barred from voting in primaries, have no representation at the Board of Elections, and cannot even, by law, work the polls on Election Day!

Partisanship is a national scourge. It corrodes our ability to move forward as a country. I don't need to tell you that – you face it every day of the week. And I understand you need the support of the Democratic Party to get your legislation passed. You cannot act “above the law” of Washington (where the law is “obey the party.”) But you must find creative ways to take on partisanship. You could verse yourself on the growing movement to abolish closed party primaries and insert yourself into the conversation in appropriate ways. You could support efforts to end Gerrymandering—even in situations where the Democratic Party is most opposed to it. You could appoint an independent to the Federal Election Commission – you have the power to do so under the current statute.

There are dozens of efforts taking place across the country to reign in the partisan control of the election process, and your involvement, even from afar, could and would be of enormous benefit for the country.

Most Sincerely,

JB Opdycke

Dear President Obama,

Two years ago, when your victory was announced, I was in the East Village in NYC. I watched in a crowded bar with my family and friends as you gave an inspiring acceptance speech, and then I, along with millions of other people around the country, poured into the streets to celebrate. It was the most extraordinary thing I've ever seen. People were dancing in the streets, cars were honking in celebration, some were even crying from joy. What was most impactful for me was that the majority of the people celebrating were young people, who are usually not at all political, but who on that day came out, voted for you, and made something special happen. It wasn't a victory for the blue states, or for the Democratic Party, it was a people's victory. Your victory came from a special coalition of Black, White, Latino, Young, Independent, Liberal, Democrat, and probably many other people who didn't vote for you because you are a Democrat, but instead because you claimed you were more. I voted for you because you spoke to me, as a woman, as an Independent, and as a young person.

Fast forward to today, November 1, 2010, the day before the midterm elections, where it seems that we're in a heated battle of red vs blue. Candidates have not followed your lead of reaching out to all voters, but instead are targeting their base, hoping it will be just enough to beat the other party. This has been a very uninspiring campaign season. You have been on the road, pushing people to vote blue, to not let the rRepublicans take over... to not let them gain on the Democrats. To call this outdated and disappointing seems like an understatement.

The future lies not in partisan boxing, but in non partisan coalitions like the one that elected you. 40% of Americans consider themselves independent; that is not a trend, it is a movement, it is a shift in the way we see ourselves, and in the way we want to see the political system. Americans of all ages, races and genders are tired of watching politicians bicker about who is in charge, who is better, who is going to save the country.

But for some reason, the media ignores this, candidates won't acknowledge it, and we continue to attempt democracy in a government of the parties, by the parties, and for the parties. We live in a society with infinite things that need fixing - health care, education, budget deficits, climate meltdown, and yet none of these things will effectively get resolved while our elected officials refuse to work together because it means putting party needs aside. Until we reform the system that elects our representatives, we will not be able to make any real changes in our society.

I am young. I am political. I believe in the power of voting. I will vote tomorrow, in the midterm elections half heartedly. I do it more because I feel it is my duty as a citizen, and less because I believe in who I am casting my vote for.

Mr. President, please re-inspire me and the millions of others who believed in you, who still believe in you. Step out of the partisan locker room, and join us, the people who elected you. Support political reform issues and join us in creating a non partisan democracy.

I look forward to the day when every election day ends in people celebrating in the streets...

Esteli Pacio

Dear Mr. President

I am writing to you because I felt your message of change during your campaign. I also knew what you would be up against when going into the White House.

During these mid-term elections there has not been one inspiring candidate. They have all jumped on your bandwagon talking about "CHANGE" As an Independent , I realize that true change does not happen within the walls of the parties but as an outsider.

The old politics of attack ads and negativity has run rampant on television. I am thankful for the invention of remote controls, I just change the channel.

I am still supportive of you Mr. President, but I also feel that you have ignored Independents across America.

Independents are interested in change and reforms, but the most important reforms that Independents are interested in is Political Reform. We Hate Parties.

Listen to Independents. Listen to the reforms that we feel can make government more transparent and interesting.

I want you to look at one major issue. Non-Partisan elections and open primaries, because of these states that have open primaries, you are in office today. That should have been one of your pivotal issues. It is still not too late Mr. President. Look at that reform...Speak on it!!! It is important to Independents who are not able to vote in the crucial first round of voting.

As for the midterm elections here in New York City, I am voting because I know voting is a way of expressing ourselves, and many wars have been fought for that right.

I am not inspired in any of these candidates, that is the sad thing about these mid-term elections.

You spoke about change, you still have time Mr. President to really inspire voters as you did when you ran for President of the U.S.A.

