

COMMON SENSE
REVISITED

Common Sense Revisited – written by an American

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This book is about how we can take our government back from the current ruling oligarchy - comprised of Democrat power brokers, Republican power brokers, and the moneyed interests that pull their strings - and restore governmental power to the citizens.

If that sort of thing interests you, please read it through.

If that sort of thing is of no interest to you, please just close the book and move on.

Either way, thanks for looking in.

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Preface

Introduction:

We have over 160 MILLION registered voters in America, and the technological tools to allow average citizens to provide meaningful input into the making of our laws. Especially those laws that can do the most damage to ordinary citizens when the lawmakers have been corrupted by the political process. With all the resources we have today, we can effect change before those laws are passed.

But, that isn't happening now.

Were the founding fathers to be back among us today, they would be astonished at how many ways today's clever professional career politicians have found to circumvent the intentions they had for making America's government of, for, and by the people being governed. What we have now is a government of, for, and by the elected government officials and their friends and campaign contributors.

Period.

A major premise of this book is that 273 representatives (a simple majority of the House and Senate combined) and one President are not adequate representation in the areas of lawmaking most subject to the effects of corruption by politicians. All of those 273 Congress persons - and the one President - have built-in personal biases (and perhaps some campaign payback promises too) that may very well render them unable to vote in ways that would be inclusive of the wishes of the majority of 160,000,000+ citizens eligible to vote.

So, they just rationalize voting the way that serves their personal biases and helps them pay back campaign promises to the big spenders. And then they spend a lot of time trying to explain to the rest of the country how they expect their votes will be good for the little guys too..... in the long, long run.

Almost all of us can agree that our Congress is a largely dis-functional organization now and has been for many years. We've tried all-Democrats, all-Republicans, some of both at the same time, and most recently Trump against the world... and none of them made things any better. In fact, things keep getting worse for a majority of citizens living in America now. Optimism itself is in danger in America, the land that once defined optimism and opportunity for all of its citizens.

The conventional wisdom of the day says we must continue to choose between the lesser of Democrat and Republican-party evils in terms of selecting our representatives in government... and then just hope for the best.

But, when that conventional wisdom has failed over a long period of time to solve our problems, history teaches us that it is typically the case that the conventional wisdom itself is wrong.

Remember that at various points in time in the past the conventional wisdom said that the earth was flat; that the earth was the center of the universe and that the sun and moon and all the stars revolved around it every day; and that self-government could never succeed in practice (because philosopher kings were thought to be necessary). Also, not too long ago, conventional wisdom called for doctors to put leeches on patients to "bleed" the sickness from their bodies. Now, doctors "immunize" their patients by injecting modified germs into patients to help their immune systems fend off diseases.

Conventional wisdom is often wrong, and time has a way of exposing the errors.

Part 1 of this book lays the groundwork for most of what follows. It starts by saying that we need a viable third political party that can first stop the madness and corruption, and then return America's government to its citizens.

This part describes seventeen ways in which government actions over the past several decades have precipitated some truly dreadful changes

in our country. Changes that did nothing to make us better individually or collectively as a country. Changes instead that benefitted a small minority of citizens at the expense of the great majority of our citizens.

All of the negative changes to our country were fought for and implemented by some combination of Democrats and Republicans in Congresses and Administrations at the Federal level. This section of the book talks about why the other existing small parties out there now haven't been able to halt or repair the damages done to a majority of citizens by the Democrats and Republicans in the past, and why they won't be able to get that job done in the future either.

The Democrats and Republicans are still totally in charge and going full speed ahead with more of the same time-worn and failed policies that they have always promoted in the past, set upon dividing up the spoils of America among just themselves, their friends, and their major campaign contributors. Their plans (both Democrats and Republicans) include policies (planks in their party platforms) that either deny or completely ignore basic economic and political realities that the rest of us are forced to deal with face-to-face on a daily basis 24/7, 365 days a year, and 366 days in leap years.

Part 2 examines the possible political party options we have in terms of taking back our country from the current combination of Democrat and Republican professional politicians, and expands on why no existing political party, including the Democrats and the Republicans, can be expected to do better in the future than they have in the past. It has to do with factoring today's economic and political realities into the programs they continue to promote. Realities that both the Democrats and Republicans believe they can ignore and things will still work out.

Part 3 is the list of economic and political realities that any political party, in order to keep its promises, must factor into their policies, programs, and the laws they propose to enact.

Part 4 is the draft for a new political platform: The Mid-American Party. Like all the other party platforms, this one starts out being much longer on desire than capabilities. However, beyond this point, the book you're holding gets into outlining a plan for amending our Constitution in ways that will allow the citizens back into the game in really meaningful ways. Once we reach that point, all of the pieces of The Mid-American Party Platform that aren't possible now, will become not just possibilities, but certainties, regardless of what political party is running things at the time.

Part 5 we'll explore, together, the possibility of forcing a Constitutional Convention in the event that the politicians refuse to allow the citizens to participate directly in the making of the legislation that has the most life-altering impacts on the majority of America's citizens.

Part 6 The 21st Century Bill of Right is a list of 10 new amendments we need to have added to our Constitution to level the playing field for all citizens. Along with each proposed Constitutional amendment, is the reasoning behind proposing that amendment.

Part 7 discusses the need for our citizens (not the politicians or the media) to set the agenda for debate and decide in what direction we want to take our country going forward. It will entail generating a national consensus on what our problems are, and deciding the order of priorities that we expect our government to take towards solving those problems.

This section includes a sample spreadsheet that might serve as a starting point for gathering the data needed for the citizens to decide which problems are most important, and also to decide in which order the government should be directed to work on them.

And, a way to make sure the politicians follow through and do what we tell them to do.

Part 8 proposes a 4-step strategy whereby our government can be reclaimed from the present oligarchy comprised of Democrats and Republicans in office and their wealthy backers (the new oligarchs); and restructured to do what the founders intended at the outset, namely: to be a **government of, by, and for the PEOPLE.**

If and when...

If the founders had been able to envision in 1788 how our society would be impacted by technology over the next 230 years it's not just possible, but probable, that they would have proposed the (ten) **21st Century Bill of Rights** amendments to our Constitution themselves.

When even one of the four steps outlined herein (see Part 8) succeeds, we get our country back and we can restore the dreams that were lost before the negative changes - all precipitated by some combination of Democrats and Republicans "working together," "hands across the aisle" – worked their black magic on our society.

When all four steps are ultimately successful, and they certainly can all be successful, we can then rest assured those restored dreams will stay restored.

For a long, long time.

Part 1

Why America Needs a Viable Third Political Party

When the Founding Fathers voted in 1776 to secede from England, they first prepared a list of grievances. When penning the Declaration of Independence, their list began with these words:

“When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

It was important to the Founders in 1776 that everyone in the world know and understand why they intended to break away from England.

Now it is the year 2019, some 243 years after the Declaration of Independence was written, and the time has come again to change the political landscape in America. In 1776 the Founders were setting out to free themselves from being held captive by a tyrannical King and his oligarchy (the Lords and Nobles) in England. Now we are setting out to free ourselves from being held captive by another tyrannical oligarchy; the Congress of the United States and the moneyed interests (oligarchs) that dictate their actions; dominated by two political parties who have done great damage to our country over the past 70 years' time.

Over (most especially) the past 70 years, the landscape in America has changed considerably. Technology aside, the biggest and most life altering changes have been precipitated by legislative actions of the

Federal Government. Over the past 70 years' time government control has at times been guided by the Democratic party and at other times by the Republican party. In every instance where fundamental changes have occurred, a majority of the entire Congress had to agree, and a sitting president had to concur, regardless of which party had a simple majority in one house or the other at the time, and which party the president was affiliated with. No party other than the Democrat or Republican parties has had any meaningful input into the legislative process at the federal level in the last 70 years' time.

What follows is a list of “fundamental changes” to our country that these two parties have fought for and been able to implement over that 70-year period: these changes have all had very negative effects on America's middle-classes and poorest citizens, but have had very positive effects on the country's most well-off citizens (the “new” oligarchs).

This list of negative changes in our society represents the grievances that compel the founding of a third political party capable of offsetting the damaging acts of the Democrat and Republican political parties. Not only have these fundamental changes had negative and painful effects on America's middle classes and poorest citizens, they have also negatively affected America's reputation among the other nations of the world over the past 70 years' time.

Like the Founder's list in 1776, the 2019 list of grievances that follows is a long one.

Fundamental changes in American society over the past 70 years' time, all championed, fought for and implemented by Democrats and Republicans:

From: A country where good paying jobs were plentiful and paid enough so that on average only one person in a family needed to work outside the home to provide a comfortable standard of living, including the ability to pay as you go for things like food, clothing, shelter, transportation, medical attention, education, recreational activities, and retirement...

To: A country where in a majority of households, everyone of age in a family must work outside the home for the family to survive and pay its bills. Tens of millions of children are raised by “caregivers” like day care centers and baby sitters (and sometimes left home alone with TV sets) due to both parents having to work at jobs outside the home. Citizens commonly incur debt on a daily or weekly basis by way of using credit cards to pay for everyday subsistence purchases like food because they no longer earn enough to pay for these things out of their paychecks.

From: A country respected, admired, and envied by the rest of the world...

To: A country derided, attacked and mocked by the rest of the world.

From: A country with the acknowledged best and most reasonably priced educational systems in the world, where children were literate and schooled in the history and operating principles of their country, and where critical thinking skills were taught from grade school up through college...

To: A country where “revised versions” of history and civics are taught, critical thinking skills are absent from the curriculum at all school levels, and most of the children graduating from high school and college are functionally illiterate and ignorant of their country’s history and place in the world. A country where schools can charge upwards of \$130,000 for room, board, books and tuition needed to earn just a bachelor’s degree for students wishing to attend college.

From: A country where civil servants like Congress persons were looked up to as leaders...

