

Introductory note:

This file (either MS Word or pdf form) is a complete version of the website 2partyparty.org. That site was first posted in Feb. 2022, to give a few friends and family members a way to offer any comments, so it could be revised and improved before getting any additional publicity. The author – Pat Kelly, an environmental engineer who later became a patent attorney – then decided to jump into the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate, in Missouri, even though he is a political unknown, in order to try to persuade more candidates to begin talking about, and facing up to the issues of, global warming, climate change, and sea level rise. He therefore created (and moved part of the first draft of this 2PartyParty website) to his campaign website, which is at www.kelly4senate.net/

This revised version was created and stored in June 2022, via copy-and-paste of the pages that appear on the site.

Any comments or questions should be emailed to patkelly4senate@gmail.com (at least until the date of the primary election, on August 2, 2022). If I do not win that primary, the best email date after that will be tetraheed@gmail.com

The 2-Party Party

ABSTRACT // EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THIS WEBSITE

2PARTYPARTY.ORG is a website, initially created by a small and informal organization, with an engineer/patent attorney writing the content herein, with input from friends, family, etc. After an initial version was posted, he decided to enter the Democratic primary for US Senate, in Missouri. His campaign website is at www.kelly4senate.net, and it became the site which focuses on the active parts of his campaign, with position papers, etc. As a result, this 2PartyParty website became an “adjunct” (or spinoff, etc.) of the active campaign website, since it addresses *other* political issues that will merit time and effort, regardless of what happens in the Missouri Senate primary, in August 2022.

So, THIS website analyzes several “systemic political problems”, including:

(i) why *third parties* cause the *opposite* of what they want, hope, and try to do. Put simply, it’s because they always, predictably, and inevitably *split the vote* with whichever party they are *closer to*, thereby helping elect candidates they *dislike*;

(ii) why Congress is doing pretty much the opposite of actually helping the middle class, *even though* it claims and pretends to be doing exactly that; and, *even*

though . . . history shows – repeatedly and consistently – that the best, happiest, strongest, and most productive period, for any city-state, empire, or nation ever in history, was when their ‘middle class’ was the largest, strongest, and most stable;

(iii) why Congress *does not even try*, and for the most part, *does not even want*, to help *solve* any of the most divisive, polarizing, and hate-filled issues that are tearing the nation apart. Why not? Because they have learned how to exploit the anger, heat, and steam created by those issues, to power the engines that help them get re-elected (because, well, steam engines do not, and cannot, run on just plain water; someone must light a fire beneath that water, and then keep pouring fuel onto that fire, to keep that water boiling hot, and creating steam); and,

(iv) how extremists, zealots, and ‘far-wingers’ (or wingnuts, nutcakes, ‘culture warriors’, ‘show-ponies’, ‘camera whores’, or any other preferred term), out at the far ends of the political spectrum, have come to dominate far too many of the nominating battles in **BOTH** parties, by being so aggressive, unpleasant, and obnoxious, that most moderates and centrists will simply leave, and abandon the contest, in disgust, allowing the extremists to win ‘last man standing’ battles they create, and inflict on their parties.

This website also proposes a number of logical proposals to fix (or at least control, and reduce) the problems listed above. These proposals were thought up, discussed with others, and slowly refined and improved over a span of decades, by someone with an unusual combination of skills; as a patent attorney, he needs to understand science and reality, as well as engineering and design principles, and he also must understand law, as well. Since good inventions are neither liberal nor conservative, he doesn’t get into those categories; instead, proposals have to be evaluated based on whether they can help solve problems, and do some good.

So, **THOSE** are the kinds of proposals that are described and discussed, in **THIS** website.

This is an early draft of a website by a scientist/engineer/patent lawyer/inventor who hopes to use that combination of skills and experience – i.e., in actually solving problems, and in working with creative people who want to help others – to at least TRY to help make politics “better”. That effort will focus on the following things:

1. Pointing out and explaining why America needs **TWO** stable, reliable, and functional political parties (i.e., mainly so that each one can help offer better choices to voters, while also helping to keep the other party under control of the public). We fully (even painfully) recognize and agree that the modern two-party system has become *very* badly broken; however, the best path forward is to repair and rebuild it, rather than shifting to some third-party system which will totally screw up everything;

2. Warning voters who are fed up with the two main parties (for *VERY* good reasons, we heartily agree), and who may be attracted to third-party alternatives, that whenever *any* third party has grown strong enough to change the outcome of an election, they *ALWAYS* have created results which were the exact *OPPOSITE* of what they *SAID* they wanted . . . because *ANY* third party will *ALWAYS* “split the vote” with the party they are closer to, and hand a victory to the party they do *NOT* like;

3. Creating mechanisms and tactics which can enable moderate and centrist voters to put powerful pressures on *BOTH* of the two main political parties (i.e., Democrats, and Republicans) to back away from aggressive, mean-spirited radicals and fringe-dwellers who have created “last man standing” battles that disgust and repel moderates, thereby allowing fringe-dwellers at *BOTH* ends of the spectrum to choose loud, obnoxious, ‘show-pony’ (or ‘culture warrior’, ‘camera whore’, etc.) nominees, who are crippling Congress and who do *NOT* serve the needs or wishes of tax-payers and voters;

4. Pointing out that in any “democratic republic” (which is what our Constitution created), things like negotiating, bargaining, and compromising are absolutely essential to enable functioning, competent government; and, describing a specific tactic voters can use to push *BOTH* parties back in the direction of selecting nominees who will do those kinds of things, even if it means having to actually negotiate with people from the other party; and,

