**Can Michael Bloomberg Win as an Independent?**

***Game Plan for Winning & Governing with Intelligence & Integrity***

**Robert David Steele**

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America is unhinged – from *Griftopia*[[1]](#endnote-1) to *Double Government*,[[2]](#endnote-2) all the checks and balances are gone. A two-party duopoly that has rejected – nine times – national legislation to assure electoral integrity and open the ballot to independents and small parties, at least for federal offices – is the enabling factor.[[3]](#endnote-3) A country whose institutions – from academia to labor unions to the media to religions – refused to challenge 935 lies[[4]](#endnote-4) leading to an elective and ruinous war on Iraq, is now also near cultural, economic, and social ruin. The unemployment rate is 23%, not 5% (U1) or 10% (U6), but our institutions – particularly *Forbes* and *MSNBC* as well as the *Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week*, and others, refuse to get real.

Politically, the two-party tyranny has anointed Jeb Bush on the right and Hillary Clinton the left – both representing dynasties too easily connected to drugs and money, while suffering the bluster of Donald Trump and the platitudes of Bernie Sanders. This is the context in which Michael Bloomberg could distinguish himself. Polls already show him edging both Trump and Sanders in a three-way run-off. To be decisively competitive will take more than the infantile focus on expanding the debates, which are just one of twelve major changes needed to restore integrity to America’s electoral system. Absent a broader initiative championing electoral reform and ideally also state rights, there can be no question about the wisdom of Tom Friedman’s declaration, that none of the existing candidates is attractive.[[5]](#endnote-5)

There has never been a better opportunity for an Independent candidate to make a bid for the presidency. Fully 60% of all Americans hold the two-party duopoly in disdain and believe an alternative is needed.[[6]](#endnote-6) HOWEVER, to set the stage for a decisive victory, Michael Bloomberg must work with Senators such as Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand to introduce the Electoral Reform Act of 2016, and then devise a “grand bargain” with Independents and the small parties, particularly the Constitution, Green, Libertarian, and Working Families parties.

To win in 2016 under the leadership of Michael Bloomberg, he must devise a coalition committed to restoring integrity to the electoral process. As long as Congress is in the grip of a two-party duopoly, where Members no longer write or read legislation, whose votes are sold in bloc form to combinations of 40+ billionaires,[[7]](#endnote-7)any President, however well-intentioned, will be very weak. There are 20-30 seats being vacated – create the swing vote, and end “party line” voting going forward, or lose. This would actually be a win-win for the Republicans in that it would enable the right to expand its base in Congress with Constitution and Libertarian Members, while the left expands its base with Green and Working Families Members.

To win in 2016 Michael Bloomberg is going to have to first create a solution for Israel and Palestine that Sheldon Adelson can live with, and he is going to have to create a consensus among the elite with respect to slamming down on those Americans who are now demonstrably agents of a foreign power, notably the major Jewish organizations that receive funding and take direction from Israel. At the same time he must commit to ending all military assistance to the Arab dictators, and commit to de-Americanizing Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) – Europe must assume responsibility for its own defense while he leads a foreign policy Ron Paul would approve of, one focused on defense, diplomacy, and development (D3).

To win in 2016 Michael Bloomberg must first get a grip on two facts:

Fact One: No issue including climate change is going to get a fair hearing or sustainable action in a government in which Congress remains in the hands of a two-party tyranny committed to grand theft and holding the public in high disdain. It is not enough to win the White House, the same campaign must create a 20-30 seat swing vote that restores integrity to Congress.

Fact Two: Gun rights and state rights must be respected. If Michael Bloomberg cannot get a grip on this, even if he wins, he will see several states secede from the United STATES of America during his tenure. These are issues that should be discussed during a Constitutional Convention to be scheduled for 2018, and in a preliminary way by the “virtual” Constitutional Convention proposed below as his first step toward being a unifying leader and peacemaker.

Members and candidates should make one pledge: to represent their constituents, not caucus with either of the controlling parties, and vote on the basis of ethical evidence-based decision-support. Creating a swing vote independent of the two-party duopoly is the fastest way to restore Article 1 of the Constitution and integrity to the legislative process. This is the other half of being able to govern with intelligence and integrity.

