

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a dark blue field containing white stars and horizontal stripes in a dark red and dark blue color scheme. The text is overlaid on this background.

Phasing Out Political Parties in the United States:

The Path Toward a Lasting Republic

Presented By: Joshua Everett

Utah State University | Political Science Department

17 April 2025



Do You
Remember Your
School Bully?



“Congress has paid out more than \$17.2 million over the last 20 years to cover 268 settlements on Capitol Hill..”



Senator Bae?

Gaetz Bae?

Bae Gate?



More Like Tax
dollars down the
drain!



Will the Real
MMA Fighter
Please Stand
Up?



Will the Real
MMA Fighter
Please Stand
Up?



Colorado Representative



Texas
Representative



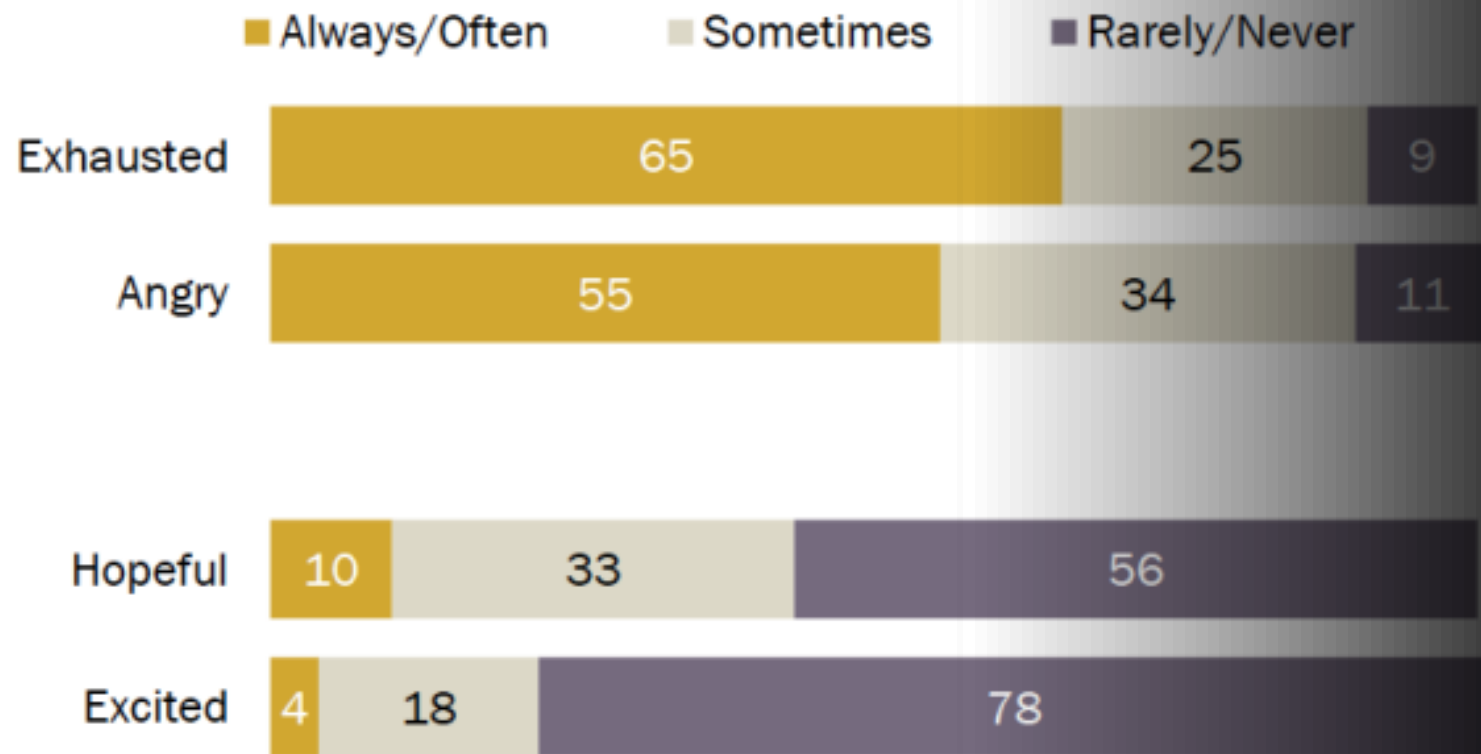
“Governor Hot
Wheels”



We're Done With
It!