5. Creating an early draft of *THE MIDDLE-CLASS MANIFESTO*, which will: (i) point out that the best, happiest, strongest, and most productive period of any city-state, empire, or nation that has ever existed, was the period when its *MIDDLE CLASS* was large, strong, and stable; and, (ii) propose ways that voters can force politicians to face up to that fact, and begin actually helping the middle class, rather than making useless empty promises to do so, and then serving their campaign contributors, for real;

6. Pointing out that career politicians are *NOT EVEN TRYING* to solve *ANY* of the most divisive, polarizing, hate-filled issues that are tearing America apart (abortion, gun control, immigration, health care, etc.). Instead, they have learned how to exploit, abuse, and “milk” those issues, to help them get re-elected. How? By exploiting the anger which is driving people apart, to get more campaign contributions, more attention and publicity, and more campaign workers. As a counter-effort, a set of logical, reasonable, productive and helpful positions have been developed, on each and all of those four problems, which *ANY* moderate candidate, from *EITHER* party, can endorse, get behind, and work for – if they want to actually help solve problems, and appeal to moderate and centrist voters.

America is in severe jeopardy of getting caught in a “perfect storm,” with not just one but several major, severely threatening, and powerful challenges, all barreling toward us, and looking as though they might *ALL* hit us, all at the same time. Therefore, we – ordinary citizens, taxpayers, and voters – need to find ways to pull *BOTH* of the major parties (Democrats *AND* Republicans) back from their efforts to tear this nation apart, and try to at least begin getting ready, before we get hit – *hard* – by things that we will *NOT* be able to control, after they have already landed on top of us with full force. We need to find ways to forcibly and effectively remind any and all candidates for Congress of their obligations to *ALL* of America, and to all the

middle class, and to all taxpayers, and to all the respectful and respectable people who are doing far more than Congress is doing, these days, to hold this nation together. We need to find ways to push and pull **BOTH** major parties back toward more stable, productive, and workable truces between them, using steps that will require **BOTH** major parties to change, and begin working on actually solving the most severe and urgent problems facing America.

Two last substantive points, for this front page:

FIRST: there are at least a dozen political organizations that have adopted goals and strategies which are nicely aligned with the “moderation, balance, and actual problem-solving” goals of The Two-Party Party. We do **NOT** want to compete against any of those organizations; instead, we intend to reach out to as many of them as possible, once this website is up and running, to let them know what we are doing (and how, and why); and, we hope to create cooperative partnerships and working agreements with as many of them as possible.

SECOND: during the 2022 election cycle, The Two-Party Party organization (originally formed in Missouri) will focus mainly on the Missouri race to replace Republican Roy Blunt, as US Senator. During this election cycle, since we do not have enough funding, manpower, or bandwidth to even **try** to organize and then manage any efforts in any **other** states, we invite, welcome, and urge anyone – in any state other than Missouri – to create their own “independent but cooperating” organization, and to become involved in any races for either the House, or the Senate, in any such state, using any tactics, strategies, positions, platforms, announcements, publicity, fund-raising appeals, “organizational management ideas,” or any other trait, activity, or whatever, from our group. Anyone who does so will not owe us any money, or even any attribution, mention, or thanks.

The day **AFTER** the 2022 election, everyone’s attention will turn to the 2024 election. When that happens, any state organizations that might want to work together (so that more nationwide recognition, credibility, economies of scale, and other good things can kick in) can see if they can find ways to do so. Finding ways to cooperate, work together, and actually get things done, is the heart and essence of **GOOD** politics; and, unless some network or cluster of state organizations can show and prove that they can come together and do that, the public will not care what they tried to do. Final point: to help create two vehicles that can be used to haul things, The Two-Party Party (in Missouri) has filed for nationwide trademark (“service mark”, to be more precise) registration of the following phrases: “Two-Party Party” and “Middle Class Manifesto”.

Okay, then; this “first draft” is heavy on text, with only a few graphics, since text is the easiest way to try to describe something complicated, in words that can be considered carefully, discussed with others, and revised. Once it is up and available, we will begin creating videos and other methods of spreading the word, which will be both: (i) plugged into this website, and (ii) posted elsewhere (such as on a dedicated YouTube channel).

Since this first version is so heavy on text, if anyone wants a complete text version of this entire website, so they can read it at leisure (and make notes in the margins, presumably to help prepare an attack in behalf of one or more candidates who feel offended, threatened, etc.) – **OR**,

Dating, Social

www.2party.org/2-party-dating-socializing

The 'Two-Party Party' approach of moderation, balance, and actually listening, is surprisingly adaptable to things like dating, socializing, and forming new connections. So . . . some thoughts on how some dating services and apps might be persuaded to try some new things . . .

Two-Party Systems Work Best – IF . . .

This section describes why TWO-party systems – *if* run properly, with the minority party able and willing to serve as “the loyal opposition” (i.e., loyal to the nation, but remaining opposed to the majority party) – offer the best option for any “democratic republic” (which is what America was created and intended to be, under our Constitution).

The next page describes why ONE-party systems (such as communist countries, military dictatorships, etc.) do not work well (or, at least, would not be well-suited for any country with a history and tradition of freedom, liberty, and individual rights . . . such as America).

The page after that describes why **THIRD** parties consistently create the exact **OPPOSITE** of what they want. The basic reason – for anyone who doesn’t want to have to read an entire page to learn a simple and obvious truth – is that any **THIRD** party will always and inevitably suction most of its support away from whichever major party it is closer to; and, as a direct result, *it will split the vote with the party it is closer to*, in ways which give an election to the OTHER party. As two quick examples: (1) when Ross Perot entered the 1992 election, as a 3rd-party conservative, he split the votes with the Republican (George Bush Sr.), which let the Democrat-liberal (Bill Clinton) win the Presidency, even though Clinton got only 43% of the vote; and, (2) when Ralph Nader entered the 2000 election as a third-party liberal environmentalist, he pulled enough votes away from Democrat Al Gore, to allow George W. Bush (Junior) to win the election, and then begin doing the exact opposite of what Nader’s followers wanted.