To: A country where Senators and Representatives in Congress are in the majority looked on as generally dishonest, unprincipled, disingenuous, spinners of the facts, for sale to the highest bidder, and ones whose words cannot be taken at face value.

From: A country whose large business institutions were looked up to as being not only profitable for the owners, but also were civic minded and who showed some measure of concern for their workers and their country in general...

To: A country where the major business institutions are looked on as temporary in nature, built primarily to be sold, and headed by management teams that care nothing about the company’s employees or the country in general, but care only about their own personal bank account balances; institutions whose CEO’s are willing to sacrifice all the other employees of the company to benefit themselves personally.

From: A country whose currency was looked on as the cornerstone of the world’s economy...

To: A country whose currency is of increasingly questionable value and is no longer accepted in trade in a growing number of countries around the world.

From: A country whose general economy was based on high paying manufacturing jobs, and was considered the soundest on earth...

To: A country whose economy is based on low paying service industry jobs, and whose treasury assets consist mainly of un-backed (digital or paper) debt instruments, and whose economy is among the most likely to fail completely unless continually propped up by other countries buying our debt instruments.

From: A country based primarily on the capitalist economic philosophy where stock “markets” were operated to help entrepreneurs find capital for the startup of new businesses and for funding the growth of established businesses. A country where businesses were operated primarily to produce a product or service of value, and thereby keep America at the forefront of business development worldwide, and continue providing good jobs for the country’s workforce...

To: A country without a stock “market” of any kind, but with many stock “exchanges” where stock “traders” (snake oil salesmen) continually buy and resell already existing (previously issued and sold) stock certificates, taking a “commission” on each buy or sell order; which benefits them whether their customers profit or not; and where no additional products or services or anything else of value is ever produced as a result of these stock “trades”; and where the lives of the company employees whose existing stock certificates are being traded are of no concern to the stock traders.

From: A country that went to war against tyrants when necessary to save themselves or to save the world...

To: A country that will routinely go to war to prop up a government enabled military-industrial partnership that has become a de-facto

government institution. A country that continually goes to war on nouns like poverty, drugs, ignorance, illegal immigration, abortions, guns, and terror purely for the sake of distracting the citizens' attention away from the fact that the government is incapable of even defining, let alone coming up with solutions to, the underlying **structural** problems facing our society. And, a country that will always go to war for money.

From: A country where operation of the government originally required citizens to contribute 1.5% of their gross income in the form of federal Social Security taxes, and a maximum of 3% of their gross income in the form of “income” taxes...

To: A country where operation of the government now requires citizens to contribute more than 15% of their income for Social Security and Medicare and another 15-36% in other kinds of (mostly income-based) taxes too. And that's just the Federal taxes. Citizens also have State, County, and Municipal taxes to pay. And of course, citizens pay the corporation's taxes for them as well, hidden away in the prices the corporations charge for their goods and services. The estimated average total tax burden changed from 4+ % of gross income once, to 52+ % of gross income now.

From: A country where citizens ran for public office to spend a short time in civil service to their country as a way of paying back all that their country had given to them and their families. A country where corruption in government was the exception to the rule, and was punished when it occurred...

To: A country where “professional” career politicians seek to gain and hold public office for as long as humanly possible as a means of getting their faces known, their pockets lined, a book deal or two (where someone else writes the books) and they take all the credit (and money) for it. Most of today's politicians are in office for the great

salaries, perks, benefits, healthcare and retirement income... all without ever once doing anything worthwhile for anyone except themselves; where exposed corruption is commonplace... and mostly goes unpunished.

From: A country whose immigration policies were respected by the rest of the world's nations...

To: A country whose President and Congress bow to foreign governments that demand that we treat illegal immigrants from other countries better than we treat legal citizens of our own country; where the corrupt politicians of other countries have come into our own country and admonished our President - telling him what he should do about silencing anyone who disagrees with letting in a flood of illegal immigrants from his country. A country whose President, upon being so treated, does not even have the corrupt politician promptly escorted out of our country for being so presumptuous, rude, arrogant, and disrespectful.

From: A country where individuals preferred to take responsibility themselves for the outcome of their lives, and one where most citizens worked tirelessly to leave behind for their children a better country than their parents had left behind for them...

To: A country where citizens have been conditioned to complain to government about the outcome of their lives not being what they planned and hoped for; where the majority of citizens have been conditioned to accept begging for handouts from the government rather than forcing the government to create an environment where begging was unnecessary; and half of the citizens are just too bone-tired from fighting every day to keep their heads above water financially to have enough energy left over to spend the time and energy needed to help make the country they're turning over to their

children not only a better one than they inherited from their parents, but perhaps a much worse one instead.

From: A country whose government zealously protected its citizens rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and protected its citizens from assault from all quarters, whether coming from within or without the nation's borders, including assaults on their livelihoods...

To: A country whose government operates with a total disregard for the citizens' rights to life, liberty, and a pursuit of happiness, and willingly sacrifices the livelihood of half the citizens living in the country, relegating them to live on the fringes of poverty for their entire lives... all in the name of a nebulous commercial philosophy called "free markets," promoted by the moneyed (commercial) interests and the money changers (bankers), and implemented by bought-and-paid-for professional career politicians; which works to the advantage of the moneyed interests, the money changers, and the bought and paid for professional career politicians, and possibly some other nations around the world, but always at the expense of the middle-class and poorest citizens living in America.

From: A country where the citizens were encouraged by the elected officials to become knowledgeable about the government's operations, and where election debates periodically provided meaningful information to the citizens so that the government's operation reflected the wishes of an informed electorate. A country where the fourth estate (now called the media) had convictions and held politicians' feet to the fire, asking them meaningful questions about the problems facing the country, and what their plans were for solving those problems....

To: A country where the citizens are, with the blessings of the elected officials, indoctrinated completely by a knowledge-free and conviction-free media who care nothing about the welfare of the country, but instead care only about their ratings and income from

selling commercial time and advertising space. A media that follows the professional career politicians around like so many lap dogs, picking up and repeating and/or arguing about the politicians' ramblings on the "hot" topic of the day. A media that encourages the professional politicians to speak in dumbed-down "sound bites" that they can understand themselves and feel capable of passing along to an even more dumbed-down electorate. A media whose spokespeople never once in their lives ask the politicians to talk about any of the problems facing the country, and what they might do to help solve any of them. A media instead, that lets the professional career politicians set the agenda for debate... every time... because it's good for their business... regardless of the consequences to our country.

From: A country whose Courts of Justice were established to secure citizens' rights to fair and equal treatment under the laws, both criminal and civil...

To: A country where no laws are ever considered for discussion in either house of Congress that are intended to treat all citizens equally. A country where the judges in the courts have been reduced to referees ensuring those in the court are following the rules of criminal and/or civil procedure during court room activities - but where Justice is no longer a goal of any court action. A country whose government has stacked the deck against its citizens in civil court actions, and routinely uses its powers and the citizens own taxes against them in civil suits as well as in criminal actions, to coerce citizens into accepting painful, lesser-of-evils choices, rather than seeking true Justice - because they don't have the money needed to defend themselves.

Money = Justice in our brave new world

Compliments of the Democrats and Republicans.

From: A nation whose anti-trust laws acted to suppress and hopefully eliminate monopolistic commercial practices so as to preserve jobs for the working class, and keep prices low...

To: A nation whose government no longer even gives lip service to enforcing the anti-trust laws and now openly supports and endorses commercial monopolies by allowing mergers between already gigantic enterprises, completely disregarding the damage done to the working citizens of the “merged” companies, and by doing so, assuring that the accumulation of the majority of our nation’s wealth is put into the hands of a small minority of the nation’s citizens.

Part 2

Options for Finding Our Way Out of the Swamp

I. Dumping the Democrats and Republicans?

First off, do these grievances warrant scrapping both the Democrat and Republican Parties entirely? That is a judgement call that needs to be made at the individual level, citizen by citizen. The list of grievances against both the Democrat and Republican parties *is long and extremely damaging and something absolutely needs to be done to reign both of them in.*

The best alternative may be keeping them both in place but relegating them to minor standing. After all, any new party that comes to power may, after a while, turn out to be just as susceptible to corruption of thought and deed as the two that we have now. If the Democrats and Republicans are still around, they may be able to temper any new party's tendency to profit at their expense - just as the Democrats and Republicans have repeatedly profited at the expense of America's citizens up to now, when no moderating force has been available to temper their actions against the middle-class citizens in America, and America's poorest citizens.

At the outset, a new party's congressional members, even in limited numbers, could serve to make it much more difficult for the old guard (highest priced) Democrats and Republicans to continue abusing their powers going forward (as they have routinely done in the past). *After all, it is those abuses of power that led to the list of grievances that preceded this section of this book.*

As the new party's numbers grow, the new party can not only act to moderate unwise and/or dangerous Democrat and Republican policies, but can also begin implementing policies of their own.

II. But why start up another new Political Party? Don't we have enough of those already? And what about those Independents?

We do in fact have over 30 political parties currently in the United States at the federal level and many more at the state and regional levels. Most of them seldom, if ever, field a candidate for any federal office. Most don't have a published philosophy for governing, and many are "limited issue" parties having an ax to grind over one or two "issues" that they feel strongly about (taxes, abortions, prayer in schools, education, immigration, gun control, joblessness, off-shoring jobs, racial bias, gender bias, global warming, terrorist threats, legalizing marijuana, healthcare costs, capital punishment, inflation, the increasing numbers of homeless people, children going hungry, etc. etc. etc.). As such, most of these little-known political parties stay that way (little known).

Beyond these there are some other slightly larger parties that have not to-date been able to garner much in the way of popular support. These would include (but are not limited to) the Libertarians, Communists, Constitution Party, Progressives, Socialists, Green Party, Tea Party, and the Reform Party.

In 1992, Independents garnered almost 19% of the vote for President of the United States when Ross Perot was their candidate. Since then, some of them formally grouped into a party (the Independent American Party) but they have only averaged about an 0.8% showing at the polls. However, they have a platform and by-laws and a presence in several states. Two members of Congress are affiliated with the IAP.