Thank You

Ramon Pena
New York City, NY

Dear President Obama

I am an independent and always will be Democrat and Republican is like bass ball and basket ball

I vote for you and support you , but I wish you support the independent party as non partisan

I pay my tax and feel like an second class citizen Colette Rocher

Dear President Obama:

I am the national director of organizing for independentvoting.org. My work puts me in touch with independent voters all over the country. We are a non-party, non-ideological, pro reform movement of Americans. We're 40% of our nation.

You are president today because of independent voters. We understand the partisan pulls on you, but Americans want real change. Independents are deeply disturbed by what the insiders - the parties and special interests -- are doing to our country. Independents recognize that change will only come from the outside in. That's why we are going to continue to push for political reforms that can shake up party domination. Independents want open primaries where voters can vote for the candidate and not the party. We want nonpartisan redistricting reform, nonpartisan elections, and nonpartisan election administrations including appointing an independent to the Federal Elections Commission. In other words, we want policies that support the people, not the parties. The parties make progress impossible.

Sincerely,
Nancy Ross
nross@independentvoting.org

Dear President Obama,

I sincerely hope you can overcome the party pressures on you to remain so two-party focused. I am a life-long independent, not a “swing voter,” an “undecided” or a “blank” and I do not enjoy seeing the independent vote get turned over to the far right by the media and politicians. We are beyond voting for the lesser of two evils. The American people desperately want and need change and I believe that change is through structural political reform so that more people can participate equally in the political process.

I hope to see more action from you about this over the next two years.

Thank you,
Alice Rydel

October 21, 2010

President Barack Obama
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

I am an independent who has been building the independent movement for nearly 20 years. I was an early supporter of yours and attended both your Brooklyn and Apollo Theater campaign appearances.

What drew me to you and your campaign was your insistence that Washington—our political structure and culture—is broken. Your appeal focused on moving America forward. America followed you. And independents played a leadership role in securing your victory. The Black and independent alliance emerged onto the national stage with your election.

Independents need the right to participate in our election process as fully as those registered in political parties. Top two open primaries, now operating in California and Washington, allow all voters, including tens of millions of independents, the opportunity to select our candidates.

I was deeply dismayed by David Plouffe’s presentation at the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan earlier this month. He laid out the ways that the Democratic Party can win by playing off of the Tea Party candidates and movement.

In the late ‘80’s, I was a young adult looking to change the world (as it seems you were too, based on your book). The DP’s appeal to fight “fascism” (from Reagan/Bush to Tea Party/Rove) did not resonate with me then and is truly bankrupt today.

I believe you to be a leader, an historic leader. The American people need you to provide leadership in restructuring our political process so that new participants and new

coalitions can emerge. Our country, and the world, needs to break open the frozen (partisan) storm we are stuck in.

Please make moves to partner with independents. I recommend contacting Jackie Salit of www.independentvoting.org, who managed Bloomberg's mayoral campaigns for the New York City Independence Party, and twice delivered his margin of victory.

Patriotically and independently yours,

Carrie Sackett

October 26, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama

I am an independent and the chairperson of the New York County Independence Party. I was proud to vote for you in 2008. It was a hopeful and historic moment—New York Magazine captured that when they proclaimed that you were America's first independent President on their cover in January of 2009.

I believe the hyper-partisan electoral system must be reformed, it is the key to unlocking the door to the other reforms we need in the areas of education, the environment, immigration, etc. As an activist building the independent movement here in New York, I have worked to create new coalitions and grassroots infrastructure that can fight for electoral reforms like open primaries to give independents full voting rights. I am proud of our accomplishments. In 2009, we were pivotal in getting New York City's independent Mayor Mike Bloomberg re-elected with 150,000 votes on our line.

In the build up to the midterms, the press is writing much about how independents are "swinging" to the Republicans, that we are "abandoning" our support for you. They really have it all wrong, probably because they do not speak to independents or the leaders of the up-from-the-bottom independent movement (www.independentvoting.org). We are not swinging, nor abandoning. Quite the contrary. We are steadfast in our distrust of the political establishment and of any party.

We are concerned, Mr. President, that you have not given sufficient attention in your agenda to the concerns of independents, now 40% of Americans. We are a new movement, a movement of outsiders. We will continue to press for reforms and I write today to ask that you reach out to independents, and move the reform agenda to the forefront.

Sincerely,

Cathy L. Stewart

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

I first heard you when you gave the Keynote Speech at the 2008 Democratic Convention. The next thing was reading your book DREAMS FROM MY FATHER, which so moved me that I recommended it to all my friends and colleagues.