Having stated the above, we anticipate a **MAJOR** objection; so, here is the rest of our basic statement:

The Two-Party Party is **NOT** claiming or arguing that two-party systems always work fine, and therefore, everyone should support them. Instead, our belief is pretty much the opposite: America’s current version of the two-party system has become so **badly bent, damaged, and dysfunctional**, that **it needs to be fixed, somehow, or else** it will lead our nation into not just one but numerous major disasters.

Our claim, therefore, is that the pathway toward recovery is to approach things like a classic, competent problem-solver . . . which means, try to: (i) figure out what enabled things to work well, during those times when they did work well; (ii) figure out which changes made things worse; and, (iii) re-build some good things, and then use those to replace some of the bad things.

The Two-Party Party asserts that one of the most clear and obvious things that has gone wrong, is this: far too many moderates, centrists, problem-solvers, and people of good will and good sense have been driven out of and away from politics, by extremists, radicals, fanatics, and “culture warriors” at both ends of the spectrum. Radical right-wingers have figured out how to dominate the Republican Party, by being so loud, so insistent, so angry, and so abusive, that they create ‘last man standing’ battles, during the primary season, which repel and drive away any

moderates and centrists. And, although that particular problem is less severe on the Democratic side, it does indeed happen, in at least some states, with similar results. As a result, in too many elections, Republican at the ‘right-wing’ end of the political spectrum, and Democrats in the ‘left wing’ end of the political spectrum, have established outsized control over the process of choosing nominees. Then, in the general election, *moderate voters* must choose between those two candidates, *even though they do not like either one.*

Since that is a reasonable and valid way of analyzing and diagnosing the problem, the ‘Methods’ section, in this website, proposes a specific and practical series of steps that moderates can use – ***IF*** we can get organized, and begin using those steps – to push back against radicals and extremists, and to re-build and re-establish the roles of moderates, centrists, and respectable problem-solvers, not just to vote in the general elections, but also to have a powerful voice in telling *BOTH* major parties:

”BOTH of you two parties need to stop nominating extremists, fringe-dwellers, show-ponies, camera-whores, and “culture warriors” who only know how to argue, preen, parade, obstruct, and send out fund-raising appeals. Instead, you need to begin choosing nominees who are decent, hard-working, respectful and respectable people who have led good lives and raised good kids; nominees who will actually solve problems, instead of cynically milking and exploiting anger and hatred, to keep it boiling hot; nominees who will talk, bargain, and negotiate in good faith, even with people from the other party; and, nominees who will recognize that their first and foremost duty is not to their party, but to this entire nation, and to the taxpayers, citizens, and voters who pay their salaries, and hold this nation together. As in any bell curve, the people who form the large hump in the middle of the curve far outnumber the radicals and extremists who are out on the far ends of that curve. The first party which will learn to once again recognize and respect that fact, and which will begin choosing nominees who truly appeal to the center, will be the one that starts winning the most elections. Now, rather than just waiting, passively, while we wish you would come to your senses, we – as citizens, taxpayers, and voters – are going to start taking actions to kick-start that process.”

One Party Is Not Enough To Protect The Freedoms and Rights of A Free People, and a Free Nation

Until a few years ago, it would have seemed illogical, distracting, and a waste of words, to spend any time or effort pointing out that *ONLY-ONE-party* systems are not good. The reasons are plentiful, and obvious. One-party systems degenerate – inevitably, and with depressing speed – into corruption, abuse, cronyism, the jailing and torture of political opponents, and grotesque levels of theft, from the public treasury and public welfare, by those in power, and their supporters. Any good conservative would have said, resoundingly and with no hesitation whatever, that America is and must remain a land of freedom, and anyone who espouses or endorses socialism (as a type of economic behavior) and/or communism (as the type of government which is created by truly dedicated socialists) is an enemy of America, and of freedom.

But then, strange things began to happen, and in the past few years, it appears that quite a few Trump supporters have begun to think that America would be better off, if **THEY** – as a special and select group – could somehow gain enough power to impose their will on everyone else.

Any moderate (and any student of history, politics, or government) should realize that history has shown – so many times that it is beyond serious dispute – that if **ANY** small group of people who are driven by a compulsive craving for power, somehow become able to gather so much power – for themselves – that they can then begin arresting and imprisoning (or even just threatening, intimidating, and silencing) any potential rivals, trouble-making journalists, and anyone else they regard as a threat (or even just a nuisance) . . . well, that is exactly, and predictably, what those types of hyper-alpha, hyper-ambitious, domineering people will do.

The Two-Party Party has **NO** interest in spending time, energy, or effort, arguing with people who think America would be better off if the Republicans could somehow drive the entire Democratic Party into submission, and silence. Even if radical right-wingers can somehow convince themselves (mistakenly) that **THEY** stand for freedom, while Democrats stand only for bigger government, less freedom, and evil; and, therefore, if **THEY** (the right-wingers) can somehow take control of government, and drive anyone who opposes them into submission and silence, then **THAT** would create a new era of freedom . . . well, people who think in **THOSE** terms are simply wrong. Power corrupts; it always has, and it always will, and even if it cannot corrupt some particular individual, a set of ambitious, conniving, and unscrupulous “lesser talents” – in their incessant drive to gain power for themselves – will find ways to “work around” and undermine whatever limits the incorruptible person tried to enforce. Within just a few years, **ANY** single-party system will be taken over by the types of hyper-ambitious, hyper-aggressive connivers who always, always want more power for themselves, and they will begin doing the exact opposite of “protecting freedom”. And, their underhanded, conniving manipulations will soon lead to an intolerant, overbearing, and even fascist-type (or communist-type) government that does all it can to isolate and insulate itself from the wants, needs, and complaints of the complainers. The lessons and examples of history teach that warning so clearly, predictably, and

uniformly, that anyone who mistakenly clings to the opposite belief suffers from dangerous levels of ignorance, and gullibility.