There are seven specific things Michael Bloomberg could do in the Spring of 2016 in order to not only be assured of winning, and also be assured that the next federal government is inherently honest, governing with intelligence and integrity.

**01 Fund a “Virtual” Article V Constitutional Convention.** Invite Mark Levine[[8]](#endnote-8) to chair and organize the event. Fund an online and Living Room Conversation[[9]](#endnote-9) process from the county-level up that ultimately sends eight people from each of the 50 states – one each from each of the eight information tribes (academic, civil society, commerce, government, law enforcement, media, military, and non-government/non-profit). There are at least five amendments that need strengthening or revision.

• 1st Religion & Freedom of Expression – re-affirm secular nature of government
• 2nd Right to Bear Arms – restore to felons and reaffirm
• 12th Electoral College revisited, restore Vice President as runner-up
• 14th Birthright – end tourism births by Asians and illegal immigrants
• 17th State Appointment of Senators restored

There are thirteen arguments – an entire book has been written on this – central to defining and inspiring all US citizens that could be discussed as part of this national conversation – this is the substance no candidate today is competent or caring enough to address:[[10]](#endnote-10)

1. Who Is a Person?

2. Who is an American?

3. The Role of Faith

4. The Limits of Individualism

5. What Can We Know and Say?

6. Who Judges the Law?

7. Debt and Dollar

8. Local versus National Authority

9. Presidential Power

10. The Terms of Trade

11. War and Diplomacy

12. The Environment

13. A Fair, “More Perfect” Union

A “virtual” Article V Constitutional Convention will “air out” in a most constructive way where we all are on the essentials, and will illuminate the possible outcome of a “real” Article V Constitutional Convention should 34 of the 50 states choose to demand a convention in 2018. Absent adjustments, I fear the real prospect of a series of state secessions, beginning with Hawaii, followed by Vermont, Alaska, California, and Texas.[[11]](#endnote-11)

**02 Host a Workshop on Unemployment.** I will not belabor the ignorance of those who refuse to be truthful about unemployment and refer to those of us who are as “unemployment truthers.” The actual unemployment rate in the USA today is no less than 23%[[12]](#endnote-12) and could be as high at 40% according to the Congressional Research Service.[[13]](#endnote-13)

**03 Fund an Electoral Reform Summit.** Michael Bloomberg, ideally backed up by both the GOP and such billionaires as Sheldon Adelson and also – from the left – Tom Steyer, to whom I have sent a Memorandum also posted online,[[14]](#endnote-14) and ideally also the Mars Family of Virginia, and others, has the power to force through – in partnership with the GOP and Occupy and AdBusters – an Electoral Reform Act of 2016. Imagine an event – the Electoral Reform Summit – that includes all past candidates for president as well as major thought leaders – issuing a Statement of Demand that brings back to our process the 100 million eligible voters who chose not to vote in 2012, and includes a fast-track registration process for the 52.7 million unmarried women, people of color, and youth eligible to vote, who have not registered to vote. Show the 39% who identify as Independents today,[[15]](#endnote-15) and the growing number of new voters registering as No Party Preference (NPP), that they have the power to force through an Electoral Reform Act of 2016 that will at a minimum enable Independents, Constitution, Green, and Libertarian candidates to win the 20-30 seats in Congress that are being vacated in 2016. Once organized this larger group could make a deal with the incumbent Members – pass the Act and you get one term to break with your party and start representing your constituents.[[16]](#endnote-16)

Here are the elements of the Act for discussion – 12 distinct but essentially integrated fixes. The Most Holy Father has called for electoral reform[[17]](#endnote-17) – his staff has a copy of the 12 points. Can you think of a more powerful combination than Michael Bloomberg, Tom Steyer, and the Pope – and the massive engaged public they are capable of mobilizing? The time has come to show billionaires on both the left and the right – and the average citizen – that everyone prospers when integrity is the chief characteristic of governance and how we elect our government.