III. Unaffiliated Independent Citizens.

As opposed to *organized* Independent Party members, unaffiliated independent citizens are much greater in number. Possibly there are as many citizens indicating that they are “independent” and not really solidly affiliated with any political party, as in both the Democrat and Republican parties combined! Some are possibly still registered as Democrats or Republicans but do not necessarily vote that way in elections. The unaffiliated independents are potentially a force to be reckoned with. But at present, they are totally disorganized and ineffectual.

There are probably as many opinions about how to change things for the better among the unorganized independents as there are unorganized independents. If they were ever to come together under a common flag, with a common goal and sense of direction, they could likely rule the country.

Both the Democrats and Republicans court the Independents at election time because they need their votes to get elected, but once the elections are over, the politicians ignore them completely. As things now stand in 2019, the unorganized Independents are unlikely to be a significant force in the government at any level. At least in the near term.

IV. The most viable alternative – a third political party designed to actually work in the real world of 2019 and beyond.

Most, if not all, of the existing political party’s platforms have strong points and weak points. It is the weak points that render them incapable of becoming parties able to represent more than a small minority of citizens. That, in turn, mostly relegates them to “small party” status. Small party status generally equates to being ineffective at the national level.

The weak points in all other parties' platforms appear to result from holding forth promises that can never be met. People instinctively see through these fallacies and dismiss the party platform overall because they know the party will never be able to fulfill their overambitious promises.

At the same time, no-one should unduly criticize the zealotry that results in the exaggerated promises that small parties make. These are passionate people, the majority of whom love their country and are trying - harder than most of us - to effect a positive change. That they may sometimes overstate their capabilities can be chalked up to their enthusiasm. No harm, no foul. At best, they may be right - or at least partially right - and at worst, even when they are flat out wrong, they are still some of the better ones among us, because they care enough to at least get involved and try.

But regardless of high ideals, enthusiasm will only stretch so far. Then **Reality** sets in.

Reality is the rock for which all ships carrying a political party platform must keep a constant and careful eye. They may not sail wherever they wish without taking heed of it. Many such ships have ultimately been dashed upon it, leaving their crews marooned. **Reality** can be a sobering experience if you are not prepared for it.

For any party to be successful long term, it must incorporate the realities of the economic and political landscape into their promises to first: have any chance of being believed by the citizens, and second: to have any chance of their promises being fulfilled.

Most political realities can be reduced to single-sentence statements, like axioms. Axioms are, as you all know, statements that are universally accepted as true without physical proof. Euclid originated

and used the first axioms in laying out his mathematical proofs in plane geometry.

Axioms are important in any problem-solving exercise. All proofs ultimately depend on axiomatic support:

Because proving things like two parallel straight lines in/on the same flat plane will never intersect would require going in at least two directions to infinity and would be time consuming and cumbersome - assuming it were possible - we simply accept as true - without verified physical proof - that parallel straight lines in the same flat plane never meet; because no one has been able to cite a single instance in recorded history where two parallel straight lines in the same flat plane did intersect. (It's one of Euclid's axioms.)

If anyone comes back from a trip out to infinity in even one direction with proof to the contrary, we will have to re-visit that axiom, which has stood for 2300 years and served Euclid very well in constructing his proofs of theorems in plane geometry (and some other math fields as well). Until then, we will just have to continue to accept as true that parallel straight lines in the same flat plane will never intersect.

Along the lines of generating a list of political and economic realities for your review, the list that follows (Part 3) is comprised of "realities" that can similarly be considered axiomatic (true), because in thousands of years of recorded human history, not a single instance of their not being true can be found.

Additionally, we do need a list of political and economic realities to compare any promises made to the citizens against, for purposes of assigning a probability that the promise might actually be kept.

The following list of political and economic realities represents a litmus test of the validity of whatever platform "planks" (policy

statements) any party might come up with. When a platform plank seeks to ignore, negate, or bypass a reality check, it should be dropped from the list.

A lot of platform “planks” in most of the 30+ political party platforms out there, including the Democrat and Republican platforms, are window-dressings and make for better platitudes than promises. This is especially the case when the party doesn’t really have a plan for implementing any of them. And in some instances, they also don’t really have any intention of implementing them.

It is one thing to say that we stand for equal treatment for all citizens under the laws. It is quite another thing to implement a plan for making that happen. (That’s why it hasn’t yet been done.)

Promises without a plan or means to back them up will not be kept. People instinctively understand that. And that, in turn, is why most of those 30+ small political parties never amount to anything much.

This also applies to the current Democrat and Republican party platforms.

Part 3

Political and Economic Realities

For a political Party to actually accomplish worthwhile objectives in the real world, it will be necessary for the party's platform and stated policies, and more importantly the party members themselves, to become adept at mixing conservative approaches (to meet the needs of business and government) with liberal approaches (to meet purely social needs). The all-or-nothing approaches (all capitalism or all socialism) won't work universally in the future, just as they have never worked universally in the past.

All played out against a backdrop of political and economic realities that have been too often ignored.

The Realities:

1. The poor and sick will always be with us. How we care for them will be the ultimate measure of us and our society.
2. Technology will continue to make human labor obsolete at a faster rate than it will create new and worthwhile jobs.
3. Medical advances will continue to increase average lifespans.
4. Self-interest rules the world today and always will.
5. All governments succumb to corruption in time and need to be replaced when the corruption becomes too widespread.
6. Capitalism is the most effective economic structure for fostering innovation and creating wealth.

7. Socialism is the most effective economic structure for meeting the purely social needs of a society.
8. Justice can only exist when all citizens are treated equally under the laws.
9. The value of money or goods in any form is whatever people assign to it. (Sellers only set asking prices. Buyers set all final sales prices. Government printed securities/currencies are no exception.)
10. The human population is expanding at unsustainable rates in every country causing major societal disruptions and both human and environmental disasters on an increasingly frequent basis.
11. Giantism leads to extinction... in animals, people, businesses, governments, and societies.
12. People only obey laws that they believe are fair and not totally stupid.
13. The government cannot put all law breakers in prison... not even close.
14. All wars are initiated for money and/or territory.
15. The laws of supply and demand are immutable. (Scarcity causes prices to increase; over-abundance causes prices to decrease).

Societies that recognize these realities and find a way to weave them all into a tapestry that covers and embraces all of their citizens in a just and fair way will endure.

Societies that fail to do this will not.

Part 4

Platform for a Proposed New MID-AMERICAN PARTY©

As outlined in our Constitution, the purpose of America's government should be to maintain and protect the Union, establish and ensure Justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty for all of its citizens.

In furtherance of these guiding principles, the government should conduct its business so that the following expectations are always met for every citizen:

1. Every American citizen shall be provided with a guarantee of the government's protection from assault on their God given rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, from all quarters, whether foreign or domestic, including from the government itself.
2. The first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution were put in place to ensure that no one or no government may ever interfere with any honest citizen's pursuit of his/her God given rights. These rights are inviolate and may not be abridged.
3. Every American citizen shall be provided with the guarantee of perfectly equal treatment and protection under the laws.
4. Every American citizen shall be provided with the guarantee that the powers of their Government will always be used to secure the general welfare of all of America's citizens, including the assurance that the welfare of American workers will be protected from predatory and/or

monopolistic practices of governments and/or commercial interests, whether foreign or domestic.

5. Every American citizen shall be provided with the guarantee of unhindered opportunity to succeed financially in any honest endeavor free of interference by their government, so long as their actions do not in any way endanger any other citizen or citizens or violate the rights of any other citizen or citizens, or irreparably damage the environment.

6. Included in the opportunities guaranteed to each citizen shall be the opportunity to strive and fail as well as to strive and succeed.

The government shall not enter into the business of subsidizing for-profit individual or group business ventures of any kind.

7. Government shall not insure individual citizens or groups of citizens against financial losses from natural disasters of any kind unless by Referendum vote by all citizens who are eligible to vote, and a plurality of 51% or more of those eligible to vote voting in favor the citizens first decide to establish and maintain a trust fund to be used for such purposes, the proceeds of such trust fund to be unavailable for any other purpose. Any such trust fund not to be funded at any time or in any way with borrowed money.

8. Government is obliged to provide a level playing field for all citizens involved in civil litigation with the government, including equivalent-quality legal representation in all respects; and government is obliged to provide a level playing field to citizens arguing for or against Referendum measures prior to Referendum votes being taken.

9. Government control of coining money, in any form, including debt instruments of all kinds, shall be predicated on specie¹ to be held in offsetting amounts in the National Treasury. Government cumulative borrowings at any point in time to be limited to the ½ of the total value of the specie held in the nation’s Treasury vaults, unless otherwise first decided by a majority (51+%) vote of all citizens eligible to vote, voting in favor, in a Referendum on the question.

10. Monies collected by the government for a specific purpose (i.e. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, welfare, unemployment, etc.) may not be used directly or indirectly for any other purpose.

11. Payouts to citizens from government programs in any form shall not be subject to taxation by any tax authority. This includes, but is not limited to, Social Security, Medicare, Unemployment, food stamps, natural disaster relief, tax refunds, and disability payments.

12. Government is obligated to always use current technologies to keep citizens informed of governmental actions on Congress’s part including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Constant monitoring, and televising, and publicizing the activities of elected and appointed government officials and

¹ Specie - something material having generally accepted and uniform intrinsic value like a precious metal or other rare commodity of high worth in the worldwide marketplace. Not an IOU or promissory note of any kind...i.e., nothing written on a piece (or pieces) of paper or held electronically as an image or otherwise not a concrete material object.

Non-physical currencies should not be equated to accepted physical specie forms as a way of giving the non-physical currencies legitimacy as far as treasury holdings are concerned.