If anyone is so ignorant of both history, and human nature, that he can fool himself into believing that an “authoritarian” leader might be willing to step in, do a lot of good for the country, and then voluntarily relinquish power, after getting it . . . well, the 2020 Presidential election offers yet another example, in a long, long string of historical examples, which consistently prove that . . . no, that is not how any true “authoritarian” thinks, behaves, or interacts with anyone who tries to take his power away from him.

The fact is that Democrats keep the Republicans in check; Republicans keep the Democrats in check; and, citizens and voters need to have **BOTH** parties offering plausible and serious candidates, in nearly any and all elections, to sustain a form of government that can reasonably be called “a democratic republic,” which is what America is, and needs to remain.

Our Constitution’s system of “checks and balances” does not just divide power among the three branches of our federal government; instead, it also recognizes and accepts that there will always, always, **ALWAYS** be conflicts and clashes in other areas as well, whenever men driven and tormented by ambition, vanity, selfishness, and a desire for glory and power, begin fighting among themselves, with each one struggling as hard as possible (and not always fairly or honestly, as history also shows) to gain more power and control than any rivals. Those areas of conflicts and disputes include, for example: (i) the allocation of powers among local, state, and federal governments; (ii) the rights of individuals versus governments; and, (iii) the compromises that must be made, when personal rights clash with property rights.

The balances and compromises that were woven into the fabric of our Constitution from its very beginning (and which became possible only after the “Articles of Confederation”, which preceded it, had totally failed to create a functional and workable government) are the best protectors of the rights and freedoms that Americans have. Those compromises were knowingly created by men who understood history, human behavior, and the dangers of too much ambition; and, they were designed and intended, from the very beginning, to create lawful and usable ways to address and resolve conflicts, and to protect the rights of . . . if not truly **EVERY**-one, then at least, more people than any other nation in history has ever been able to accomplish.

And, so . . . American citizens and voters truly **NEED** to keep some form of balanced **TWO-PARTY** system running, if they want to somehow remain free from a heavy-handed authoritarian leader taking over, and then paving the way for others with less talent to push us farther down a greased slope, toward outright abuse and lawlessness by our own government, against us, the people. The Founding Fathers, and our Constitution, gave “the people” – for the first time, ever, in the history of any nation on earth – the right to be the masters of, and the ultimate source of power over, our government. Any wingnuts who are gullible enough, short-sighted enough, and frankly stupid enough, to fail to see and recognize the wisdom of **THAT** system, and who would willingly destroy our rights as citizens by letting what used to work **FOR** us, take control over us and become **OUR MASTER**, need and deserve to be resisted, in any way possible, and in every way necessary.

History has shown – repeatedly and consistently – that third parties create the **OPPOSITE** of what they want

As people become more and more fed up and disgusted with the inability of Congress to do its job, they often begin to claim and argue that those who are dissatisfied should create one or more THIRD parties, to give voters more and better options. That assertion has an obvious and even compelling logic at its core, which is this:

At this time in our history, the two main parties are NOT helping to solve our nation's problem. Instead, politicians are making those problems even worse, while our yearly federal deficits, and total national debt, spiral out of control.

The Two-Party Party does not and will not deny that assertion, at all, in any way; instead, we regard it as a straight-forward fact. However, ***creating one or more third parties is NOT the right answer, and would only end up making those problems even worse.*** Why? The best answer begins with a quick review of the relevant history, which will lead to a first major conclusion:

EVERY SERIOUS EFFORT TO CREATE A THIRD PARTY IN THE US HAS BACKFIRED TERRIBLY, AND THE ACTUAL RESULTS WERE THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF WHAT THOSE PARTIES (AND THEIR SUPPORTERS) WANTED AND TRIED TO ACCOMPLISH.

Consider two events, recent enough that they both continue to actively shape and affect the political landscape in America.

In 1992, Ross Perot ran for President, at the head of a third party (“The Reform Party”) made up of conservatives. His candidacy ended up suctioning and draining enough votes away from the other conservative candidate – the Republican, George Bush Sr. – to give the Presidency to the Democrat, Bill Clinton, even though Clinton received only 43% of the vote. The conservatives who endorsed The Reform Party, and voted for Perot, ended up despising President Clinton, even though they had – inadvertently, and unwittingly – directly helped elect him. Indeed, they hated Clinton (and Hilary, too, once the President announced that SHE would be in charge of totally reforming America’s health-care system) so much, that an objective observer can make a strong argument that ***THAT*** was the beginning of the hyper-polarized, hyper-antagonistic era which can fairly be called “*hate politics*”, which has spread like a nasty virus throughout American politics ever since.

