

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA FROM THE INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT

Independent voters were proud to be a vital element of your winning coalition during the presidential campaign of 2008. Your appeal to Americans—that the country must move beyond partisanship and towards a more participatory and open political culture—resonated strongly with independent voters, who have been voicing these concerns for many years. Your invitation to all Americans to reshape our country's future—*without regard to political affiliation*—was a refreshing change for independents and Americans of every political persuasion.

During the presidential primary season, independents played a crucial role in bolstering the change-oriented movement that led to your nomination. By virtue of being able to vote in the primaries and caucuses in 33 states, independents cast the votes that gave your campaign its margin, and continued to support you in the general election.

You asked the American people to partner with you to realize the dream of our democracy, to form a “more perfect union.” Let us strengthen that partnership as you begin your first term and work together to expand the voting rights of independents.

We raise this not as some kind of “political payback” for our support, but because we believe, insofar as the presidential election itself became a partial reform, this needs to be protected and expanded for future elections.

We, the undersigned, appeal to you to support the full inclusion of independent voters in all primaries and caucuses for election to federal office in all 50 states.

Whereas:

- In states with partisan registration, unaffiliated voters are now 24.8% of the electorate, up 36% since 1992;
- Nationally, nearly 40% of all voters self-identify as independents, regardless of whether they are registered into a party;

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