Accepted specie should be impossible to forge or manipulate and intended to represent the true wealth of the nation at all times. As such the treasury holdings in accepted specie should not be “traded” for other dissimilar currencies at a pre-determined exchange rate at any time.

their contacts with persons both inside and outside of the government.

- Promoting public policy that minimizes prices to the citizens of essential commodities.
- Providing a level playing field to all candidates for (federal) public office during elections.
- Educating citizens regarding the state of their country weekly (with built in penalties for lying).
- Providing a secure means of submitting initiative petitions to the citizens for their approval.
- Providing a secure means to (optionally) vote remotely from home or anywhere where the worldwide web is available in all federal elections and on all Referendums and Initiatives.
- Providing a secure means for gathering data to be used in creating a national consensus re: what the citizens wish the government to accomplish, including establishing priorities between competing needs, and including publishing same annually, subject to independent audits.

Matters Deemed Too Important to be left up to the Congress and Administrative Branches only

Matters deemed too important to be left up to Congress and the Administration alone and which must be decided by Referendum votes of the entire eligible-to-vote citizenship to include:

- The overall annual spending limit imposed on the government for each year's government activities to cover all government activities (in total), including but not limited to: defense, administration, social security, Medicare, Medicaid, any other "entitlements" that citizens vote to retain, foreign aid, funding of existing departments, healthcare for government employees, government pensions, and disaster relief.

- The percentage of annual monetary increases or decreases in government sponsored social contracts for and with individuals (currently sometimes called entitlements) that citizens elect for the government to continue to manage.

- The amount of total income to the government annually to be allocated for aid to other countries.

- The amount of total income to the government annually to be set aside for disaster relief.

- Whether or not to use military force in instances where no direct frontal threat to the nation or its territories or possessions exists, and/or no imminent independently verified threat to national security has been confirmed to the satisfaction of a simple majority of the nations' citizens.

- The number of immigrants that will be permitted to come into the country temporarily each year, and the number of immigrants that will be permitted to become permanent citizens each year.
- The compensation levels and types of compensation, including pensions and health coverage of Federal employees, Congress members, Administration officials, Cabinet heads, and Appellate Court justices, including justices of the Supreme Court.
- The types of taxes, methods of taxation and collection of taxes by the federal government.
- The acceptable specie types to be held in the nation's treasury vaults.
- The unitary value of the specie(s) selected for the Specie(s) to be held in the National Treasury.
- The total amount of new debt that the government shall be allowed to incur which obligates repayment from the national treasury (raising the government's debt limit). A simple majority of all citizens who are eligible to vote must vote in favor in a national Referendum for any non-budget approved upward revisions in the national debt limit.

Plus:

- Constitutional amendments when needed to ensure a level playing field for the citizens and allowing for direct citizen involvement in drafting and passing all legislation of a life-altering nature for citizens. (i.e. What kind of tax collection we should have, should we continue wars that have no direct impact on our nation, how much money should the government be able to print up for themselves without adding any for the general citizenry, disallowing laws that provide unequal treatment of citizens, assuring citizens have the means of

defending themselves in civil suits brought by government agencies and mega-corps, etc..)

- Shifting priorities as necessary to free up funding for a national healthcare program that applies to all citizens equally, provides first-rate health care including dental and eyecare, has no upper dollar limits per citizen, covers all health conditions regardless of date of onset or duration, covers all medications prescribed by a professional doctor or dentist. And is affordable by every citizen. (It won't be that hard. We are almost half of the way there already).
- All elections for federal officials must include the “none of the above” choice for voters to choose from as well as all candidate names and political parties. Referendum and Initiative measures submitted to the citizens for voting must also include the option to vote “none of the above” as one of the legitimate options for citizens to select from.

Part 5

Making the Case for a Constitutional Convention if Needed

Over the past 243 years, crafty politicians have found ways to get around the laws originally passed to keep them from abusing their positions of power in our government. On some occasions they have even been able to circumvent the Constitution itself. Mostly however, they craft laws beneath the Constitutional level that are clearly outside the scope of what the Founders intended to be allowed. In the very great majority of instances, these laws are intended only to further the interests of the Government, financial institutions, and the interests of those supporting the politicians and their parties financially – not the citizenry.

Enacting new laws or modifying existing laws that allow politicians to circumvent the will of the people is routinely done by rounding up 51% of the politician’s votes. Not all that hard to do when more than 51% of the politicians have openly signaled that they can be bought, and the President can be counted on to sign these bills into law.

The Founders, perhaps most notably James Madison from among them, anticipated the time when crafty politicians would perfect ways of passing laws beneath the Constitutional level aimed at circumventing the intentions laid down in the document they were working so hard to bring forth. So, in part because of that, they included Article V in the original document.

Article V of the Constitution relates to making amendments to the original document. In part, Article V provides for amendments being proposed not just by the Congress, but also by way of the State’s

Legislatures coming together to propose individual new Constitutional amendments.

Article V also provides that a 2/3 majority of the State's Legislatures can petition the Congress in Washington to convene a Constitutional Convention for purposes of proposing and debating new amendments and possibly other changes to the Constitution as well.

If 2/3 of the states petition Congress to hold a Constitutional Convention, Congress is obligated open a convention that allows representatives from every state to propose amendments to be voted on by the attendees of the convention. 3/4 of the states must ratify any proposed amendment(s), and any other changes agreed to at the convention, for the ratified amendment(s) to become part of the amended Constitution and the law of the land.

The President has no part in the amendment process (aside from personally lobbying for any amendments, one way or the other. His/her approval and signature are not required.

Because laws **beneath** the Constitutional level are so readily made/alterd by a relative few members of Congress, founder Thomas Jefferson favored making any law that placed limits on the politicians' abilities to abuse their powers operational by way of amending the Constitution. Quoting Jefferson, we should ***“bind them down with the chains of the Constitution.”*** There are so many people exposed to a proposed new law, and the reasons why it has been proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, that it is very difficult for the politicians to reverse or ignore a law that places limits on them at the Constitutional level.

Politicians don't like laws that place legal limits on their actions. Politicians also don't like having their actions displayed in the full light of day. Constitutional amendments generally limit politicians'

actions and expose them to the full light of day. Politicians don't like the great majority of Constitutional amendments. Politicians especially don't like the thought of the states convening a Constitutional Convention where all of their powers might be subject to modification or possibly outright elimination.

To avoid the possibility of a Constitutional Convention being convened, politician's *might*, when faced with such a prospect, take steps to amend the Constitution themselves using the other avenue open to them under Article V, even if they are personally against doing it.

In February 2018, we all witnessed our Congress and government at one of their all-time lows...

To enable the creation of money that the government can spend however it wishes, the Congress is only required to get a 51% vote on a "continuing resolution" bill to fund government expenses. This is done by printing up some more debt instruments. (After voting to raise the level of debt, of course).

The new "debt instruments" are then sold to someone or some bank or some country or some other type of buyer. The "new" money produced in this manner becomes part of the National Debt. The debt now stands at over **\$20 TRILLION** dollars and shows no signs of ever being paid down (not even \$1 since 1957) let alone paid off.

The money needed to pay down the interest and principal on our staggering National Debt comes from taxing the citizens.

Since, in this instance, there was a majority of 51+% of one party in each house of Congress, and the President signaled that he would sign the "continuing resolution" bill into law (and the bill to expand the debt level) if it was brought to him, the "continuing resolution"

automatically passed Congress - all because one party had a 1+% majority of seats in each house.

The other party was not consulted, and their protests were ignored.

This exact situation was described by James Madison as “*the tyranny of the majority,*” and was one of his greatest fears when constructing our government along the lines of either a Democracy or a Republic.

The tyranny of the majority means that a miniscule majority of citizens or politicians from one party can hold most of the nation and all of its citizens (especially minorities) hostage to their whims indefinitely.

While it is fun to lampoon the politicians of every party, and while most of them deserve every bit of it, that by itself isn’t usually very productive in terms of getting the country righted and back on track. We need to do more than just ridicule them.

The Founders - having recently left behind a corrupt and despotic form of government themselves to come to America and restart their lives - set about placing strict limits on what our new government and its politicians could do all on their own, without any citizen oversight, when they were writing and debating our Constitution.

At that point in time, their efforts were largely successful. The Constitution they drafted, and that was ratified, mostly protected the people from government excesses for over 100 years.

But that was then, and now it is 2019!

Because the politicians in ensuing years have been so clever, and so successful at circumventing so many of the existing Constitution’s Articles that limit their powers; it is now time to reset the limits on the

politicians with an eye to seeing to it that the new limits cannot be so easily manipulated behind the scenes to allow the politicians to resume running roughshod over the people.

It is time to create for ourselves the kind of protection that our Founders tried to guarantee us, and indeed, ensured us for more than a century.

What is needed now is a new **“21st Century Bill of Rights.”** that ensures that We the People have the rights to a formal, decision-making say in all life-changing legislation BEFORE it’s passed and signed into law.

As in the case of the original “Bill of Rights,” the new **“21st Century Bill of Rights”** proposes the passage of 10 new amendments to our Constitution.

And, like the original Bill of Rights, the new **“21st Century Bill of Rights”** would be expressly for the benefit of the people and designed to place stricter limits on the politicians abilities to overrule the people in any matter relating to life-changing policies and legislation.

Enacting these amendments is the best way for us to guarantee that our government is restored to once again being a Jeffersonian Democracy and that government represents the will of all of the people, and not just the will of the monied interests in our society.

If the professional politicians of today would be willing to enact the amendments needed to return us to the days when our government was in fact one of, by, and for the people by placing the needed limits on themselves, and including the citizens directly in the making of laws that have life-altering consequences for every citizen, the need for a Constitutional Convention might be avoided.

But to the extent that the current professional politicians refuse to make those needed changes; or instead propose “feel good” amendments that on the surface create the illusion of change for the better, but are “legally” drafted in ways that make it easy for the politicians to squeeze through built-in loop-holes (and in fact allow the government to continue to operate the same in the future as before), a Constitutional Convention might be our only hope of restoring the government to being a government that actually is one of, by, and for the people, as the Founders intended.