**01 Universal Registration**
• Opt-Out Option
• Prisoners Remain Voters

**02 Free & Equal Ballot Access**

**03 Tightly-Drawn Districts**

**04 Free & Equal Public Funding**
• Overturn CITIZENS UNITED

**05 Free & Equal Media Access**

**06 Inclusive Debates**
• Restore League of Women Voters
• Debates in Every State
• Cabinet Announced in Advance
• Cabinet-Level Debates

**07 Open Primaries**

**08 Election Day Holiday**

* Visitors to Disabled
* Free Public Transportation

**09 Paper Ballots**

* Counted Publicly On Site
* Military and Embassy Sites
* Exit Poll Validation at all Sites
* Mail/Internet Triple Validation

**10 End Winner Take All Voting**

* Instant Run-Off or Range, Concordant, Other
* End Straight-Ticket Device

**11 Legislative Process Integrity**

* End Party-Line Voting
* All Legislation Published in Advance
* No Secret Provisions
* Process for Citizen Guidance to Representatives

**12 Article V Constitutional Convention**
• 1st Religion & Freedom of Expression
• 2nd Right to Bear Arms
• 12th Electoral College
• 14th Birthright
• 17th State Appointment of Senators

**04 Sponsor a Name Your Cabinet Web Site.** “Fantasy Football” is big business. Why not a “Fantasy Cabinet” as a basis for emerging citizens into thinking about who – irrespective of party affiliation – they would most trust for each of the Cabinet positions? Should some positions be abolished? Are other positions needed? Why not harness the collective intelligence of the public while using this as a means of re-engaging the public in public governance?[[18]](#endnote-18)

**05 Sponsor a Balanced Budget Web Site.** What would a balanced budget look like in which true cost of all policies and practices were fully documented (US Government waste is known to be roughly 50% across all domains from Agriculture to Defense to Education to Energy to Health)?[[19]](#endnote-19) Michael Bloomberg could even invite Ben & Jerry to lead a national conversation on this topic. This would among many benefits exposure the ignorance of all other presidential candidates who do not understand that giving more money to a corrupt military-industrial complex is like pouring gasoline on a fire. The infantry, 4% of the force, takes 80% of the causalities and gets 1% of the budget. The other 99% of the budget is spent on pork that kills our own. We need a 450-ship Navy, an air-mobile Army, and a long-haul Air Force; we can create such a force while still cutting 30-40% in waste from our Department of Defense as now managed.[[20]](#endnote-20) It is insane for the military to consume 60% of the FY 2015 disposable budget and 16% of the FY 2015 total budget – this is pork, plain and simple.

All of the presidential candidates now running lack credibility when it comes to discussing what the threats are to America the Beautiful. Immigration is not a threat and China did not take our jobs – it is US business leaders, enabled by corrupt US political leaders, who have systematically refused to respect the laws against paying illegal aliens, while exporting our manufacturing jobs to China without regard to the “true cost” to our country and our communities of disenfranchising – bankrupting – vast swaths of our working class.[[21]](#endnote-21)

There are the ten high-level threats to the USA specifically and humanity generally.[[22]](#endnote-22) The only public figure talking about these threats with intelligence and integrity has been the Pope!

01 Poverty

02 Infectious Disease

03 Environmental Degradation

04 Inter-State Conflict

05 Civil War

06 Genocide

07 Other Atrocities

08 Proliferation

09 Terrorism

10 Transnational Crime

These are the issues that Jesse Gordon is tracking for all the candidates at *On the Issues*.[[23]](#endnote-23)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Domestic IssuesCivil RightsCrimeDrugsEnvironmentGun ControlJobs | Economic IssuesBudget & EconomyGovernment ReformSocial SecurityTax ReformTechnology & InfrastructureWelfare & Poverty | International IssuesEnergy & OilForeign PolicyFree TradeHomeland SecurityImmigrationWar & Peace | Social IssuesAbortionCorporationsEducationFamilies & ChildrenHealth CarePrinciples & Values |

Not a single candidate is offering a coherent, evidence-based, revenue-calculated discussion of these issues. Bombast, buzz words, lies, and platitudes are the order of the day. We need a serious nationwide discussion of all threats, all policies, all issues as a foundation for selecting a new transpartisan executive team and a president who is chosen not on the basis of his or her views on any given issue, but on the basis of being absolutely committed to restoring the integrity of the electoral process and thence of the government, the economy, and our society.

