

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Dear Commissioners:

As I write, imploring your utmost attention to this detrimental element within our electoral process, I clearly recall the decay of my personal interest in politics; how my hope and excitement were rapidly and profoundly replaced with cynicism as our political system decomposed into ineffective, even destructive wrangling.

I still watch in shock, disbelief and anger as our elected officials become increasingly divided along party lines, entangled in the discord of pulpit politics as they disengage themselves from the population to which they're obliged to serve, dividing a nation to a degree I haven't seen since before the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s for the sake of the party line.

Yet, even more alarming is the entrenched sense of apathy fostered by a new generation of voters who harbor a far deeper level of disdain for the utterly dysfunctional political system that is theirs to inherit, unless we do something to correct it now.

The very characteristics of which I speak; apathy, cynicism, disinterest and mistrust of our political processes are a direct result of decade upon decade of abject failures within our extremely polarized, partisan political system which has disenfranchised more than 40% of this country's registered voters.

40% of our active voting population! This number, comprising the voting majority in the United States, can no longer be overlooked, nullified, or considered inconsequential as we seek a means to progressively map our country's future.

And commissioners, this number excludes the untallied who have simply given up on the process entirely as a result of a political system that is absolutely oblivious to the voices of the citizens of this nation, those people who deem it a fool's errand; a wasted effort to vote, for our options range from inferior to meager due to the divisive attitudes, restrictions and limitations of partisan government.

Clearly, an overwhelming majority of voters are voicing growing dissent to the myopic goals of today's partisan roadblocks to our constitutional right to declare a voice in our own governance.

As entrenched partisanship continues to decline in validity due to self-serving, self-perpetuating, proprietary ideals, conversely non-partisan efforts are rapidly advancing progressive ideals and joining together a means and a vote for improving the future of our nation.

Time is long past to end the extreme polarization of this country and it must end with our leaders setting the example that we, just as those who dreamt of this country's greatness did some 237 years ago, may broaden and improve the great experiment in true democratic governance through cooperation, negotiation and participation.

Please! Remove the barriers to genuine democratic elections by supporting open primaries, non-partisan elections and affording non-partisan candidates and voters the same rights as enjoyed by the now minority partisan participants.

Sincerely,

Robert Aldon Conner