If the politicians choose to try using trickery to keep things as they are, we would all need to lobby our State Representatives to petition the Congress to open a **Constitutional Convention** where the Amendments proposed in the following section could be debated and passed without the consent of the present politicians in the Congress.

Part 6

Changing the balance points of power between the citizens and their government

The 21st Century Bill of Rights has been designed to allow citizens to be directly involved in the passing of all potentially life-altering legislation, and to strengthen the limits on Congress’ and the Courts’ ability to act contrary to the wishes of a majority of the citizens.

The 21st Century Bill of Rights

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 1:

“Except for annual budgets, and appropriations, and authorizations bills being submitted by the Congress to the President for the President’s review and/or approval, no other legislation submitted by Congress to the President for his/her review and/or approval may exceed a total of two single-sided, typed, letter-size (8 ½” x 11”) pages, in its entirety, including all appendices, amendments, references, footnotes, and enabling language which are to be included in full, with all print to be single spaced and no smaller than 12-point Times Roman or equivalent-size type, and all pages to have 1-inch margins on all sides. The annual budget, and appropriations, and authorizations bills, submitted by Congress may each have up to ten letter size, single-spaced, single-sided pages, with type no smaller than 12- point Times Roman or equivalent sized type and must have one-inch margins on all sides, and shall include in full all amendments and footnotes. The national annual budget bill(s) and any continuing resolutions bills proposed by Congress can only be implemented when first approved based on a Referendum vote of all eligible citizen’s with 51% +of all eligible-to-vote citizens or more voting in favor, and must be made available to all citizens for viewing, comment, and voting 60 days before the final Referendum vote is recorded. Legislation proposed through initiatives must also comply with this law. From the date of ratification of this amendment and going forward from that point in time, all bills requiring a Presidential signature that are not approved and signed or vetoed by the President within ten days after having been delivered to the President’s office shall be declared vetoed. Referendums and Initiatives once passed by the citizens shall automatically become effective as law as of the date of passage by the Citizens. Legislation may not be backdated before signing.”

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 1 would require bills to be straight forward, and easy for any citizen (even a President) to comprehend. This is a necessary - but not sufficient - step in eliminating legislative discrimination in law-making at the federal level. It is not sufficient, because a bill could still be introduced that met this requirement which blatantly seeks to favor one segment of society over other segments of society. But, at least the legislative discrimination would then be out in the open for all to plainly see. The budget, appropriations, and authorizations bills would be easily readable (all lines) because they would be so short. No more excuses for signing any legislation without first reading completely.

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 2:

“All legislative bills introduced in either house of Congress must address a single topic. No legislation may be submitted before either house of Congress for Congress’ consideration or submitted to the President for his/her approval that includes an amendment that is not entirely directly related to the main topic of the primary and initial legislation being proposed. Legislation proposed through Initiatives and Referendums must also comply with this law.”

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 2 would eliminate the past and present practice of "pork-barrel" politics whereby Congresspersons attach unlimited numbers of unrelated "riders" (amendments) to important legislation as a means of avoiding presidential vetoes over spending for special-interest friends and campaign contributors of the author of the "rider" (amendment). A significant benefit of these two amendments, when combined, would be that there would be no further need for a "line-item" veto. Both the President and the proponents of enacted legislation could, and would, be held directly accountable for their actions. No more excuses.

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 3:

"Congress shall draft no legislation, and the President shall not sign into law, any legislation that in any way favors any citizen or group of citizens more than any other citizen or group of citizens. Laws enacted through Initiatives and/or Referendums shall also be subject to this requirement. Upon ratification, this amendment shall apply equally to the future application and enforcement of all laws, including future amendments to the Constitution, but shall exclude the existing Constitution and its amendments, as of the date of ratification of this amendment. All individual natural and naturalized citizens of the United States of America shall have standing to sue individually or in groups in the federal courts for relief of legislative discrimination under the laws, under this amendment. All Federal Courts including the Supreme Court are obliged to, in a timely manner, not to exceed sixty days' time, hear arguments in all cases filed with them under this amendment, and must also rule on the arguments in a timely manner - not to exceed thirty additional days' time. Cases not timely decided by the courts to be default-awarded to the plaintiff, with prejudice.

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 3 would: mandate equal treatment of all citizens under the laws; allow for challenging the future application of unfair laws already on the books, at all levels; and eliminate the need for "sunset" laws that have proven easily circumvented, and which have allowed antiquated and often biased government programs, "once in motion, to remain in motion." This amendment would allow laws to be challenged by any citizen in the Federal Courts, thereby providing the "outside force" necessary to halt biased, unfair, and ineffective government programs that Congress and the executive branch are wedded to.

Of course, that might all go for naught if Congress and the executive branch conspired to "stack" the Supreme Court with "status quo" judges, who had the option of remaining in office for life. This has

happened more than once in the past. To avoid this happening in the future, another amendment to the U.S. Constitution needs to be enacted to the effect of:

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 4:

"Beginning on the date of ratification of this amendment, new Federal Court Judges and new Justices appointed to the Supreme Court shall be appointed for a combined term not to exceed fifteen years in length. If a sitting Federal Court Judge resigns before serving the maximum fifteen years allowable time, he or she shall be eligible for re-appointment to a Federal Court, including the Supreme Court, but the total time served by a Federal Judge or Justice may not, for the total terms of appointment, and for all Federal Courts combined, including the Supreme Court, exceed fifteen years combined duration. Sitting Justices having fifteen or more years combined Federal Court and Supreme Court service at the time this amendment becomes effective, shall have one hundred days including weekends and holidays to vacate their positions.

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 4 would preclude the citizens at large from being held captive for an extended period by a recalcitrant Federal and/or Supreme Court. When the Constitution was being drawn up, there was a shortage of learned judges available to sit on the court, and virtually none who understood the brand-new U.S. Constitution. That is clearly not the case today. Today, 1 out of every 320 people (men, women, children, and babies, legal and illegal citizens alike, all included) in the United States has a law degree. That pencils out to be about one out of every 150 working age (employed) adults in the USA. We have law schools, attorneys, and judges coming out of our ears.

The President and Congress would remain involved in the selection and confirmation of Federal and Supreme Court Judges, but limiting

the terms of (especially) Supreme Court justices would enhance the probability that sitting justices were attuned to current conditions in society, and would eliminate opportunities for the executive branch and Congress to saddle the country with a group of justices whose ideology might long outlive that of those responsible for their being appointed to the court. By loosely tying the maximum term for Supreme Court justices to that of the President that nominated them, the President's ability to "stack" the court in a way that allows his or her ideology to continue influencing interpretation of the laws decades after he or she is gone from office, would be minimized.

Another important amendment to the Constitution would limit the government's ability to coin and borrow money for their own use, to the detriment of all others, to wit:

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 5:

“The federal government shall not in any way, or by any means, without prior authorization as determined by a Referendum vote of all American citizens, natural and naturalized, who are eligible to vote, with a majority of 51% or more of all eligible-to-vote citizens voting in favor, cause or allow the combined total value of US currencies (monies) of all kinds whether directly under supervision and control of the National Treasury, or otherwise, and money in all forms, including specie in the treasury, treasury securities, and debt instruments of every kind, including but not limited to bonds, notes, currencies and debentures, in existence, to grow in combined value at a faster rate than the current annual growth rate percent’s of the combined populations of natural and naturalized citizens of the country and the private sector (non-government, non-banking/investment) portion of the US Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with said combined allowable growth percent to be measured against the prior fiscal years ending measurement of the total (private sector) GDP for purposes of determining the total value of new money in any form that can be

added to the existing money supply. The population growth rate of legal citizens and (private sector) portion of the gross domestic product (GDP) shall be determined annually and figures relating to each shall be subject to audit by a different private auditing firm each year. The government may not take for its own use, by any means whether directly or indirectly, more than 25% of the value of any amount of new currency or other types of money or any kind or government issued (or related) debt instruments put into circulation by any means, annually, including borrowings of all kinds from any source, unless first authorized by a citizen Referendum, with 51+ % of all citizens who are eligible to vote, voting in favor of a limited 365-day exception to the 25% of current annual borrowings limit rule. Citizens to have 60 days to view and vote on the Referendum. Only one 365-day exception to the 25% of current years borrowing limit rule may be enacted in any single 365-day period. Only one such 365-day exception may be in effect at any one point in time. All such exceptions to apply to the most current year's budget only. New monies put into circulation that exceed the amounts allowed for the government's use, under this amendment, to be held in trust to be used solely as directed by a majority of citizens who are eligible to vote, voting in favor of citizen Initiative measures.

21st Century Bill of Rights Amendment number 5 would require the Congress to live within a budget that the citizens decided was enough to handle all of the nations' financial needs for the upcoming year; or alternatively limit any borrowings to fill shortfalls to an amount consistent with providing most of any needed monies directly to the private (productive) sector of the economy; with the government receiving just 25% of any new money borrowed annually to spend as it sees fit. This amendment would further set a total limit on annual borrowings consistent with the growth of legal citizens and growth in private sector employment only. To accomplish fair taxation of businesses and individuals, and assure that every citizen pays into the

treasury his/her fair share of the nations' operating expenses, another Constitutional amendment will be required, to wit:

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 6:

"Taxation without representation being a primary causative agent in the decision to form the United States of America into a sovereign nation, the method of collecting taxes - and the total percentage of the nation's private sector (non-government, non-banking/investment-related) US Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that the federal government at all levels, in all branches, and for all functions for which it is in any way responsible, shall have made available to it to accomplish its work annually - shall be determined by a majority 51% (+) vote of all American citizens, natural and naturalized, who are eligible to vote, voting in favor on a national budget bill (or bills) annually. The method of collecting taxes - and the percentage of private sector, (non-government, non-banking/investment-related) US gross domestic product (GDP) to be made available to the government - may only be decided by citizen Referendum measures. No national tax policy may be enacted or enforced without first obtaining the prior approval of a simple majority of all eligible voters. Upon ratification of this amendment, Congress shall have a maximum of 365 days, including weekends and holidays, to fully implement the first national federal tax system defined by way of this amendment. During the maximum 365-day initial national tax program implementation period for any new national tax program, the prior year's tax policy will remain in effect. The 16th amendment is repealed concurrent with completing implementation of the first national tax policy enacted by way of this amendment. The US gross private sector, non-government, non-banking/investment related, domestic product (GDP) measurements for calculations related to this amendment shall be deemed to be the final actual year-end US private sector, non-banking/investment, non-government, gross domestic product (GDP) total for the prior fiscal year.