**06 Take Over BigBatUSA.org and Raise a Billion Dollars. F**rom a practical business point of view – one that Ross Perot displayed – it makes sense to offer the public a vehicle for buying back its government. I am betting there are 100 million voters out there from across the political spectrum that now see very clearly that the two-party tyranny is a form of prostitution, Godless, and as close to legalized treason as you can get. $10 from each is one billion dollars. I fully expect such a site to raise $2 billion if Michael Bloomberg chooses to champion electoral reform, and forms a coalition on that foundation. This money would fund the Occupation of the home offices and front lawns of every Member refusing to co-sponsor and vote for the Electoral Reform Act of 2016, provide basic income assistance for the unemployed, and help advance Independent and small party campaigns for vacant seats in Congress if the public funding portion of that Act is rejected by the majority. The Electoral Reform Act of 2016 as finally passed may or may not include public funding of all campaigns for federal office – if it does, the balance can be donated to the government fund; if not the balance can be used to create a swing vote. Perhaps more importantly – with a nod of appreciation to Howard Dean, Joe Trippi, and Zepher Teachout who created the Big Bat concept in the first place – it is time we show the US Chamber of Commerce, Wall Street, and the US Supreme Court that people, not billionaires, are sovereign in the USA – with a firm commitment to Truth & Reconciliation in relation to past financial injustices.

**07 Make Electoral Reform, Intelligence, and Latinos Central**. Now that The Most Holy Father has weighed in on electoral reform – the Franciscan order has the lead in the USA – the time has come to create a grand coalition outside the two-party system, in which youth, single women, and Latinos, as well as prisoners (mostly black) whose vote would be restored by the Electoral Reform Act of 2016 – come together. All of our institutions have failed us; We the People have many legitimate grievances.[[24]](#endnote-24) In my view – I happen to be Latino of a mother born in Colombia – the Latinos and the organizations they have created or dominate – including Voto Latino and the Service Employees International Union as well as the Catholic Church – are ready to lead a renaissance in American political participation. The time has come to displace political parties and put the people – all of the people – back into politics.[[25]](#endnote-25)