Eight years later, in 2000, Ralph Nader and his pro-environment “Green Party” directly caused the defeat of Al Gore, and handed the Presidency to George Bush Junior. Not surprisingly, Nader has spent the years ever since, trying to deny, deflect, and evade the facts of what he did, and what he caused, by pointing to *other* factors that *also* contributed to the final

result. And yet, the bottom-line fact is that if Nader and “The Green Party” had not done what they did, Al Gore would have won the election, and the Presidency. Whatever Gore’s shortcomings may have been, he has proved, by his actions, that he was serious about trying to reduce CO2 emissions, and help control global warming. But, Nader and “The Green Party” managed to drain enough environmental supporters away from Gore, to hand the Presidency to Bush Junior, and Dick Cheney – both of whom were “oil men”, who then stacked the federal agencies with other “oil men,” who pushed through policies that enraged and infuriated the environmentalists who had voted for Nader. In other words, *the people who supported Nader and “The Green Party”* ended up causing ***THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF WHAT THEY WANTED.***

Those are not isolated examples which never will be repeated. As three more examples:

1. Lincoln would never have won the 1860 election, except that the Democratic Party split into different factions, *which all still claimed to be Democratic parties.* When they divided the Democratic vote among themselves, they let Lincoln win with less than a majority.

2. Woodrow Wilson would never have won the election of 1912, if Teddy Roosevelt (a lifelong Republican, until 1912) had not created “The Bull Moose Party”, which then split the Republican vote with Howard Taft.

3. There was even a bizarre episode, during the 2020 election, where skilled and well-funded Republican operatives began doing everything they could, to try to help get the black rap singer, Kanye West, onto the ballots, in a number of “swing states”. ***NONE*** of those Republican operatives actually wanted West to ***WIN***; they simply wanted him to suction votes away from the Democratic nominee. If anyone doubts or disputes that, do a search that combines the law firm name, “Holtzmann Vogel”, with “Kanye West” and “2020”.

All five examples above are clear-cut examples and demonstrations of a straight-forward, undeniable principle which will always, ***ALWAYS*** apply to ***ANY*** and ***ALL*** political elections:

ANY THIRD PARTY WILL ALWAYS, INEVITABLY, AND NECESSARILY, PULL MOST OF ITS SUPPORT AWAY FROM WHICHEVER PARTY IT IS CLOSER TO.

Stated simply, if a third party candidate for President is a ***CONSERVATIVE***, he will drain and suction most of his votes ***AWAY FROM THE MORE CONSERVATIVE*** of the ***OTHER*** two candidates. That is just simple, basic logic. Conversely, if a third party candidate is a ***LIBERAL***, he will drain and suction votes most of his support, ***AWAY FROM THE MORE LIBERAL*** of the ***OTHER*** two candidates. Again, this is straight-forward logic, proven repeatedly by history.

If two people are splitting a pie, but then someone muscles in and says, “Well, ***I like YOU better***, so I’m going to take part of ***YOUR*** slice of the pie . . .” it should be obvious what effect that will have, on the victim of that ***SECONDARY*** cutting step. If anyone wants to dispute that analogy, and argue that it isn’t valid and should not be considered, they should be required to do so clearly and directly, rather than through sidesteps, rationalizations, and “pretzel logic”; and, they should be regarded with heavy skepticism.

All of the historical outcomes listed above were totally and entirely predictable. They were real-life demonstrations of what will actually happen, in the United States, if and when some “spin-off” party rises and expands (in response to some set of events, circumstances, etc.) to a point where it has enough size and power to actually change the outcome of an election.

I’m not a political scientist, or a statistician; instead, I’m an environmental engineer, and a patent attorney. However, I’d be willing to bet \$10,000 that, if some person or group wants to use computerized analyses to find out whether that same principle holds true in other elections – such as in elections for Governorships, or for Congress (in either chamber) – then the same correlation will be found, at a level of at least 85% or higher. The logic is so clear, so direct, and so straight-forward, that it would be foolish to bet good money against it.

And, there is yet *another* reason why any voter should be deeply skeptical of anyone who tries to help create a third party:

*Third-party leaders are deeply and profoundly anti-democracy,
in what they want, and what they secretly hope and try to do.*

The true goal, fantasy, and “wet dream” of *ANY third-party leader*, is to have the *two MAIN parties evenly split*, in their power and numbers – such as, with each party having 48 or 49% of the elected leaders, in any legislature. If that situation arises, then a third party which has only about 2-4% of the voters behind it, and supporting it, can suddenly be put into “the King-maker’s chair”. With only a small minority of the votes in some legislative chamber, they can swing those few votes in ways that can give either one of the two *MAJOR* parties a majority. *And what can some third-party leader, do if he finds himself in THAT position?* He can hold an effective veto power over everything and everyone in that chamber, and he can demand whatever he wants, in exchange for only a small bloc of votes.

That is not democracy; it is the *opposite* of democracy. And so, the question becomes:

How many times can we safely entrust our nation, our leadership, our political stability and security, and our futures, to the types of people who will argue that some third party provides the best answers to our problems, but who will not or cannot face up to the lessons of history, and who refuse to admit that whenever a third party became strong enough to change the outcome of an election, its members and supporters ended up hurting themselves, and sabotaging their own goals and interests? In a nutshell, that is the question which led to this website, The Two-Party Party, and to the proposals herein for different and hopefully better ways to approach and handle the problems we are facing today.

This is *NOT* an argument or claim that “two” is a perfect, ideal, wonderful number of parties, or that a two-party system offers the perfect way to solve political problems. Instead, it is simply a statement that the number “2” remains standing, when the number “1” fails, and when all of the numbers in the group “3 or more” also fail.

If some sloganeer wants to try to boil down that observation into a short phrase with cadence, here is a starting point, for consideration:

*Three is too many; one is too few;
Two can both govern, and give us a choice.*

So . . . before setting forth a proposal for how voters can begin to wrestle and fight their way back to “parity” with professional politicians, the next major section is entitled “*The Middle-Class Manifesto*”. The word “Manifesto” has a long history of being associated with radical causes (such as, “The Communist Manifesto”). In this context, it may well be radical; and yet, the “radical-ness” in this particular manifesto, comes from how and why it demands that politicians begin actually helping the middle class, rather than *merely claiming and pretending* to help the middle class, while quietly and actually working for the people who give them 90% of their income (i.e., their campaign contributors).