I am an 80 year old Jewish woman, and I'm proud to say I am a Community Organizer in the Bronx, New York City. The Bronx is the poorest urban county in the U.S. My work is building non-partisan independent politics. More and more people, particularly young people are turning away from the two major parties.

I have not veered in my support for you. I know you have an unbelievably complicated and difficult job. I would rejoice if you looked outside the box of partisan politics and looked to and included independents in your perspective. Only then, do I believe that you might see some progress in achieving your laudable goals.

Sincerely,
Joyce Weisberger (AKA Shatzi)
shatziw@yahoo.com

Dear President Obama, I am an independent and a progressive. I speak for many independents when I say that the only way to advance your positive social agenda is to fully open the political process to independent voters. We need you to advocate on behalf of OPEN PRIMARIES in 50 states. This would offer critical access to the 40% of the electorate who consider themselves averse to or oblivious to party politics. Partisans are not going to build a new America. Independents must play a decisive role in shaping our national dialogue. Independently yours,
Janet Wootten

North Carolina

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

October 28, 2010

Dear President Obama,

I am an independent, a professor of African American history, and the father of two small children. For the sake of our collective future, I urge you to take the next critical steps in reforming our American political system. You have alluded to changes needed in the U.S. Senate rules so as to avoid filibustering; yes, this is important. There are a number of other key measures for which you can advocate. Among these are open primaries. Independents across the nation today are calling for open primaries (which, as you know helped you win the primaries in 2008 in some 22 states, where they exist). No American of adult age should be excluded from voting just because they are not a member of a party. Your endorsement for open primaries across the United States would signal your support for the inclusion of ALL Americans in our political system and give you support among independents and independent-minded Democrats and Republicans.

With warm wishes and great respect,

Omar H. Ali, Ph.D.
Greensboro, North Carolina
Associate Professor
African American and Diaspora Studies
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Foust Building, 200-E
Greensboro, NC 27403
Office 336-334-4246 Cell 212-226-5712
E-mail ohali@uncg.edu
Website http://www.uncg.edu/afs/faculty/omar_ali/

Ohio

Dear President Obama:

I wanted you to know that while I am registered as a Democrat in Ohio, I am an independent. I worked hard for you in 2008 and for Governor Strickland in 2010. I think the Republicans have lost their way, but already I am disappointed in your inability or unwillingness to act on the purposes for which you were supported by unions and health care reform advocates. You dropped the 'public option' and you sidelined the Employee Free Choice Act. You haven't changed the laws that give tax incentives to corporations to send jobs overseas bankrupting our treasury and causing inestimable suffering.

Well, I'm here to tell you, I found IndependentVoting.org and we're organizing in Ohio. We're going to do what it takes to hold you accountable and pave the way for independents to have their voice heard. We expect you to hold Democrats and Republicans to a higher standard of political campaigning. We're tired of the lies and the massive amounts of money wasted on airing lies slamming candidates. We want full disclosure of where campaign money comes from. We want Congressional hands out of the pockets of lobbyists. We want our country to move ahead. We cannot continue to let nasty partisan politics impede our nation's progress. We have too many problems to solve and no time for foot dragging for political purposes. Get the show on the road and sell programs to the people and quit lying down when attacked with the Republican lies and efforts to derail your plans.

We independents who helped elect you expect more.

Sincerely,

William N. Davis, II
Dayton, OH

President Obama: We the people need to have you to keep your promises in your campaign. You were going to change the way Washington works. Partisanship is the way it has always worked, That is what is wrong in Washington. Money and party bickering will not allow us to solve our social problems. Too many of our legislators are bought off. In my state and across the nation only about 25-30 % of the people belong to parties. Most of us have given up on political party. We are independents. I think you are also an independent, You used the party most accessible to enter politics. The independent vote is the greatest block of voters in the nation. No party can win without them. If you want real reform which is what they want, you could declare your independence and lead that block of voters. They could win any election. They do now. Can you give voice to them? Can you reach out to them, to us. Sincerely---Elbert Crary OHIO

Oregon

Dear Mr. President,

I admire you and what you stand for very much. Please work even harder at bridging the partisanship that like a deepening chasm divides us. Both the Republican and Democratic party leaderships in Congress focus far too much on their special interest constituents and financial supporters and far too little on finding ways to work together in a common effort to further the common good of all Americans. You can again inspire us as you did in 2008 but it will require a leadership above the factionalism that George Washington himself warned us of.

I am an independent who wants to see leaders who put the res publica first and party second. I believe, Mr. President, that you are that man!

Respectfully,

Charles Young

Pennsylvania

Dear President Obama,

Thank you for visiting the city of brotherly love this weekend in the midst of feverish last minute campaigning.