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**Endnotes**

1. Matt Taibbi, [*Griftopia: A Story of Bankers, Politicians, and the Most Audacious Power* *Grab in American History*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0385529961/ossnet-20) (Spiegel & Grau, 2011) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Michael J. Glennon, [*National Security and Double Government*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0190206446/ossnet-20) (Oxford University Press, 2014) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Richard Winger of [Ballot Access News](http://ballot-access.org/) explained this to me in 2012, pointing out that the last four times the legislation was introduced by Ron Paul. The best book on the dysfunctionality of our electoral process is Theresa Amato, [*Grand Illusion: The Myth of Voter Choice in a Two-Party Tyranny*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1595583947/ossnet-20) (The New Press, 2009). My Amazon review, [Final Detailed Review: Our Bunker Hill](http://www.amazon.com/review/R8AOAOHD8MIJK/ref%3Dcm_cr_dp_title?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1595583947&channel=detail-glance&nodeID=283155&store=books), summarizes this superb work. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Charles Lewis, [*935 Lies: The Future of Truth and the Decline of America’s Moral Integrity*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1610391179/ossnet-20) (PublicAffairs, 2014). My review, [Title Short-Changes Value -- This is One of the Most Important Books of Our Time](http://www.amazon.com/review/R26HU7EDRZEUFF/ref%3Dcm_cr_dp_title?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1610391179&channel=detail-glance&nodeID=283155&store=books), summarizes the book. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Thomas L. Friedman, “[My Choice for President? None of the Above](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/17/opinion/none-of-the-above.html?_r=0),” *New York Times*, 17 June 2015. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. “[Gallup: 6 in 10 Americans say Dems and GOP “do such a poor job that a third major party is needed](http://www.independentpoliticalreport.com/2015/09/gallup-6-in-10-americans-say-dems-and-gop-do-such-a-poor-job-that-a-third-major-party-is-needed/),” *Independent Political Report*, 27 September 2015 drawing from [Gallup Poll Releases New Results on Whether Americans Want a New Major Political Party](http://ballot-access.org/2015/09/25/gallup-poll-releases-new-results-for-whether-americans-want-a-new-major-political-party/), Ballot Access News, 25 September 2015. It is vitally important for citizens to understand that a third party is not the answer. All parties including the Green and Libertarian parties, not only the Democratic and Republican parties, impose on their candidates a single-party ticket, a party platform that is often a mix of corruption and lunacy, and the obligation to honor promises made by the party to major donors. An Independent and presumably transpartisan executive team would have none of these toxic elements. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Fredreka Schouten and Christopher Schnaars, “[Mega-influence: These 42 dominate super PAC donations](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2014/10/28/top-super-pac-donors-of-the-midterms-steyer-bloomber-singer-mercer/18060219/),” *USA Today*, 29 October 2015. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Mark Levin, [*The Liberty Amendments*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/145160632X/ossnet-20) (Threshhold, 2014); see also Judge Thomas Brennan with Dan Marks: YouTube (43:46) [The Article V Amendatory Constitutional Convention – Keeping the Republic in the 21st Century](https://youtu.be/AUWz71Ksytg). [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Joan Blades founded [MoveOn](http://front.moveon.org/), [Moms Rising](http://www.momsrising.org/), and [Living Room Conversations](http://www.livingroomconversations.org/). She is one of America’s most creative, balanced, civil personalities, literally a Founding Mother for our future. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Howard Fineman, [*The Thirteen American Arguments: Enduring Debates That Define and Inspire Our Country*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1400065445/ossnet-20) (Random House, 2008). My review at Amazon, [Alexis de Tocqueville 2.0--Extraordinary Analytic Review](http://www.amazon.com/review/R2ICZWT0332CHV/ref%3Dcm_cr_dp_title/190-4699357-4229239?ie=UTF8&ASIN=1400065445&channel=detail-glance&nodeID=283155&store=books) offers a summary of this extraordinary work. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. A case can be made that 34 states have in fact demanded a convention, but the demands have been over the course of two centuries across many different issues. I believe the USA is on the verge of a revolution, absent a restoration of honest government. On secession, see the books I have reviewed at [Worth a Look: Book Reviews on Self-Determination & Secession](http://www.phibetaiota.net/2010/07/?p=20939). [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. As documented by John Williams at [ShadowStats](http://www.shadowstats.com). As he points out, the federal government has been changing the definition of who is counted as unemployed, in order to manipulate the statistics. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. Sarah A. Donovan, “[An Overview of the Employment-Population Ratio](http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44055.pdf),” Congressional Research Service (27 May 2015). At 40% invalids, retirees, and prisoners appear to be included. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. The memorandum, and other posts on electoral reform, are easily access at <http://tinyurl.com/OpenPowerAll>. [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. “[A Deep Dive Into Party Affiliation](http://www.people-press.org/2015/04/07/a-deep-dive-into-party-affiliation/),” PewResearchCenter (7 April 2015). [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