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 6 allows citizens to decide the method of taxation, and the amount of GDP, plus any newly printed “currencies” that the government could claim for meeting its expenses which eliminates the need for a separate amendment to mandate that the government balance its books. When the money runs out, the spending stops - automatically. The government would be forced to live on whatever the citizens decided it should have.

Borrowing shouldn't be much of an easy or inexpensive option either. The interest payments on borrowed money would simply reduce the total amount remaining for other purposes (just like it does for individuals). Thus, borrowing should in the longer term make less money available rather than more, and become less desirable.

Limiting the government's ability to print up new currency to only legitimate reasons, like fueling real growth in the productive sectors of the economy, wouldn't be of much value, if the government could then turn right around and take it all back for its own use, thereby driving up interest rates for others who might need to borrow from banks for homes, cars, business, education etc..

Therefore, in addition to limiting the amount of new currency going into circulation, it is necessary to limit how much of any new currency, and, by extension, the overall amount of any and all kinds of currencies in circulation that the government can reserve for its own use.

Of course, the government might, when faced with such limitations on its ability to tax citizens and print and borrow money, decide to tax imported commerce to raise more operating cash.

This could be risky, and might touch off (or escalate) a trade war if it were to occur; but, on the plus side, if they elected to take this route, it could also serve to later re-create a lot of good paying jobs for citizens here in the US.

Wars and revolutions worldwide will likely continue in the future as they have in the past.

In our history there have been numerous military actions engaged in by American soldiers whose main purpose was something other than protecting the American national interest.

In some instances, American troops have been sent into harm's way for no purpose more vital than making a sitting President "look Presidential" when an election was coming up.

Which is fine. So long as that's what most Americans want to have happen. Otherwise, it's not fine.

And let's not forget; wars cost money. **Lots of money.** It was inability on the part of our allies to repay us for fronting their costs in WWI, combined with Germany's inability to pay for the damages it caused during that war, that provided a foundation for both the great depression of the 1930's and WWII.

A hundred years later, we're still trying to pay off the debts rung up way back then, for everybody involved, on both sides.

Given that wars have high costs in both lives and money, it seems fair that those paying the bills with their lives and money should have a say in deciding both whether, and when, we should go to war. That's not how it works now.

An amendment to the Constitution is needed to allow Americans a greater say in deciding their own fate regarding when the country goes to war, whether the war is actually called a war or not.

To wit:

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 7:

"In the absence of a frontal assault by armed forces of a foreign army on the nation's borders or the borders of its territories and/or possessions, the President and Congress may only commit to military actions, and the Congress may only commit to funding of military actions when first authorized by a simple majority vote of all legal citizens who are eligible to vote, whether said citizens are natural born or naturalized, in a national citizen Referendum on the question. Citizens to have 60 days to view and vote on the Referendum. Authorization shall require a favorable vote by a minimum of 51+ % of all legal U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote. This provision may be temporarily set aside for a period of no more than 90 days' time from the initial precipitating action in the event the nation is determined to be at war with another country in a war that directly threatens any U.S. state, possession, or territory, to be invaded with armed foreign troops or air or sea related weapons of war. Costs to cover such extraordinary actions must come from the current year's defense budget. This amendment supersedes and is superior to all other international defense treaties and all other war powers-related laws including the National Emergencies Act, as of the date of ratification."

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 7 would combine with the provisions limiting inflating the currency supply, and setting tax policy, to give citizens a permanent say in what wars may be conducted. A President and Congress could, if we were invaded or attacked, immediately (temporarily) set aside the existing appropriated military funding allocations, and conceivably even use everything available from the entire year's military budget allocations for a maximum of 90 days' time to defend against aggressors. However, beyond the 90-day period, the citizens would again be in control of extending any such war actions and funding of same. Whoever controls the funding, controls the ability to make war.

**And, we most certainly need an amendment Guaranteeing
Transparency and Inclusion:**

**21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 8 (parts a
and b):**

***Part a. (transparency)** "Current and reliable information being provided to the citizens being a foundation element of a free and democratic society, Congress shall be charged with beginning - no later than one year after ratification of this amendment - acting in an ongoing manner to use up-to-date technology to provide auditable records of their activities, including but not limited to: recording of all votes by member; audibly and visually recording all closed door conversations involving Congress persons; making available voting records of all members of Congress on all legislation; ensuring that members of Congress personally receive accurate copies of all correspondence submitted electronically and otherwise from all sources; maintaining accurate records of all personal visits, personal meetings, phone contacts, e-mail messages, and text messages - including tabulating of same by subject matter, and noting company affiliation of visitors, for all Congresspersons and their staffs, and making the tabulated records and video and audio recordings relating to members of Congress easily available, without limits, except for closed door meeting-related information which shall require a court order, not to be unreasonably withheld. All such records shall be made available immediately and free of charge by way of up-to-date technology to all US citizens. National security shall not be an excuse for non-compliance by any government body or individual government related elected official or any elected officials staff.*

***Part b. (inclusion)** "Congress shall be charged with responsibility for - within one year of ratification of this amendment - implementing and maintaining an electronic vote tabulating system that provides access*

for all Congress members to vote remotely on all matters before their house of Congress, and further allows citizens to electronically - and in a secure fashion from any location with access to the world wide web - directly record their votes during all elections for federal offices, voting on all Referendums submitted for citizen ratification and which provides a means for citizen-based initiative legislation to be securely compiled electronically, and electronically and securely voted on by all eligible citizens. All national elections, Referendum measures and Initiatives must include the option to vote "none of the above" as a valid choice on all legislative measures and elections where candidates are running for office. The official format for the annual budget must be approved by the citizens by way of a Referendum vote, prior to Congress submitting the budget (or budgets) for citizens to review and vote on. Budgeted amounts approved by the citizens may not be amended without citizen approval, including re-allocations proposed or authorized by the administration under the National Emergencies Act. This amendment is superior to all other legislation as regards budgetary considerations. Initiative petitions having twenty million or more valid signatures must, in a timely manner not to exceed sixty calendar days, be referred to all citizens for a vote. Citizens to have 60 days to view all national election candidates and Initiative and/or Referendum measures and record their votes. A favorable vote on an election for national office or Initiative or Referendum measure to require a 51+% majority of all citizens who are eligible to vote, voting in favor, to pass. Initiative and Referendum systems to be subject to audit by a different, private auditing firm annually. Referendum and Initiative decisions by citizens may only be amended or repealed by another citizen approved Referendum or Initiative measure. Presidential signatures are not required on Referendum or Initiative measures that pass due to a majority of voters having approved the measures. Constitutional amendments initiated in Congress must be referred to the citizens by way of Referendum, for their required approval prior to submitting them to the states for ratification. Constitutional amendments may be initiated

by the citizens by way of gathering valid signatures of forty million eligible voters on initiative petitions; with such proposed amendments thereafter being sent directly to the states for ratification once approved by the citizens using the initiative process. Validated electronic citizen signatures on Initiative petitions will be acceptable, as will validated, handwritten signatures on paper petitions.

While the government is forever busy looking for and finding ways to insert its cameras and listening devices ever more intrusively into individual citizens' lives, it is the reverse that should be the case. It is the citizens who should be able to watch every action and listen to every word spoken or transmitted by our public servants in the Congress and Administration.

History teaches us that the greatest dangers to a society come from within its government. Government should be required to provide, and in fact make it as simple as possible, for citizens to participate in the government, especially in those matters that most affect the outcome of their and their family's lives.

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 9:

Beginning immediately upon ratification of this amendment and going forward from then on, new and/or existing rules and regulations promulgated by regulatory boards and agencies created through acts of Congress shall not have the effect of laws or be given the weight of law in Federal courts, unless said rules and regulations have previously been individually voted on by the Congress and passed with a roll-call vote with 51+ percent or more of the entire body of both houses of Congress voting in favor and thereafter been signed into law by the President."

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 9 would render Congress, the President, and appointed agency heads directly

accountable before the fact, rather than never at all, which is how it works today. Courts currently enforce regulations (never voted on by anyone) as if they were laws. With the addition of Constitutional amendment number nine:

America would at long last become a nation of LAWS, rather than (as now) a nation of bureaucracies and bureaucrats.

And finally:

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 10:

“It shall be the right of every natural or naturalized citizen to be provided with fully equivalent and competitive legal representation in all civil or criminal actions brought against them by a government body, or by any corporate or other entity, which has substantially greater financial resources with which to pursue civil or criminal litigation. Payments by citizens for legal defense representation in civil or criminal actions covered by this statute shall be fixed at a level not to bring financial hardship on the defendant during the tenure of the action, including all related appellate actions, if there be any. Credit will be extended by the federal government to defendants to cover all expenses during the tenure of all related actions. At the end of all related actions, if the defendant prevails wholly or partially on the merits or if the case is wholly or partially dismissed by the court, including termination by way of mistrials, or if the case is settled out of court, all amounts still or ever legitimately due to any party for legal services and court costs from the defendant to be paid by the plaintiff. If the defendant loses entirely on the merits, in all related actions, all legal services and all court fees for both parties to be paid by the defendant.”