I am honored to have you as our President. However, I and other independents across Pennsylvania and nationally would like you to speak directly to the need for serious political reforms, such as open primaries in every state, a non-partisan Federal Election Commission, and reforming ballot access laws.

Given that we are 42% of the electorate and the very block of voters who got you in the White House, I and my cohorts want you to address these critical electoral reform issues in order to deal with the severe democracy deficit in Pennsylvania and in the country.

Independents know that unless these issues of access to our political and electoral system do not get reformed, the hot topics of the moment (like healthcare, economic reforms, and foreign policy issues) will not and cannot be effectively dealt with.

It would appear that you have turned your focus and energies on the Democratic Party base and partisan mechanisms of beltway politics. We voted for you to make real changes: *Yes We Can change the way politics is done as usual!* Where is that commitment?

Independents are not interested in being framed by the two-party box. We care about

We the People not *We the Parties*. Politicians and journalists alike have largely been tone deaf when it comes to listening to the voice of independents. However, more and more people are turning their backs on the two-party political paradigm, and as the independent movement grows stronger, the media and the politicians will be forced to listen. Will you be listening? We hope so – let's stand together.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bullock
Independent Pennsylvanians

Dear President Obama,

I'm writing to you on the eve of the election in response to the partisan divide.

There is a trend for new voters to register as independents. We are tired of partisan bickering that ends up in complete disregard to what matters to the American people-- access to our government and the decisions that affect us.

The ideologies independents live by are as varied as the ecology of this great nation. However, we independents are very similar on one front: structural reforms. We, for the most part, agree that the people of this country need more of a voice, a non-partisan, independent voice that will look after the interests of the average American.

Start talking to us like you did when you ran for office. Help us break open the two-party stranglehold. Work with us to open primaries in all states, eliminate unfair gerrymandering practices and make it possible for independents to participate via fair ballot access laws.

With over 40% of the public identifying as independents, our conversation with you and congress is long overdue.

I, and the millions of other independents, hope to see actions that break up the partisan divide, and, most importantly, we look forward to your conversation with us.

Warmest regards,
Stephen Bouikidis
Grass Roots organizer, Independent Pennsylvanians

Dear President Obama,

I am a longtime independent voter, who is proud of being an Independent. I am now part of the 42% of the electorate who consider themselves independents. I am totally dismayed by the partisan political positioning of the Democratic & Republican parties and long ago decided to not participate in that way. Independents voted for you, enthusiastically in 2008, to make the changes in the way politics is done as usual in this country. Our vote was not an endorsement of the Democratic Party; it was a vote in favor of serious political reforms.

It is clear from your first two years in office, that unless the issues of access to our political and electoral system do not get reformed the critical issues of our times (like healthcare, economic reforms, immigration, foreign policy and education) cannot and will not be dealt with in any meaningful and growth full way for the people of this country.

Here in Pennsylvania we have a closed primary system and Independent candidates have ballot access requirement that make it virtually impossible for them to run. In the interest of democracy and fairness these need to change. Appointing an independent to the Federal Election Commission might be one step in the direction of building with independents.

You have an opportunity to make good on your promises to bring this country together on a non partisan basis. Please, we urge you take some meaningful steps to partner with independents on the critical issues facing our nation.

Sincerely,

Mark Balsam

Dear President Obama,

I am an independent voter. What this means, to me, is that, while I do lean towards the "very liberal" spectrum of politics, there is no single party that I feel fully represents me or my ideals.

As an independent voter, I feel that the current two-party system is deeply flawed and desperately needs to be overhauled. I feel that people should be given a chance to hear from candidates from various parties, particularly during the debates.

I know that there are a lot of people in this country that do feel underrepresented and disillusioned, and the fact that the country is now 40% independently registered speaks volumes. I don't think that is something that can nor should be ignored.

Right now, there doesn't seem to be much difference, if any, between the two major parties; a lot of the proposed policies and bills that have been thwarted/heavily revised by congress are leading me to believe this. Where many people believed in and hoped for change, as you promised - it seems that we are getting more of the same.

I want to urge you to not ignore the independent sector of voters, to open up primaries for non-partisan voters, and to take major action to change the current two-party system. Doing any of these things would show Americans that you really do stand for change, and would help us feel like our government actually represents us.

Sincerely,
Shontae Elliott – PA

President of the United States
Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20500

10/29/10

Dear Mr. President

Thank you for all your efforts to rebuild and move our country forward.

I am writing today concerning appointments to Commissions, and boards.

I am an Independent voter. I believe that as an Independent voter there should be Independents appointed to federal Boards and Commissions. For far to many years the voice of Independent voters have been ignored by Government at all levels (*Local County State Federal*) I was pleased to see that you have appointed some Republicans to serve on some of the Boards and Commissions but I am disappointed that Independents are not given a voice. As you know! Independents now make up 25% of the voting public so they should be given the chance to have there voice heard.