16. My latest book has been #1 in Civics at Amazon Kindle, [*OPEN POWER: Electoral Reform Act of 2015 – Open Source Activist Tool-Kit*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00U0LS9HK/ossnet-20) (Earth Intelligence Network, 2015). My essay, [Democracy Lost](http://tinyurl.com/Steele-Reform) is supported by over 100 Amazon books reviews, all linked online. Learn more at [Open Power Electoral Reform @ Phi Beta Iota](http://tinyurl.com/OpenPowerAll). [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
17. Abiodun Oluwarotimi, “[Pope Francis Tasks World Leaders on Electoral Reform](http://leadership.ng/news/463190/pope-francis-tasks-world-leaders-on-electoral-reform),” *Leadership: Nigeria’s Most Influential Newspaper*, 25 September 2015. It is significant that no US media outlet carried this story. [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
18. I ran briefly for the presidency in 2012, accepted by the Reform Party as one of three aspiring candidates for their nomination. My own speculative line-up for a cabinet selected solely on merit can be viewed at [BigBatUSA/Cabinet](http://bigbatusa.org/coalition-cabinet/). I believe that aspiring presidents should be required by law to name their cabinet in advance, and that cabinet officials should participate in cabinet-level debates. [↑](#endnote-ref-18)
19. Agriculture: Nadia Arumugam, “UN Says Europe Wastes 50% of Fruit and Vegetables – and America Isn’t Must Better,” *Forbes* (4 October 2012), Dana Gunders, “Wasted: How America is Losing Up to 40 Percent of Its Food from Farm to Fork to Landfill,” *National Resources Defense Council* (August 2012); Energy: Barry Fischer, “US Wastes 61-86% Of Its Energy,” *CleanTechnica* (26 August 2013); Health: Michael Galper et al, “The price of excess: Identifying waste in healthcare spending,” *PriceWaterhouseCoopers* (April 2008); Military: Scot Paltrow, “Behind the Pentagon’s doctored ledgers, a running tally of epic waste,” *Reuters* (18 November 2013), Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, “The US spends more on defense than the next eight countries combined,” *Peter G. Peterson Foundation* (13 April 2014), Perry Chiaramonte, “War on waste: Pentagon auditor spotlights US billions blown in Afghanistan,” *Fox News* (28 July 2014); Water: Robert David Steele, “Water: Soul of the Earth, Mirror of Our Collective Souls,” *Huffington Post* (7 January 2011). [↑](#endnote-ref-19)
20. My latest summary piece in relation to defense is “[The National Military Strategy: Dishonest Platitudes](http://www.counterpunch.org/2015/07/06/he-national-military-strategy-dishonest-platitudes/)” (*CounterPunch*, 6 July 2015). [↑](#endnote-ref-20)
21. John Dillin, “[How Eisenhower solved illegal border crossings from Mexico](http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0706/p09s01-coop.html),” *Christian Science Monitor*, 6 July 2006. Jobs lost to trade agreements and out-sourcing are jobs deliberately exported by US CEOs, not “stolen” by China. A commitment to full employment as a national priority, and a commitment to holistic analytics with true cost economics known for every product and service, would radically enhance domestic prosperity. [↑](#endnote-ref-21)
22. United Nations, [*A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility--Report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/9211009588/ossnet-20) (United Nations, 2004). LtGen Dr. Brent Scowcroft, USAF (Ret) was the US member of the panel. My Amazon review, [Seminal Work that Redirected My Life](http://www.amazon.com/review/R3TBHKWIURDO97/ref%3Dcm_cr_dp_title?ie=UTF8&ASIN=9211009588&channel=detail-glance&nodeID=283155&store=books), summarizes the book and its relevance. The other presidential-level primer is by J. R. Rischard, former World Bank Vice President for Europe, [*High Noon: 20 Global Problems, 20 Years To Solve Them*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0465070108/ossnet-20) (Basic Books, 2003). My Amazon review, [Straight-Forward, Understandable, URGENT, "Strong Buy"](http://www.amazon.com/review/R28KHPSYSQ7O6T/ref%3Dcm_cr_dp_title?ie=UTF8&ASIN=0465070108&channel=detail-glance&nodeID=283155&store=books) summarizes the book and links to other relevant books. My two meta lists of book reviews, [Worth a Look: Book Review Lists (Positive Future-Oriented)](http://www.phibetaiota.net/2010/07/worth-a-look-re-mixed-book-review-lists/) and [Worth a Look: Book Review Lists (Negative Status-Quo)](http://www.phibetaiota.net/2010/07/worth-a-look-book-review-lists-negative/) could also be useful to those who wish to think presidentially. [↑](#endnote-ref-22)
23. [OnTheIssues: Every Political Leader on Every Issue](http://www.ontheissues.org/Issues.htm), curated by Jesse Gordon. [↑](#endnote-ref-23)
24. My first political book, [*ELECTION 2008: Lipstick on the Pig*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00WGQURW2/ossnet-20) (Earth Intelligence Network: 2008) includes chapters free online, on [Paradigms of Failure](http://www.phibetaiota.net/2008/10/2008-paradigms-of-failure-election-2008-lipstick-on-the-pig-full-text-online-for-google-translate/), [Legitimate Grievances](http://www.phibetaiota.net/2008/10/2008-legitimate-grievances-us-citizens-versus-us-government-election-2008-lipstick-on-the-pig-full-text-online-for-google-translate/), and [The Substance of Governance](http://www.phibetaiota.net/2008/10/chapter-the-substance-of-governance/). [↑](#endnote-ref-24)
25. *Supra* notes 6 and 7. Parties are toxic. The whole point of being Independent or No Party Preference (NPP) is to be open to evidence-based decision-support and to avoid the financial, religious, and ideological blinders that are associated with individual parties. [↑](#endnote-ref-25)