How Americans feel when they think about politics

% who ____ feel each of the following when thinking about politics these days



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

"Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Why Do We
Continue To
Vote Them
Back Into
Office?

Time to Drop the Label

Phasing Out Political Parties in the United States, inspired by systems like Utah's **nonpartisan municipal elections** and Nebraska's **unicameral legislature**, can **reduce political polarization, enhance proportional representation, and encourage greater civic engagement**. By revisiting the prophetic warnings of America's Founding Fathers against the **Dangers of Partisanship**, and utilizing the mechanisms built into our constitution, **We the People** can create a pathway to **more effective governance, a revitalized democratic system**, and a return to the visionary and revolutionary words in the preamble of our constitution. Namely, forming **A More Perfect Union**.



Removing the
Label Leads to a
More Perfect
Union



Playground
Antics
Dressed in
Suits and
Ties



Traded control
over the swings
and slides for
power and
influence?

Or not?



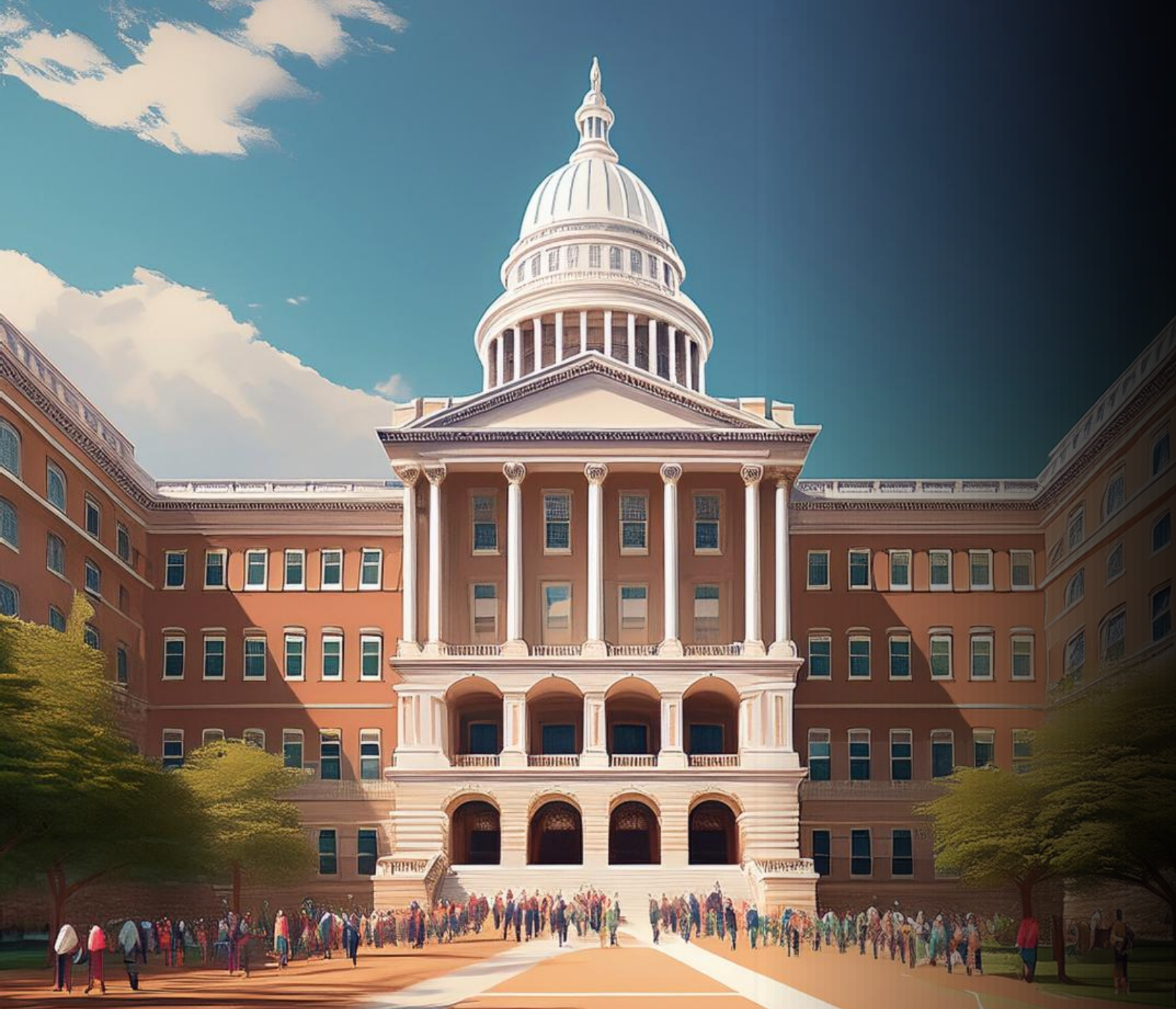
Democratic vs.
Republican

Instead of

Democratic AND
Republican



MEAN GIRLS
of Capitol Hill



Like, what...ever!



