

UTAH LEAGUE OF INDEPENDENT VOTERS



To: The Presidential Commission on Election Administration:

You are chartered to study and recommend improvements for election related issues in our country. This very review to address non-ideological mechanics of election processes is near and dear to my heart. I regret that I cannot attend this hearing in person and I offer my profound thanks for allowing my ideas and opinions to be presented in absentia.

I would like to comment on two issues today. First on infusing our elections with modern technology (internet voting) and equal access to the ballot based on partisan identification or loyalty.

The time for internet voting has come. If I can pay my taxes or submit a W-4 or apply for a tax ID number or renew my driver's license online, surely there is a way to increase voter turnout by making ballots accessible to anyone sitting at their computer.

Your web page, supportthevoter.gov, includes a portion of President Obama's 2013 State of the Union Address which says in part "When any America, no matter where they live or what their party, are denied [the right to vote]....we are betraying our ideals". My particular party preference is no party, and I am joined in this preference by a majority of voters here in Utah who have declined to affiliate with a party. Yes, you heard that right. More voters affiliate with no party than voters who affiliate with political parties major and minor.

Unfortunately, this means that in primary elections, independent voters will receive a severely abridged ballot unless we consent to affiliate with a private organization; one of the political parties. And even if we were to change our voter affiliation (which most of us are loathe to do) our ballot would still be abridged to reflect the candidates of a single party only. This is unreasonable. It is un-American. And it could easily be construed as unconstitutional. Our tax dollars pay for elections that we cannot participate in fully.

On behalf of over 1 million independent voters in neighboring Utah, we humbly petition you to address this grave injustice with meaningful solutions and recommendations.

Sincerely,
Randy Miller, PLS
Syracuse, Utah