21st Century Constitutional Amendment Number 10 provides a means for citizens of small means to effectively have their day in court when

bullied by either a government body, or any other large moneyed interest with sufficient means to coerce submissions from those without the means or the ability to defend themselves in our courts of law. Once amendment #10 becomes the law of the land.....

It will no longer be the case that MONEY = JUSTICE in America.

Benefits to the Citizens:

By adding these ten amendments to the Constitution, several desirable effects should be forthcoming.

First would be that the playing field would be leveled greatly, and individual citizens would be encouraged to rejoin the "formal" voting system that many have now abandoned in favor of just ineffectively voting "none of the above" from their living rooms.

Secondly, these amendments would serve to acknowledge that the passage of time, and the forward march of technology, have transformed our country into something quite different from the one that existed when the Constitution was first written; and also, because of these changes, individual citizens now need to have more direct input in the decision-making process in those areas that have the greatest impact on the outcome of their and their family's lives - thereby providing them with a feeling that the ultimate outcome of their lives is mostly in their own hands.

When hope and control are present, desperation becomes less.

Third, it simplifies things for us all.

Fourth, it eliminates single-interest domination of the lawmaking process, by enlarging the number of people that must be "sold" on an

idea by lobbyists, since a majority of all citizens, rather than just a few elected officials, would have direct input relating to the outcome of all life-changing legislation, and all self-serving legislation would be openly labeled as such.

Currently, just 273 Congress members (51% of the House and Senate combined) voting in favor of a bill, and one President signing it, can make all decisions regarding the topics covered by these 21st Century Constitutional amendments. All those 273 Congress members (and the one President) have built-in personal biases (and many also have built-in campaign payoff obligations) that may or may not match the wishes of a majority of the 160,000,000+ legal citizens in America who are eligible to vote.

273 out of 160,000,000+ qualified voters is not an adequate level of representation for the country in those areas of government most susceptible to corrupting influences. For the preservation of the idea and country that is America, it is imperative that the citizens at large be guaranteed the right to have their votes counted directly when making the kinds of decisions covered by these amendments.

By themselves, these ten amendments to the Constitution would go a long way in restoring the credibility of the government as an institution and making it a government that truly was (and is) a government *"of the people, by the people, and for the people."*

These ten amendments to the Constitution might also go a long way in solving major portions of some of the eight problems comprising the list of most significant problems facing us today as a nation (See the spreadsheet that follows.)

But perhaps most importantly, these amendments provide the necessary tools for restoring the American Dream, and keeping it restored.

Some more laws below the constitutional level might also need to be passed, some changed, and some scrapped to get the whole job done. These amendments to the Constitution would provide the tools needed for the citizens to make that happen.

And that would be a great start.

Part 7

Creating a National Consensus

The middle-classes and poorest citizens of America (the combined majority of all of America's citizens) need to come together with the upper classes to create a national consensus regarding what our servants in Government should be doing with their time. Absent some consensus at the national level about what we expect them to do while they are in government, our servants (individually) have a tendency to drift aimlessly between crises, rushing to put Band-Aids on whatever symptom of distress is the hottest news topic of the day (and in so doing, keeping their names and faces in the news as much as possible).

Today, there doesn't appear to be anyone in government that understands the difference between a problem and a symptom of a problem. It's hard to watch 535 public servants floundering in a sea of indecision because they apparently don't have any idea what is causing the painful symptoms of decline that have already destroyed the lives of over 100 million of their fellow citizens.

So, most people have just been tuning them out and praying to God that our servants in government get a clue soon about what is going on in their country and the world around them, and then hope and pray that they'll come together to do something right and useful at least often enough that our country doesn't become extinct.

As things stand right now, the smart money (in China, Russia and India) is on our becoming extinct in the next two to three decades.

Creating a national consensus to establish what our problems are - and to prioritize the order in which we decide to direct our servants in government to attack and solve them - offers the promise of indefinitely forestalling the day when America is tossed onto the scrap

heap of “once great nations” whose citizens have only visions of past glories lost; and whose dreams, be they large or small, for the most part no longer really matter anymore... like England, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, and Egypt, all of whom ruled the entire known world at one time but have now been reduced to tourist destinations.

To restore Americas greatness, we need a completely different game plan. Half-a-loaf government by quid-pro-quo deal makers must go away.

For starters, instead of asking our servants what they would be willing to consider doing for us, we need to instead tell them what they better get done...or else! And we can do that if we wish. After all they are our servants. We the People constitute the board of directors of this country, and they are just the worker bees. If any of them don't like those terms, let them quit going to work each day in the Congress and go get a good paying job in the fast food industry that they pride themselves on sending so many unemployed people to as a way of bringing the “official” unemployment rate down.

Creating a national consensus to decide where our government should be spending its time on our behalf is not only possible, it would be simple. The next few pages describe a foolproof five step way to get this done in 180 days or less.

(Less, if we really work at it.)

Immediately following is a sample spreadsheet that might serve as a good place to begin with creating our National Consensus.

On the pages following the spreadsheet, you'll find step-by-step instructions for its suggested implementation and use.

Their Root

Cause and Effect Matrix ©		#1	#2	
Their related Symptoms (Effects)		Unsustainable expansion in human population worldwide - and overpopulation related problems in some countries spilling over to become overpopulation related problems in other countries	Systematic devaluation of human labor - worldwide by way of job killing mergers, moving high paying jobs to countries with low standards of living, and replacement of human laborers with machines	
	1	High (real) levels of unemployment - including the 12% of <u>long term</u> unemployed citizens whose existence the government chooses not to acknowledge.	x	x
	2	High levels of under-employment (people forced to work below their skill, education, and training levels - often for poverty level wages - and also often with no benefits), currently running 13%+	x	x
	3	Persistent budget deficits in government at all levels (federal, state, and local)	x	x
	4	High Taxation levels and taxes on <u>everything</u>	x	x
	5	Falling living standards and being forced to incur debt for everyday subsistence purchases (like food).	x	x
	6	Government complicity in destroying jobs and lives here in America through "free" trade agreements, and endorsement and support of job killing mergers between already gigantic enterprises.	x	x
	7	Persistent high levels of violent crime, including mass shootings of innocent children and adult citizens .	x	x
	8	Increased crime related to trafficking in controlled substances (drugs and narcotics)	x	x
	9	Increased instances of unwarranted police brutality against unarmed citizens.	x	x
	10	Increasing numbers of single parent families	x	x
	11	Decline in family values (and loss of time for parental guidance in the home).	x	x
12	Deficits in trade balances between America and other countries having larger populations than America	x	x	

Level Problems (Causes)

#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	
Citizens being systematically excluded from the decision making process in the most important decisions affecting the outcome of their lives	Ongoing monetary inflation by the government which causes the value of previously existing dollars to fall, which in turn causes prices related to living standards to continually increase much faster than wage gains, and living standards to therefore fall further each year for most American Citizens	American national pride and American national Companies being replaced by multi-national companies	Discriminatory law making - that being the enactment of laws designed to favor one group of Americans over other groups of Americans.	Government failure (refusal) to implement current technology for the purposes of improving the political and economic well-being of American citizens	Our Government controlling the nation's (and world's) economy for the benefit of our government and single interest groups that are dependant on our government - at the expense of Americas poorest and middle-class citizens.	Row Tot:
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0

Cause and Effect Matrix ©		#1	#2	#3
<p>Their related Symptoms (Effects)</p>		<p>Unsustainable expansion in human population worldwide - and overpopulation related problems in some countries spilling over to become overpopulation related problems in other countries</p>	<p>Systematic devaluation of human labor - worldwide by way of job killing mergers, moving high paying jobs to countries with low standards of living, and replacement of human laborers with machines</p>	<p>Citizens being systematically excluded from the decision making process in the most important decisions affecting the outcome of their lives</p>
13	Unresponsive government (gridlock) and government that ignores the greatest needs of its citizens	x	x	x
14	Corruption in Government (bribes, self-dealing, kickbacks, fraudulent dealings, helping friends, lobbyists, and corporations feed at the public trough, etc.)	x	x	x
15	Extraordinary growth in both upfront costs and payouts to "entitlement" programs.	x	x	x
16	Lack of adequate and affordable healthcare for some citizens.	x	x	x
17	A need to provide for a permanent "welfare" class of citizens.	x	x	x
18	Failure of educational systems to cost-effectively meet public needs and expectations.	x	x	x
19	Ongoing high levels of illegal immigration	x	x	x
20	Environmental breakdowns (pollution, global warming, vital natural resource shortages, etc.)	x	x	x
21	Expensive wars for territory and resources	x	x	x
22	Diversions against non-combatants - mostly nouns - (poverty, ignorance, terror, drugs, illegal immigration, abortions, guns, race bias, gender bias, etc. With no identifiable enemy to face.)	x	x	x
23	Loss of individual rights to privacy	x	0	x
24	Fears of terrorist attacks and nuclear wars	x	x	x
25	Eminent Domain - Loss of personal real property to the government - (for later sale to commercial interests)	0	x	x
26	US Governments need to be involved in at least one shooting war somewhere in the world at all times.	x	x	x
27	Politicians arguing over who gets to dictate morality, and constant attempts by government to legislate one-size-fits-all morality for all citizens.	x	x	x
Column Totals		0	0	0

#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	
Ongoing monetary inflation by the government which causes the value of previously existing dollars to fall, which in turn causes prices related to living standards to continually increase much faster than wage gains, and living standards to therefore fall further each year for most American Citizens	American national pride and American national Companies being replaced by multi-national companies	Discriminatory law making - that being the enactment of laws designed to favor one group of Americans over other groups of Americans.	Government failure (refusal) to implement current technology for the purposes of improving the political and economic well-being of American citizens	Our Government controlling the nation's (and world's) economy for the benefit of our government and single interest groups that are dependant on our government - at the expense of Americas poorest and middle-class citizens.	Row Tot:
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
0	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
0	0	0	0	0	

Step-by-Step instructions for using technology to build a national consensus of all citizens:

Step 1. Create a Cause and Effect Matrix-Spreadsheet (see sample on pages 56-59) that shows what our problems are and how the problems are linked to the many symptoms of distress that are already directly ruining the lives of over 100 million of our fellow citizens.