I'll Show You!

(Angrily Shakes
Fist)



Lying +
Being Mean =

Successful

“Like, Whatever. I
Do What I Want.”





I told my
friend a joke
about the
prairie,
but it fell flat.



“Life is Nasty,
Brutish, and
Short.”

-Thomas Hobbes



The Social Contract



Transportation Networks



Educational Systems

JOSH EVERETT PHOTOGRAPHY



Healthcare
Infrastructures



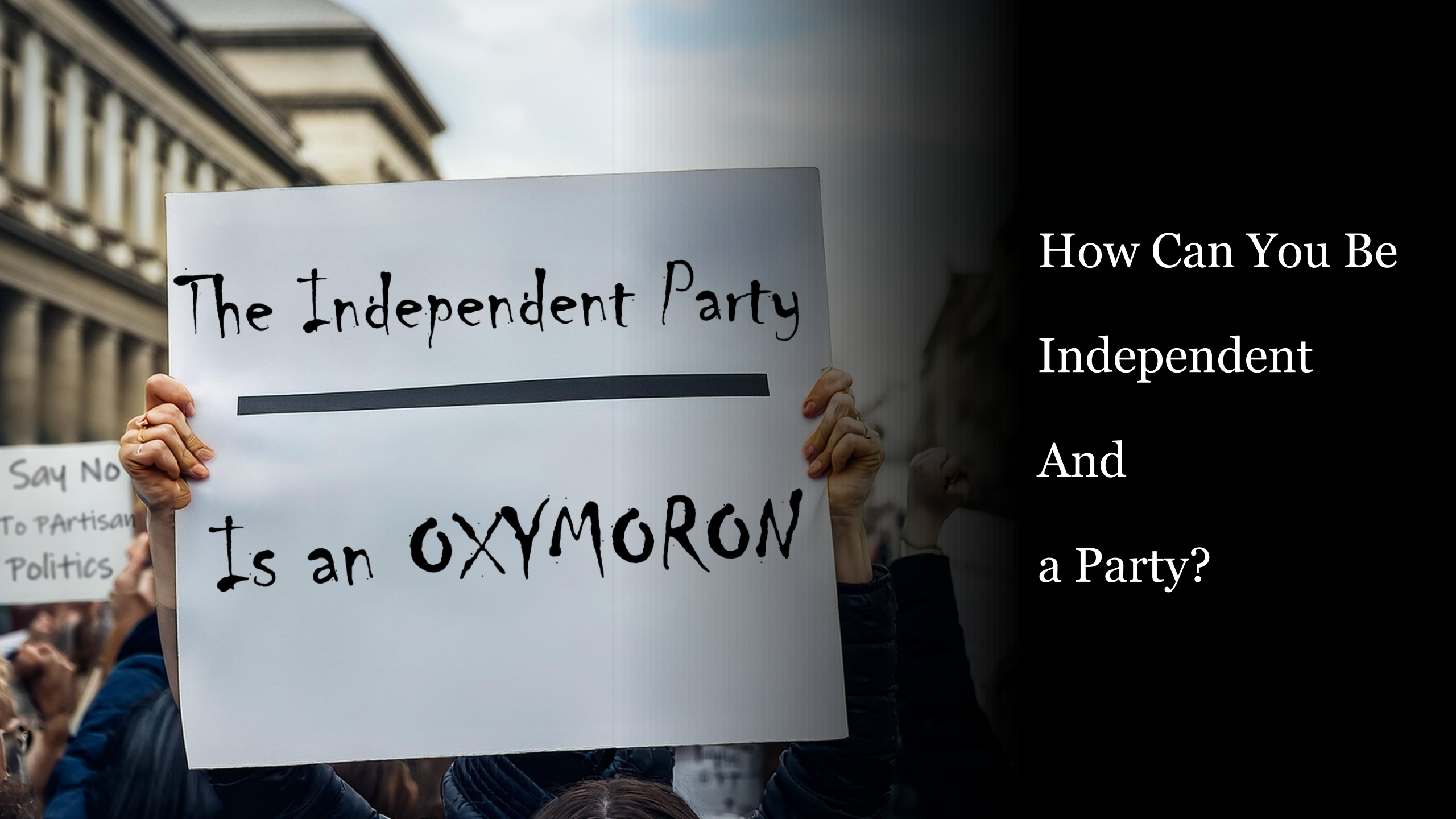
How Does Any
of This Relate to
Getting Rid of
Political Parties?



