

CleanSweepUSA

Manifesto

There is general loathing and disdain for politicians and political commentators of all stripes.

There is seething anger at governments and their well-connected cronies.

Our economic and political systems are dysfunctional and corrupted by big money.

The problems we face as a society will not be solved by political diatribes or ideologies by politicians competing to out-shout one another. They will only be solved through co-operation and collaborative efforts that seek long-term, sustainable results.

One could accuse politicians of leading from the rear on key issues impacting our communities, were they to show any signs of leadership.

As a result, there is a huge **trust gap** today between people and their political leaders, with some studies showing only 8% of Americans trust Congress to do the right thing.

We decry:

- the absence of statesmanship in our politicians
- unaccountable leaders
- overt and covert corruption in the political process
- politicians who cannot look beyond the next election
- those elected to leadership positions who cannot, or will not, make the hard choices we all understand to be necessary

We are tired of those who "play politics well," a game that is generally devoid of leadership.

We are tired of those who confuse their political game playing as leadership.

We are tired of parliaments divided and crippled into inaction by ideology.

The basis for common ground is mutual respect. Unfortunately this element is missing from a process that sees politics as a battleground that requires a "winner take all" result.

What will happen if the U.S. continues to elect a divided Congress? Voters are too divided to coalesce around either party or any charismatic leader. As we have seen in the U.S. and other parts of the world, charisma does not always bring with it leadership capabilities. But how to stop this? How do we change this?

Collective and individual action can bring about change and a return to political infrastructure being used to improve the lives of all citizens, not just line the pockets of

politicians who consider themselves to have entered the privileged class by virtue of their election victories.

On the other hand, we also believe:

- democracy is the most viable political structure and has a long track record in providing greatest amount of benefits for the greater community
- our political system is not broken, but has merely been hijacked by many who are using it for their own gains and purposes instead of the common good
- in the resiliency of the American people to overcome trials and tribulations by engaging in massive action to ensure that the Founding Principles of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" will never be curtailed
- that there are those amongst us who see public service as an honorable call of duty and are willing to serve their fellow citizens without seeking financial or other gains for themselves

We do not want to see our children become the first generation in history to have a lower level of living standards than their parents. Yes, there may be short-term pain for some (or many), but if that is what it takes to ensure a better world for our children and grandchildren some temporary discomfort is acceptable.

We cannot continue to ignore the policies of confrontation in the hopes that these will not impact us directly, for they do. We cannot continue to ignore the practices of political confrontation in the hopes that these will go away over time, for they will not.

Rather, we believe collaborative action is required. As such, we call for the greatest Protest Vote in history, one aimed at all incumbents no matter our personal party preferences or political persuasions.

We hope this initiative will encourage those sitting on the fence, and those wanting to change the field of politics to a collaborative one, to enter the political arena and contribute to the ousting of incumbents at all levels of government.

This initiative will support no specific candidates, parties or ballot initiatives.

We understand and agree that there are some very good individuals current in office. However, no matter how good their intentions and beliefs, they have been unable to halt the existing politics of destruction. Hence, by definition they are part of the problem, even though they may consider themselves part of the solution.

Quite simply, we have had enough and are not willing to accept the status quo of politics anymore. We want our elected officials to be leaders who collaborate for the common good of the citizenry, not those who compromise from staunchly held polarizing views to create weak policies that merely ensure continued inane political dialogue and commentary.

We do not want politicians who think they have all the answers. Rather, we want honest, capable people who ask all the right questions on our behalf and who will work together to formulate responsible policies and solutions that will help create a better world for our children and grandchildren.

As such, we pledge to:

- exercise our right to vote.
- cast our votes only for candidates who are not currently office holders seeking re-election.
- withhold our votes for any and all incumbents, of all political persuasions and even if the individual is perceived as doing a good job, in at least 75% of all balloted races, including primary, general and run-off elections.
- vote only for individual candidates (not parties) who pledge to seek long-term solutions through collaboration and who promise to listen to and weigh the merits of all proposals put forth before commenting upon or dismissing them.
- refuse to donate any money, time or other resources to any incumbent candidate in any primary, general or run-off election.
- actively spread the CleanSweep message to our professional and personal social networks.

It is time for a change.

It is time for We the People to have meaning again.

It is time for a Clean Sweep of politics in America.

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