Step 2. Make available (via the Internet) a copy to every registered citizen/voter in America.

Step 3. Ask every citizen/recipient of the Cause and Effect Matrix (18 years old or more) to fill in their copy as follows:

Using a number scale of 0 through 10, where 10 indicates an urgent or extreme connection (between a problem and a symptom), and where 0 indicates that the connection is completely unimportant, unrelated, or at least not worth bothering about, replace each x with a number from 0 through 10 in every cell in the spreadsheet. The spreadsheet is designed so that totals for the rows and columns will be calculated or automatically as the numbers are entered. A row can have multiple (same value) entries if you so choose.

Empty cells (or cells that didn't have the "x" changed to a number) would be tabulated as zero values. An "all zero" ballot would be construed as the recipient believing there were no problems needing government attention in America. These non-responses would be tabulated and published too. Est. time to complete about ½ hour.

The ballots would be sent to a bonded independent group whose job it would be to tabulate the results for each sheet and add up and publish the accumulated totals of all the sheets, cell by cell, and overall by row and column. The tabulations would further be audited by at least one other independent privately-owned auditing firm.



Step 4. Publish the compiled and updated averages for each cell, and overall for each row and column on the Internet for all to view at the beginning of each year, district by district, state by state, and overall for the country. Keep the survey available worldwide on the internet all year long.

The result would be an independently gathered consensus on:

Row Totals: What priority should be assigned by Congress to temporarily easing the pain of each symptom of distress?
Highest totals get the most attention.

Column Totals: What priority should be assigned by Congress to solving each problem (that is totally or partially causing multiple symptoms)? Highest totals get the most attention.

Now we will have created a National Consensus, and prioritized which problems we want the government to work hardest on, but how would we go about making sure the politicians followed the citizens' wishes? The politicians now routinely ignore requests by the citizens and pretty much just do as they please.

-The Hammer:

Step 5. At the end of each year, citizens would be asked to fill in another copy of the same matrix (spreadsheet), but this time give the congress/administration a grade of 0 through 4 denoting how the country viewed their effectiveness in making things better... both symptoms and problems. Just like in school, a 0 would denote complete failure, and a 4 would denote exceptional performance. A different (privately audited) tabulator each year would calculate and publish the averages for all the citizens in the country, district by

district, state by state, and overall for the whole country.
Non-responses would be tabulated and publicized too.

Instead of the usual “polling” where a relative few people are asked questions cleverly worded to elicit predetermined responses (that the one who paid for the poll wanted to be able to publicize), this system would encompass everyone in the country and provide complete latitude for each individual to express their sentiments on every matter of national concern that the citizens have determined the United States government should be involved with. Further, this would provide an **annual national report card** on the effectiveness of the United States government as viewed by the citizens – whom the government is meant to serve and honestly represent.

Politicians that ignored the wishes of their constituents even once would likely not get a second chance.

How practical is this? Is it just another pie-in-the-sky dream?

The technology exists to do this and has existed for many years. One must wonder why the Congress and Administration haven’t implemented such a foolproof and valuable data-gathering device.

It would be infinitely superior to having individual candidates shake hands with members of some small single-interest groups, or visit a few “town hall” meetings that have a limited, “mostly preaching to the choir” attendance, and then announce to the world that they’ve got “a good bead” on what the problems are that we face going forward as an entire society. What kind of limited and skewed vision of what our country’s needs are is likely to come from a ridiculous candidate selection system like that?

Our government is floundering and has lost any sense of direction. They really need our help very badly right now. Our coming together to independently create a national consensus to restore a sense of direction for them and help them set priorities along the lines the citizens feel are most important would help them (and us) no end.

Part 8

A 4-Point Strategy for Making it Happen

It is good to have a plan. But words on paper by themselves almost never come to fruition. For plans to become reality, there must be a workable strategy conceived for making it happen with actionable steps for us to take and implement that strategy.

Here is a 4-point strategy that would work:

I. Get as many of the small parties as possible pulling in the same direction with - to the extent possible - the same goals and objectives.

1. Get the new **Mid-American Party** registered in all 50 states. Unless we can find a patron with deep pockets to help (unlikely), this will need to be done by volunteers. One way or the other we need to get it done as quickly as possible.

2. Create a strategy for getting as many as possible of the small and (currently) less-than-effective parties to join in with the **Mid-American Party**. There is strength in numbers. There will of course be sticking points, and some may choose to keep going on by themselves. Hopefully many will see the advantages to be gained by coming together as a single, larger force in the political landscape.

3. Compile a list of the names/contact information of the leaders of those 30+ smaller parties. We can then disseminate information as necessary to help capture their interest and hopefully convince them to join in a larger effort that has a greater chance of succeeding.

4. An information gathering and disseminating organization capable of effectively promoting the **Mid-American Party** 24/7/365 must be created for this dedicated purpose. While there are many entities and individuals who are expert in this kind of research and outreach, someone will have to get this organization up and running and thereafter keep it going. Volunteers can and will help, but this will take some money too.

5. Party advertising across all channels (social, digital, video, radio, print, etc.) needs to be pervasive. Citizens have been lulled into a deep sleep by the present major parties. It will take a full-out effort to awaken them all to any new possibilities.

6. These efforts will require funding as well as volunteers. We will need to pool our resources and establish a degree of qualified leadership to organize our efforts - on both a grassroots and national scale.

II. Concentrate on getting Senate Seats.

This will be **hard** to do.

Senate seats are the prize possessions of the moneyed class, and they have money to burn to keep those seats filled with people that will do their bidding. Getting those seats out of the hands of the moneyed class will not be an easy task.

Once the Mid-American Party has 20 Senate seats it will be a force to be reckoned with. With 35 seats, the Mid-American Party will be able to obstruct Democrat and Republican actions that would be detrimental to our poor and middle classes. With just 20 seats, the **Mid-American Party** could continually introduce the much needed **21st Century Bill of Rights** amendments until Congress felt forced to vote openly on them, at which point the battle would truly be joined.

The ultimate goal is 51 seats. When the number of Senate seats held by the Mid-American Party reaches 51, the new party will be able to enact policy on its own. That will ensure that we have a real opportunity to determine the course of our lives and our country - the opportunities that the few have enjoyed at the expense of the many for what seems like a very long time.

III. Work 24/7/365 to get a Constitutional Convention convened.

Looking through the proposed new **Mid-American Party** platform, it will quickly become obvious that unless average citizens can get into the game, most of the platform planks will never be implemented – which means the existing Democrat and Republican parties will continue to prevail. This is the reality that all the other “small” political parties have chosen to ignore. And that is why they fail.

The existing politicians must either be willing to share some of their powers with the citizens, or else the citizens can choose to burn the house down around them and start over.

It is an even-money bet which way most politicians will choose to go. Some would probably rather die, and watch the country die with them, than ever consider allowing the citizens to have a say in how the government is run, or in sharing any of their present powers with ordinary citizens.

In the end it will become a contest of wills. If the citizens are willing to start over from scratch, and the politicians understand that, they might just choose to share some powers with the citizens to keep the country (and their own rank) going. The possibility exists (presently remote) that if a Constitutional Convention is convened, and if it looks like the citizens might decide to scrap the two present houses of Congress completely, the Democrats and Republicans might decide to

propose the needed amendments themselves in Congress. In this way, they might avoid the prospect of a Constitutional Convention altogether, where the outcome would be even more uncertain for them.

Once elected to the Senate, **Mid-American Party Senators** could put pressure on the Democrat and Republican Senators to hasten making a Constitutional Convention happen.

One way or the other, the politicians must be made to share some powers with the citizens. Otherwise, no new party platform ever devised would be sufficient to wrest the total control of our government from the two entrenched parties that are now dividing up the spoils of our entire nation. The idea that was originally America will cease to exist, with America becoming a two-tiered land - not of Democrats and Republicans - but of Haves and Have-Nots.

IV. Proceed with the building of a National Consensus and legitimate means of evaluating politicians already in office.

Part 7 previously outlined a possible means of creating a national consensus to identify what the citizens (all of the citizens) truly want the politicians to spend their time doing. Such a consensus can also be used to show citizens how well their servants are doing when it comes to working on the things the citizens believe are most important.

As presently conceived, the consensus would be available to everyone in the world, showing all interested parties what the citizens of America have directed their representatives to work on, and how those things are prioritized by a majority of Americas citizens. Upon reviewing, the results would show everyone in the world how satisfied (or not) American citizens are with their servants' performance over the past years' time.

Politicians in general are a shameless lot, but they might be more likely to heed the statistics generated by a legitimate national poll – one that is disseminated worldwide over the internet - that shows their constituents’ views of them, especially if/when those views were unflattering.

V. Wrapping up.

The need for a viable third political party is real. The strategy for implementing a new party is sound in principle and is workable.

In two years we can get 10 Senate seats - money be damned. In two more years we can get another 10 Senate seats. And two more years down the road we can get 10 more Senate Seats.

With just 20 seats, we can change Washington’s ability to run the entire country solely for the benefit of the professional politicians and their friends - in the short term. At the end of ten years’ time, new Constitutional Amendments will have leveled the playing field between the professional politicians and the citizens - for all time. (Or at least give us a couple hundred years to perhaps gain more wisdom.)

When you become so sick, tired, and fed up with the arrogant, condescending, patronizing and destructive antics of the Democrats and Republicans; when you have grown bone-tired of seeing your country sold off to the highest bidders while you work longer and harder for less and less; and the future looks ever dimmer for your children and grandchildren; and you are looking for a way to change things for the better; pull out your copy of this book from the drawer where you stashed it earlier, and read it through again.

Then come join the fight to remake your country into a better place.

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it **Now** deserves the thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us; that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.”

Thomas Paine, 1776
(The Crises Papers)