Why should you
care?



Humans
Progressed

A person is holding a large white sign with black text. The sign is held up in front of a crowd of people at what appears to be a protest or demonstration. In the background, there are classical buildings with columns. Another sign is partially visible on the left side of the frame.

The Independent Party

Is an OXYMORON

How Can You Be
Independent
And
a Party?



Divisiveness



US

Us vs. Them

Them



Alpha Betas vs.



Nerds



Mean Girls vs.



Outcasts



Double Edged
Sword



Bellum
Omnium
Contra
Omnes

-Thomas Hobbes

“...The War of
All Against
All...”



CASES



JUSTICES

NEW: Brown

Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission

MEDIA

- ▶ ORAL ARGUMENT - MARCH 24, 2009
- ▶ ORAL REARGUMENT - SEPTEMBER 09, 2009
- ▶ OPINION ANNOUNCEMENT - JANUARY 21, 2010

OPINIONS

PETITIONER

Citizens United

LOCATION

Citizens United Headquarters

DOCKET NO.

08-205

CITATION

558 US 310 (2010)

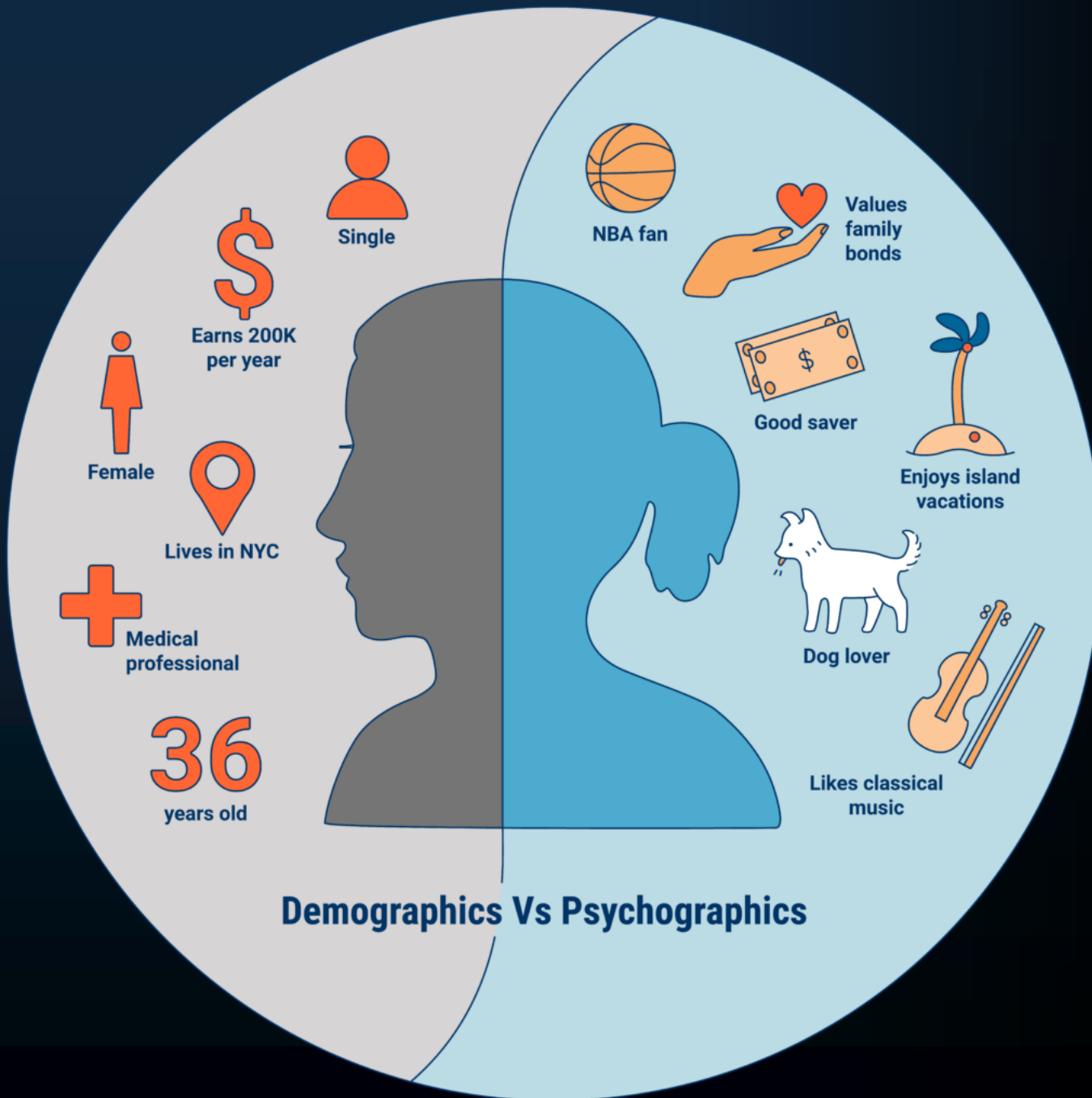
GRANTED

Nov 14, 2008

ARGUED

Mar 24, 2009

But Corporations
Are People, Too



Demographic
Models Utilizes
the Superficial

Psychographics
Utilizes What
Makes You, You



**About me Actions Activities
Birthday Check-ins
Education history Events
Games activity Groups
Hometown Interests Likes
Location Notes Online
presence Photo and video
tags Photos Questions
Relationship details
Relationships Religion
Politics Status Subscriptions
Website Work history About
me Actions Activities
Birthday Check-ins
Education history Events
Games activity Groups
Hometown Interests Likes
Location Notes Online
presence Photo and video
tags Photos Questions
Relationship details
Relationships Religion
Politics Status Subscriptions
Website Work history About
me Actions Activities
Birthday Check-ins
Education history Events
Games activity Groups**



I'm Making
a List
and
Checking
it Twice

**Candidate Choice Without Party Labels:
New Insights from Conjoint Survey Experiments**

Patricia A. Kirkland¹ · Alexander Coppock²

Groups of diverse problem solvers can outperform groups of high-ability problem solvers