Thank you for your consideration and thoughts on this matter
And once again thank you for all your efforts to improve the lives of all Americans

I remain respectfully yours



James J Sloan
674 Coolspring St
Hopwood PA 15445-2505

724 439 3115
sjsloan66@verizon.net

Dear President Obama,

Mr. President, your message of bringing real change to Washington moved independent voters like myself to turn out in large numbers across the country. Your message spoke to us, and gave us hope for real reform, and we stood with you in your bid for the highest office in our country.

Due, in part, to the major role independents played in your election, and to the fact that independents now comprise over 40% of the electorate, there has been a fair amount of attention devoted independent voters during the run up to the mid-term elections. However, independents continue to be falsely viewed as pawns in the partisan power struggle. We continue to be characterized as "swing voters" and "spoilers," despite the fact that independents hold strong positions on any number of issues. This angers and troubles me, Mr. President, and I would like to briefly share my thoughts with you.

Independents shun partisan politics, and actively seek to end the corruption and grid-lock that now exists in government. While Democrats and Republicans blatantly concern themselves with maximizing their own party's representation and power in the legislature, independents work toward inclusiveness, implementation of electoral reforms, and making vital and fundamental changes in the way our government works. Independents are interested in open discussion and substantive debate about the issues that we all face together in our communities, our cities, and our country. For example, independents throughout my state of Pennsylvania have been instrumental in working toward the enactment of the Voter's Choice Act, and the Open Primaries bill.

I am proud that you were elected President, Mr. Obama, but your administration seems to have shifted towards an adoption of the Democratic Party line, and partisan politics as usual. The issues important to independents have largely been tossed to the curb by those with the power to change things. As a result, polls show a loss of support for your administration from many independent voters. Washington has largely been tone deaf when it comes to listening to the voice of independents. However, more and more people are turning their backs on the two-party political paradigm, and as the independent movement grows stronger, politicians will be forced to listen. That moment will signal real change and real hope for a new day in Washington and across the country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Barbara Patrizzi
Philadelphia, PA

Rhode Island

October 31, 2010

Dear President Obama,

I am an Independent voter. I have been unaffiliated since 1979 when I turned eighteen and registered to vote in my native state of Massachusetts. I have since moved to Rhode Island where I have lived with my husband for almost twenty three years. As an Independent I have a concern that I would like to share with you.

I would like to participate in the primary election as an Independent and not have to feel discriminated against. In my state of Rhode Island we have "open primaries", however, I am forced for that day to affiliate myself with either the Democratic or Republican party and disaffiliate myself after I vote. I feel that this practice is very discriminatory. I feel that if I enter the polls as an Independent I should leave as such without having to disaffiliate myself from a group that I have never chosen to affiliate myself with. As an Independent in this state I am part of an ever-growing majority and yet we are not respected as such.

This, and much more than this, is an issue all over this great country, where, in some states primaries are closed and Independents are not even allowed in! If you remember Mr. President, it was the Independents of this country that voted you into office. This is because our numbers are great and our people are strong. All we ask, is that these two facts be recognized and that we are respected for them. We want to be more involved. We wish not to feel left out or pushed out. The hope for all of us would be that we are as welcome in all elections primary or general as the voters in California are.

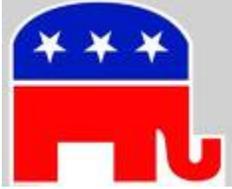
Mr. President we are here. We are not going to go away because we are not fully recognized. We just want to have the rights and privileges give us by the constitution. It is the hope of many before us and many that will follow that no man or woman should be discriminated against because of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, political party or lack thereof.

Please President Obama consider my concerns and support our worthy cause. We are depending on you as fellow Americans. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Lorrie Moran-Plante
31 Hilltop Ave.
West Warwick, RI, 02893
lorriem-p@care2.com

Christine A Adam
31 Washington Street
North Providence, RI 02904



JOB

VS



VS

THE BEST FOR THE

Citizens would like to have a real choice

Dear Mr. President,

As a volunteer this past September for a US Congressional candidate in my state, I had the pleasure to meet with voters and discuss many issues on their mind. The biggest issue is the state of our country and a beginning of a distrust of our government's partisanship political machine.