The Middle-Class Manifesto

For most people, the word “manifesto” implies a public statement which most people regard as ‘radical’, such as a call for the masses to rise up, revolt, and overthrow a government which the manifesto calls oppressive, corrupt, etc. So, anyone who sees the phrase above can and should ask, at the outset, “How can the radical word ‘manifesto’ be coupled – seriously – to the phrase “Middle-class”, which pretty much means the opposite of ‘radical’? Is that just a marketing gimmick, like a song title, such as ‘Earth Angel,’ or ‘Sound of Silence’?”

The answer is, this is not some radical plan to overthrow a government by using violence, sabotage, bombs, etc.; and yet, it is indeed an exhortation for American citizens, voters, and taxpayers to do things they have not done before, and take steps they have never taken before, to wrestle back to **THEIR** control, various political power(s) that have been gradually taken away from them, by politicians.

Stated in alternate words, it is a logical, practical, step-by-step pathway – created by a scientist/engineer/inventor, rather than a career politician – that America’s voters and taxpayers can use to quite literally force and compel the people who have slowly and gradually taken control over Congress, and who have given that control to an elite group of long-time career politicians, to hand that power back to the voters, who are the true source and the proper controllers of Congress’s powers, under the Constitution.

If this approach actually works, over the coming 10 to 20 years, we simply cannot predict whether it will be regarded (in retrospect) as radical; or, as simply a practical, logical, and realistic managerial way to address, grab hold of, and solve a set of specific problems, once those problems had been clearly identified and articulated.

So, let’s get started. What, actually, is the set of problems that “The Middle Class Manifesto” hopes and intends to solve? Can those problems be described, analyzed, and set forth in a way that will gain support from large numbers of voters, and taxpayers?

STARTING-POINT STATEMENT OF BELIEF AND GOALS

The starting point for this effort can be set forth as a single-sentence statement of belief. It is not yet supported by statistics, but it is so logical and intuitive that we are willing to stand beside it and defend it against anyone tries to criticize it, attack it, and prove it wrong. We invite any historians, statisticians, or others to analyze this hypothesis, and to describe any facts, data, or trends that support, contradict, or help clarify and refine this statement, to create a better and more accurate statement.

Throughout history, the best, strongest, most prosperous, most productive, and happiest period, for any city-state, any empire, and any

nation that has ever existed on this planet, was the period of time when that place/society had the largest and most stable ‘middle class’.

That starting point leads to a second statement of belief:

Recent political developments have pulled America in divisive, polarizing, and financially unsound directions, which are dangerously eroding, undercutting, and threatening the size, strength, and stability of the middle class in America. Just as importantly, the way modern politicians have begun to seize upon, and make even worse, the issues which most severely divide and polarize the citizens, voters, and taxpayers of America, is severely eroding – and even threatens to flat-out destroy – both the willingness, and the ability, of middle-class people to pitch in, help others, and help do what is right for the entire nation.

The two statements above, when combined, lead to this goal, and statement of purpose, by The Two-Party Party, which created this early draft of “The Middle Class Manifesto”:

Our goal is to give citizens, voters, and taxpayers better and more effective ways to *pressure, motivate, and when necessary, force* politicians to *ACTUALLY DO MORE* to help rebuild, enlarge, stabilize, and support the middle class, in America.

The bolded and all-capitals phrase, “actually do more”, arises from the fact that any political candidate will readily spew out plenty of lovely rhetoric and promises about how they do indeed want to help the middle class. There are plenty of those kinds of promises, in speeches written for politicians by speech-writers, packagers, handlers, managers, polling consultants, and other hacks, and, in canned, rehearsed, pre-packaged answers to questions that politicians know they are likely to be asked, when they appear in public. To the extent that empty platitudes and unkept promises encourage and breed both hypocrisy (among the speakers) and resentment (among the listeners), they are worse than useless; they are actively corrosive, destructive, and damaging, to the public welfare, and to our political system.

So . . . the goal of The Two-Party Party is to find ways to convert lofty but insincere platitudes, and empty promises, into serious, sustained, genuine, and committed action, which will indeed actually, provably, and measurably help strengthen, stabilize, and enlarge “the middle class” in modern America.

The other bold-font phrase above was, “*pressure, motivate, and when necessary, force.*” That phrase was written with a realistic awareness that one of the few reliable truths, in politics, is this:

IN POLITICS, THE ONLY WAY TO GAIN POWER IS BY TAKING IT AWAY FROM SOMEONE WHO WILL NOT GIVE IT TO YOU WILLINGLY.