Lu Hong^{†‡§} and Scott E. Page[¶]



Time to Drop the Label

Phasing Out Political Parties in the United States, inspired by systems like Utah's **nonpartisan municipal elections** and Nebraska's **unicameral legislature**, can **reduce political polarization, enhance proportional representation, and encourage greater civic engagement**. By revisiting the prophetic warnings of America's Founding Fathers against the **Dangers of Partisanship**, and utilizing the mechanisms built into our constitution, **We the People** can create a pathway to **more effective governance, a revitalized democratic system**, and a return to the visionary and revolutionary words in the preamble of our constitution. Namely, forming **A More Perfect Union**.

Works Cited

Amiri, Farnoush, et al. "Read the Full Matt Gaetz House Ethics Report Alleging He Paid for Sex With Minor, Used Illicit Drugs as Congress Member." *PBS News*, 23 Dec. 2024, www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/read-the-full-matt-gaetz-house-ethics-report-alleging-he-paid-for-sex-with-minor-used-illicit-drugs-as-congress-member. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.

Beshay. "9 Facts About Bullying in the U.S." *Pew Research Center*, 14 Apr. 2024, www.pewresearch.org/shortreads/2023/11/17/9-facts-about-bullying-in-the-us. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.

Daniels, Cheyanne M. "Crockett Calls Texas Gov. Abbott 'Governor Hot Wheels.'" *The Hill*, 25 Mar. 2025, thehill.com/homenews/5213119-republican-criticism-crockett-comments. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.

Works Cited

Fields, Ashleigh. "Boebert Says Al Green Shook 'Pimp Cane' at Trump." *The Hill*, 8 Mar. 2025,

thehill.com/homenews/house/5184113-boebert-green-trump-cane-address. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.

Freking, Kevin, et al. "Kevin McCarthy Ousted as House Speaker in Dramatic Vote." *PBS News*, 3 Oct. 2023,

www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/kevin-mccarthy-ousted-as-house-speaker-in-dramatic-vote. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.