Many people are saying:

“WHY CANT I JUST VOTE FOR THE PERSON THAT I BELIEVE IS BEST TO REPRESENT ME, WHY AM I BEING TOLD THAT I HAVE TO PICK A PARTY AND FORCED TO VOTE FOR SOMEONE IN THAT PARTY”

Political parties exist to present a united front on issues that they believe are best for our country. These political parties are suppose to contain people of like minded philosophies which provides a base for unity, however this is true only superficially as politicians constantly cross the floor and form coalitions whenever it is to THEIR best interests. However, as it is happening, their best interests are not always, what is best for our country.

We as a country have to change in a way that meets the changes of our times. We no longer receive news by pony express, news is immediate, voters are more aware of what is actually going on, what is important to us as citizens and what is not working and what needs change. Citizens are asking for a change . . . a two party system no longer works. I have read an article that the reason that Congress is politically paralyzed is because its activities are centered on “party” politics. I know you can relate to that statement.

I have recently become a member of Independent Voters, which is a great organization that has been addressing the issue of partisanship for a long time. Their message is simple their request is reachable and the time is during your presidency. Change the way our government works. The person with the best record, the best solutions and the best

vision is the person I want to be able to vote for no matter what party this candidate represents.

Thank you for your time.

Christine A Adam

South Carolina

I am a South Carolina Independent Voter and I approve of this message.

I REALLY wanted you to succeed Mr. President. I REALLY don't care if the Democrats succeed. I REALLY don't care if the Republicans succeed. I only REALLY care that the United States of America succeeds. I am PRO-America and ANTI-Political Party.

Yes Mr. President, you took over a mess, a REALLY big mess. But we are not a cookie cutter country, we are not cookie cutter people. Politics are cookie cutter -- Donkey or Elephant? And then all of you bash, REALLY BASH, each other? Each party bullying the other, REALLY! Government doesn't trust government, so why-- REALLY, why should we trust any of you?

The bald eagle is the only emblem we need. Every situation looked at with open eyes, REALLY open eyes. Eagle Eyes, if you will. Sometimes we need to be liberal, sometimes we need to be moderate, and yes, sometimes even conservative. Not one-sided thinking. Do you REALLY want your children to grow up in this one-sided nation that you are enabling, leading?

You promised change, REAL change --not compromise, Mr. President. Shame on you! If there was ever a man who could do the right thing for this country, it is you-- and it is not too late. REALLY!

Tammy Lynn Collard

South Dakota

October 28, 2010

President Barack Obama

White House

Washington, DC

Dear President Obama:

I am an independent voter living in South Dakota where I cannot vote in the primary election. I and other independents attended your Rapid City rally wearing bright yellow t-shirts displaying the message "Independent for Obama but I can't Vote." When you

were elected, we celebrated your victory as a vehicle toward inclusive government and an end to party divisiveness. Sadly, that has yet to happen.

The well-being of our nation is in jeopardy. It is time for unity, not party politics. It is time to include independent voters in the process of government, from the ballot box to the Federal Election Commission. More and more voters are abandoning the party mentality and identifying themselves as independent because the parties no longer represent the voters.

We will support those candidates who offer independent ideas. We will support our President in his efforts to restructure a political process that is no longer working for America. Will you be that leader? Is now the time for change?

Respectfully,

Kim Wright, Rapid City, SD

Utah

Dear President Obama,

First of all thank you for volunteering to do something I would never want to do.

I do need to tell you how much I have stuck my neck out for you as an independent leader in an independent state heavily influenced by a conservative establishment.

I served a year in Iraq as a First Lieutenant in the Army in 2004. I was incensed by the ineptitude of Secretary Rumsfeld and the zeal in former President Bush's heart that led him to justify and even defend deplorable human rights abuses of detainees in U.S. custody. I can go into detail some other time about how the treatment of these prisoners is the De facto policy of what the U.S. will tolerate without objection in the treatment of U.S. service members

In the fall of 2008 I purchased a large piece of canvas upon which I spray painted the words "HONOR VETERANS, VOTE OBAMA". I helped a Democratic voter win our election for mayor. Her Republican opponent attends my church and has repudiated me and my family directly and indirectly. I have worked on campaigns for Democratic candidates and non-partisan issues such as independent redistricting. In all this I have never changed my voter registration from anything but unaffiliated, yet I have organized for some local Democrat candidates more ardently even than your own party. You owe me at least one.

I will temper my criticism; I know how lonely leadership can be. Realize however that your best advisers will always give it to you straight.

Leaders make mistakes. Just like in a marriage, conciliation can be powerful even essential. What our country needs is not a liberal agenda, not a conservative agenda or a centrist or even a libertarian agenda. What our country needs is leadership. Washington is a place dominated by oscillating factions of 'bullies on the playground' as it were. Your faction, newly in control of the 'playground' has acted very exclusively and you have gone along with the crowd. Sir, you are in a historic position to make it right or make it worse.