Accordingly, words like “pressure and motivate” refer, not just to polite, restrained, and diplomatic use of words and gestures, but also to displays and acts of pressure and force which will be strong enough to drive and create real results, in the real world. The type of pressure, power, and force that is needed, to accomplish a good and worthwhile political goal, can be compared to the type of electric power (measured in terms such as volts, amps, and watts) that is needed to run anything that requires electricity – such as lights, refrigerators, computers, and cellphones. The simple fact is, it requires force, and power, to keep any of those things running. So, rather than apologizing for having to use and apply force and power, to accomplish something despite resistance, people should focus on what it will take to gather and harness whatever power is needed, and then on how they can and should apply and use that power, skillfully and intelligently, in ways that can: (i) run the saws, drills, jackhammers, and other power tools that will be needed, to rebuild and repair a building foundation and frame that have become so badly damaged that they have become unreliable and unsafe; and then, (ii) keep the lights on, and the phones, computers, and appliances running, after that foundation and frame, and the building they support, have been repaired and rebuilt. Rather than regretting (or apologizing for the fact) that force, pressure, and power will have to be applied and used, to get politicians to agree to change, a better approach is to just accept that the task will require:

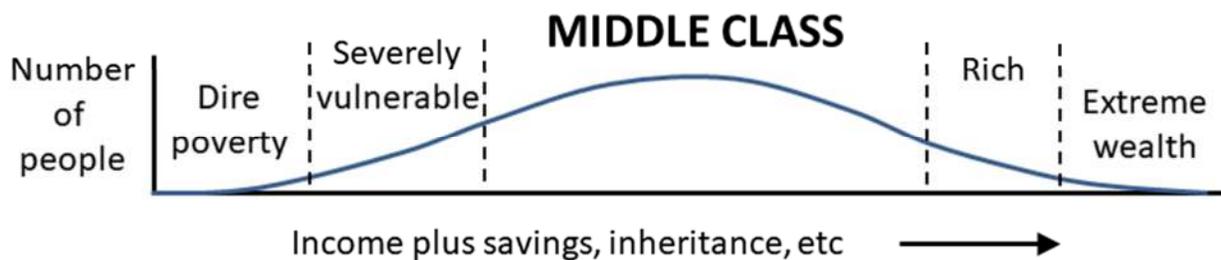
(i) creating, harnessing, and using effective ways to push, drive, and motivate politicians in desirable, useful, beneficial directions; and,

(ii) finding ways to allow *those politicians who will get on board, and actually help*, to ***share in the credit they will deserve, if they do indeed help*** create the agreements, compromises, accommodations, and changes that will be required, to accomplish a set of worthwhile goals.

The next page contains things like definitions, such as, “How do we define the phrase, ‘*middle class*’?” The word ‘we’ in that phrase refers to The Two-Party Party, which wrote this first draft. Our hope and goal is to hand over any follow-up work on “The Middle-Class Manifesto” (as something we hope will grow, mature, and harden into a lasting and durable statement of beliefs, principles, and goals) over to others, so that those of us who are actively interested in political battles (especially ongoing races for Congress, during the 2022 election cycle) can focus more on THOSE activities.

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The phrase “middle class” is used herein in a logical, common-sense way, and can be grasped most rapidly if illustrated by a classic “bell curve”, where the horizontal axis indicates the amount of money/income a family has, among families in the United States (clearly, the curves for impoverished countries would look very different). Extremely poor people are at the far left tip; extremely wealthy people are at the far right tip; everyone else falls somewhere in between.



The main point shown on that graph is that “middle class” does not merely exclude people in dire poverty; it also excludes people at slightly higher but nevertheless unstable and seriously vulnerable economic levels (sometimes referred to by phrases such as, “one accident or illness away from disaster”). That “severely vulnerable” group includes, for example, “primary breadwinners” who work for minimum wages; single parents who are struggling hard to raise children; people who cannot afford adequately-maintained homes, and who must struggle to get from paycheck to paycheck; and, people who do not have savings of at least a few thousand dollars (or the functional equivalent, in other times and societies). People in those categories generally are not regarded as “middle class”, as that term is normally used, and as used and intended herein.

Similarly, at the far right end of the curve, “middle class” excludes extremely wealthy and/or powerful people; and, it also excludes a second, not-quite-wealthy group, such as people who do not need to work, to live comfortably and eat well. Such people include, for example, the offspring (and mistresses) of the wealthy; and, people who made enough money, early in their lives, so that they could retire early without suffering a serious drop in their standard of living.

If the goal is to provide a detailed description, various clarifying and qualifying factors also need to be addressed. For example, families that live together – rather than individuals – must be considered as the main functional unit. If a married man makes enough money to rank in “the middle class”, a powerful presumption arises that his wife and offspring (assuming they live in the same house as the husband/father) also will belong to the middle class. In addition, if the goal is to create a detailed and accurate description, various special groups and classes of people would need to be addressed (such as soldiers; priests, pastors, or rabbis; and, people who receive relatively large disability, insurance, or other payments), since none of those groups fit readily or neatly into the economic categories that apply to most families.

There are no clear and distinct boundary lines which separate any group shown in the curve above, from any adjacent group; and, there have been huge differences in how income, possessions, wealth, etc. have been divided, and measured, in different locations, and eras. Nevertheless, any adult who is familiar with the phrase “middle class” should have a common-sense understanding of what it generally means, in modern America, and how it is used herein.

FUNCTIONAL TRAITS OF “THE MIDDLE CLASS”

In functional terms, “middle class” can reasonably be defined to include the immediate family (living in the same home) of any “man” (that term is not used with sexist intent, but with an eye toward historical roles in societies that have been male-dominated for millenia) who:

- (1) holds a job, or otherwise performs a service or works at a trade, and who gets paid for his work (this excludes soldiers, who belong in a special category of government employees);
- (2) pays taxes (or some social equivalent) on his income; and,
- (3) helps raise his own children, in housing he provides for them; but,
- (4) does not qualify as “wealthy”, and does not have any special level or type of priestly, political, or other power over people outside his family.

In simplified, stripped-down terms, “middle class” can be defined, with reasonable accuracy, to *include* any man who holds a job (and who needs that job, to pay his bills), who pays taxes, and who helps raise his own kids. The term “include” is used literally; other groups can be and should be included, but they do not change or alter the general accuracy and validity of the statement above.