Fortinsky, Sarah. "Boebert Behavior at Performance 'Another Notch in the Belt of Embarrassment': Challenger." *The Hill*, 18

Sept. 2023, [thehill.com/homenews/house/4209663-boebert-behavior-at-performance-another-notch-in-the-belt-of-](https://thehill.com/homenews/house/4209663-boebert-behavior-at-performance-another-notch-in-the-belt-of-embarrassment-challenger)

[embarrassment-challenger](https://thehill.com/homenews/house/4209663-boebert-behavior-at-performance-another-notch-in-the-belt-of-embarrassment-challenger). Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.

Works Cited

- Haner, Joanne. "McCarthy Accuses Gaetz of 'Lying' to Trump About Ethics Report." *The Hill*, 9 Dec. 2024, thehill.com/homenews/administration/5030038-mccarthy-accuses-gaetz-ethics-report. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.
- Hartmans, Avery. "It's Impossible to Know Exactly What Data Cambridge Analytica Scraped From Facebook — but Here's the Kind of Information Apps Could Access in 2014." *Business Insider*, 23 Mar. 2018, www.businessinsider.com/what-data-did-cambridge-analytica-have-access-to-from-facebook-2018-3.
- Hong, Lu, et al. "Groups of Diverse Problem Solvers Can Outperform Groups of High-Ability Problem Solvers." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, no. 46, National Academy of Sciences, Nov. 2004, pp. 1638589. www.jstor.org/dist/lib.usu.edu/stable/pdf/3373827.pdf?refreqid=fastlydefault%3A21f4543c4166a4b375a859416f9f8d19&ab_segments=0%2Fbasic_search_gsv2%2Fcontrol&initiator=&acceptTC=1.

Works Cited

- Kirkland, Patricia A., and Alexander Coppock. "Candidate Choice without Party Labels." *Political Behavior*, vol. 40, no. 3, 2018, pp. 571-591. *ProQuest*, <https://login.dist.lib.usu.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/candidate-choice-without-party-labels/docview/2090567230/se-2>, doi:<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-017-9414-8>.
- Marcos, Christina. "Boebert shocks Democrats with Biden State of the Union interruption." *The Hill*, 1 Mar. 2022, thehill.com/homenews/house/596455-boebert-yells-at-biden-about-putting-american-troops-in-coffins-13-of-them. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.
- Marquette, Chris. "Discrimination Complaints Unfold in Wake of Capitol Agency Scandal." *Roll Call*, 29 Jan. 2024, rollcall.com/2024/01/26/discrimination-complaints-unfold-in-wake-of-capitol-agency-scandal. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.

Works Cited

- Marquez, Alexandra. "Kevin McCarthy-Matt Gaetz Feud Heats up Months After the Former Speaker's Ouster." *NBC News*, 25 Mar. 2024, www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/kevin-mccarthy-matt-gaetz-feud-ethics-speaker-rcna144840. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.
- Nadeem, Reem. "Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics." Pew Research Center, by Pew Research, 20 Dec. 2024, www.pewresearch.org/politics/2023/09/19/americans-dismal-views-of-the-nations-politics. Accessed 13 Apr. 2025.
- Popli, Nik. "Lawmakers Almost Came to Physical Blows at the Capitol. Twice." *TIME*, 14 Nov. 2023, time.com/6334994/burchett-mccarthy-altercation-mullin-obrien. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.
- Shapero, Julia. "Zuckerberg responds to Musk fight invitation: 'Are we really doing this again?'" *The Hill*, 25 July 2024, thehill.com/policy/technology/4792452-zuckerberg-musk-fight-invite. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.

Works Cited

Thomsen, Jacqueline. "GOP Lawmaker Once Held a Knife to Boehner's Throat." *The Hill*, 29 Oct. 2017, thehill.com/blogs/in-the-know/in-the-know/357743-gop-lawmaker-once-held-a-knife-to-boehners-throat. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.

Vavra, Shannon. "Congress Has Paid \$17 Million in Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination Settlements." *Axios*, 17 Nov. 2017, www.axios.com/2017/12/15/congress-has-paid-17-million-in-sexual-misconduct-and-discrimination-settlements-1513307017. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.

Acknowledgments

I want to thank my wife, for the time she spends with my kids so that I can work and research. And I want to thank all the professionals who took time out of their days to help guide me and impart of their knowledge.

- Thank You, All!