My recommendations:

1. Tell your party to stop it. Enough with the partisanship already. A stiff arm approach tears at the fabric of our Constitution--a system by which disagreements and policy can be settled civilly with consensus. We are like Velcro--we cannot pull too hard in opposing directions without coming apart.
2. Be a leader. Make a bold statement. Change your party registration to none. Right now you are effectively the President and leader of a third of this nation; the DNC third. You have got to assert yourself as the servant leader of ALL. We will continue to languish as a people divided if you cannot find the courage to do this, and it will be lonely for a time.

Come back. Be a uniter. We miss you. God bless you in your efforts to be the servant-leader of ALL Americans; the kind of leader we need--the kind of leader we had before when consensus was in vogue.

Sincerely,

Randy N. Miller
Syracuse, Utah
randy@uliv.org

Vermont

November 1, 2010

Dear President Obama,

I am a crabby old lady that has sunk so low in hope that I damn near stayed home from voting for the first time in almost 50 years of voting. It's hard to believe that so much has changed in the two short years since I joined thousands of **Independents** to cast a vote for your message of hope and change.

We knew you had a rough road ahead...just the racism was enough to throw an average person right in the ditch. Fortunately, you are not average. Then there was the party-poison that would have to be neutralized to lead this country toward fulfilling it's great promise. A BIG job, but we had faith...faith that your smart, calm mind and great energy and perseverance would lead in the right direction.

We did not expect miracles. We knew you needed time.

We were nervous when you kept on the "old guard" - many who have been more a *part of the problem, than the solution*. We were shocked when Wall ST reform was a slight slap and did nothing to prevent the monstrous GREED that has nearly taken this country down. When you had no interest in keeping the public option in the insurance reform bill, we were just plain scared. But we calmed our nerves and watched and waited...only to be sooo disappointed when you gave so little attention to open primaries that offer a beginning to end the partisanship that locks our government into being a congressional country club for the few that can afford it.

It all feels very grim. But, I am NOT giving up. In a few hours I will brush my teeth and head to the polls and cast a vote - not a vote to go backward...not a vote for the folks that spent eight years nurturing an enormous capacity for waste, war, greed and abuse of power, but to give you and your team a little more time... time to work with those who are willing to do the boring, hard work to unify all Americans to have a government they can respect...a government...for the people, by the people, etc., etc.

Most sincerely,

G.P.Treadwell

Troy, VT.

Virginia

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to let you know that I support the Independent Voting movement. The sole purpose of this group/movement is to open the electoral process allowing voices outside the two-party system to be heard and given a chance. As you know, independent voters put you in office and we certainly can take you out. I am writing to ask you to rethink your recent actions and positions which have moved you away from open primaries and opening up the political process. The American people have a right to choose the person that best represents them and should not be limited to a political party that seldom encompasses all that the individual believes.

Thank you for your consideration!

Dr. John Edmundson, Richmond, VA

And signed by 21 others

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: 2010 Mid Term Election and America's Future

Dear Mr. President,

I do not pretend to be a fortune teller nor am I qualified to lend myself out as a futurist but I do believe that based on the trends in the American political process for the past quarter century does not bode well for the American people. Although I still believe in you and that you offer us the best hope for moving forward I am just as convinced today as I was two years ago when you were elected president that the current process and the party structure that undergird this system is flawed and ill suited to solve the major problems confronting our nation.

I am an independent and was thoroughly disappointed when you decided to turn over your election campaign apparatus to the Democratic Party thereby alienating the bulk of independents that helped to fuel the support that grew like wildfire eventually leading to your election. So, finally I must say though, that if the republicans regain control of congress or perhaps the House of Representatives it will not matter much nor will it make any significant improvement in our countries current condition. Given the record and pulse of congress for the past two years, I don't believe it will not make much difference even if the democrats should retain congressional control. Taken altogether, this simply means that you have one a hellava job on your hands.

Good luck tomorrow and God's speed. You will have to deal with the hand that you are dealt with and you might be surprised how much your game improves if you played an Independent hand.

"The future success and freedom of American runs through independence...'

Best Regards,
Gregory Moohn, President
Independent Workers of America

*"Good Evening Mr. President,
It's a privilege to take the time to sit down and write you during these troubling economic times, and the state of our political system. I am a 26 year disabled Navy veteran, that spent 18 1/2 years on six different war ships in support and defense of this great nation. I'm African-American, and I'm an independpent voter.*

The last part is particularly important to me, because that leaves me beholden to no one man or party, but to my integrity, my ideals, my faith and love of my family and fellow man. Mr. President, you made some very bold promises that each of us voting for you, would fight next to you, in order to make them happen. I watched last night (and for the last 2 years!) the culmination of what happens when the lust for absolute power, corrupts absolutely! I watched people celebrate a great victory. Not for what they did for "We the People", but they managed to do for themselves. A group of people that went for a 2 year period without putting their name on ANY significant legislation for "We the People", while collecting their very own stimulus in the form of their own pay checks!

Mr. President..."We the People" believe in you. The hardest thing to change is the "culture" of a people. People want and need jobs (I was also briefly unemployed), but a lot of us understand that you needed to stablize the economy first, or any job placed in it, would fail "upon the shifting sands". YOU ARE NOT ALONE! The largest voting body in the country is behind you! We helped to get you elected, and we are not "beholden" to a party line in the sand, but to the "character" of a man. The world is watching you (as you well know), but your daughters (and my children and grandchildren) are watching you too, but only God and history can be your judge. You've done a great deal of good in 2 years, but the race is not over. In my opinion, we Independents are in the "middle" waiting for you! We understand that politics is the art of compromise, and I know that you have you're own pollsters to, but instead of governing by a 400 to 1000 person poll/survey....you were selected as our "LEADER" by a 66,882,230 vote mandate "FOR CHANGE"!! Now those are polling numbers!

Mr. President, we believe in you, we have faith that you not only can get it done, but you will get it done! As a military man, I can only say, "Point us in the right direction and turn us loose!" If "true" change doesn't happen now....Then when? By whom?

*Take Care Sir, and may God Bless you and yours and our wonderful country!
Sincerely, and with Warmest Regards*

Leonard "Len" Coley Jr., U.S. Navy (Retired) "Mustang" and Independent Voter"

Washington

Dear Mr. President,

I am currently a Vice President at Washington State University, a Washington State Arts Commissioner (a position appointed by the Governor Gregoire), and someone who has worked three decades in higher education, and in Latino theatre. However, I am not writing you today as a state worker, Latino artist, or educator. I am writing you as an independent voter.

Regardless of what is announced on CNN and Fox News, independent voters are not swing voters who are now deserting you and voting for the Republican Party. In fact we do not like partisan politics at all. What we need is a fundamental restructuring of the political process. The issue is not bi-partisan support, but rather non-partisan support. I and other independents understand you are caught in the web of DC partisan politics, but please do not forget that it was your advocacy of change and hope that inspired many of us to support you. Many of us are now disappointed that you have made little effort to reach out to independents and the growing, grassroots independent movement. We need you to make it clear that you want us independents in the political process. If you do that, you will be making a statement about the kind of America you are fighting for - one that is inclusive of all people.

Americans want real change, and we independents are angered by what the insiders - the parties and special interests -- are doing to our country. Change only comes from the outside in. That's why we are going to continue to push for political reforms that can shake up party domination. Independents want open primaries like we have with the "Top Two " process in Washington. Independents want to be able to vote for the candidate and not the party. We want nonpartisan redistricting reform, nonpartisan elections, and nonpartisan election administrations including appointing an independent to the Federal Elections Commission.

In other words, we want policies that bring real change, not partisan posturing. Thank you,

John Fraire
Pullman, WA

Washington, D.C.

Dear President Barack Obama,

I want you to know that there is a movement growing from the bottom up that does not equate bi-partisanship with non-partisanship. We want independents all across the country to be included in the process at every level and every step along the way. We are Americans who are concerned with the continued development of our country, not concerned with party control.

I am a progressive activist and called myself a community organizer long before you helped to make it a household word. I moved to Washington, DC almost four years ago from NYC. I remember volunteering on many primary and election days for campaigns of progressive and independent-supported candidates in NYC for most of my adult life. Today, I didn't even, actually couldn't even vote. A pretty sad day where I couldn't exercise my freedom! There was no one to vote for here in the nation's capital. The Democratic candidate who won the mayoral primary last month - Vincent Gray- was running unopposed, I was told. We have no voting representation in Congress, except for an at-large post that only offers lip service to your Party. So no vote there either. What are you doing about DC statehood? We continue to be taxed alot with no federal representation. This is a crime in the 21st century. Our founding fathers wouldn't be in favor of this, just as they were not in favor of establishing political parties. They knew something about this a long time ago.

We as independents in this country mean you no harm, but we will continue to press ahead to build our movement and pursue the structural reforms that will create more uncertainty for your party and for the Republican Party, and you may not like that. I , like many other Americans, have come to believe that reform of any kind - education reform, Wall Street reform, energy reform, immigration reform, health care reform - is not possible without political reform and that is what we, the independents are doing.

Jill Battalen
4607 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20008