A crucial conclusion and claim arise from the functional definition set forth above:

In every society that has ever existed, the middle class has done more than either the wealthy class, or the poor/impooverished class, to contribute to – and to help strengthen and stabilize – the society, and the form of government, that surrounds and includes them.

Although that assertion is not (yet) supported by statistics (at least, not in this first-draft essay), it is genuinely and sincerely believed to be true, to at least a 95% level, for two main reasons, which are logical, intuitive, and common-sense:

(1) First . . . *BECAUSE THEY CAN.*

Compared to the “severely poor” end of the spectrum, middle class people have enough resources to be able to contribute to, and help support, the society that surrounds them. Rather than being so poor that they can barely maintain their own homes, people who have enough resources to truly belong in “the middle class” want, not just their own homes, but *their entire neighborhoods* (and even their entire villages, towns, or cities), to look nice, and to actually be nice. And, to middle class people, a community qualifies as “nice to live in,” if it is functional, reasonably safe, reasonably efficient, and is able to provide them and their neighbors with the goods and services they need, and if it also is infused with at least some level of cheerful cooperation and friendliness (at least, toward those who belong there, and who are willing to also

contribute to the welfare of the neighborhood, village, etc.).

At the impoverished end of the spectrum, those who must struggle to make ends meet simply do not have enough money, or other resources, to match the levels at which the middle class can and will work to maintain, not just their own homes, but their neighborhoods, and their villages, towns, or cities.

And, at the opposite end of the spectrum, the wealthy tend to be more concerned (usually, *much* more concerned) with maintaining their wealth, and their privileged status, than with homilies and platitudes about how good and noble it is, or might be, to help the poor. They will hire servants, and pay for their services, but only if those servants agree to remain servants. The children of the wealthy have always gotten special privileges when wars are approaching or ongoing; and, tax deductions for “charitable donations” can be ignored, in any historical review of the statement above, since they are only a very recent invention, in history. While there are and always have been exceptions, one of the most fundamental and core desires, and drives, among the historically wealthy, is (and always has been) to have such a large estate, with so many servants and protectors, that they simply do not have to worry about what some neighborhood might look like, outside their estate. To the truly wealthy, what some neighborhood looks like, is not their problem, since they live on their estates, rather than in those neighborhoods. To the wealthy, what some neighborhood looks like, is someone else’s problem.

(2) Second . . . BECAUSE MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE LIVE IN CONDITIONS WHICH ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE THEM TO HELP, AND WORK ALONGSIDE, OTHER MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE.

In contrast to the wealthy, most people in the middle class usually realize – quite accurately – that they can and will be more prosperous, if their neighbors, and everyone else in the middle class, also are prosperous. Any merchant, artisan, craftsman, laborer, etc., no matter what product or service he is trying to sell, will want as many people as possible to have enough money, to be able to buy the product or service he is selling. Even those artisans and craftsmen who serve only the wealthy, on a day-to-day basis, would like to have higher levels of demand, and larger and more prosperous markets, for their goods or services, because that will put them in better positions to ask the wealthy to pay more, for those goods or services. That is basic common sense, and the middle class recognize and respect that type of sensible attitude. Therefore, the middle class, as a group, instinctively wants to do what it can, to help create a larger and more stable middle class (even as its individual members want to gather more money for themselves, and become wealthy). And, the only way to create an even larger middle class, with more people helping move things forward, is by helping that village, city-state, empire, or nation prosper, regardless of where it stands at any given time, under any particular set of circumstances.

Furthermore, people in the middle class are forced (by their circumstances, and finances) to develop a sense of, “No one person is strong enough to do it all, alone. Instead, we all are in this, together.” Humans are “social animals” to an extreme degree; indeed, we are the most social animals that have ever existed, in the entire history of this planet. *Nota bene*: To fend off potential criticisms from biologists, the “social insects” (bees, ants, etc.) can cooperate, but in

almost all cases, *only within* a limited group whose members all descended from a single “queen”. By contrast, humans will form tight social bonds even with much less related “genetic outsiders”; and, our sophisticated language capabilities, and the ability to read and write, help create and strengthen even more social bonding, among humans, and especially among the middle class.

With the above as support, we will circle back to the claim and assertion made above, and we challenge anyone to try to prove it wrong: **In every society that has ever existed, the middle class has done more than either the wealthy class, or the poor/impooverished class, to contribute to – and to help strengthen and stabilize – the society, and the form of government, that surrounds and includes them.**

MORE THAN 90% OF CONGRESSIONAL “INCOME” COMES FROM CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS

To the best of my knowledge and belief (I will welcome any statistics to refute, help clarify, or strengthen and support that statement), America has reached a point where more than 90% of the income received by most Congressmen and Senators comes from campaign contributors, rather than in the form of salaries paid to them by the taxpayers who elected them. So, take a running guess at where their true loyalties are.

I would encourage anyone, when discussing politics and politicians, to use the simple, logical, direct, straight-forward definition of “*income*”. It is, quite simply, money that comes in, as distinct from money that must be paid out. “Comes in” means that the money arrives in a way which puts it under the ownership and control of a politician.

I realize most politicians do *NOT* like that definition, because it makes them look bad. They would much rather limit what they call “income” to a much smaller (and much more modest, and humble-looking) amount, while claiming and pretending that “campaign contributions” are in some totally different category, which goes to some other entity, such as a “campaign committee”. It’s easy to understand why they prefer to use that self-serving name-swap. However, if a politician controls his campaign committee, and fully intends to use any money his campaign committee receives, for the sole purpose of helping him stay in office, and cling to power, then any attempt to pretend or claim that it is not “income” becomes an arbitrary and artificial distinction, which is *NOT* being used to inform or educate, but to mislead, and to create evasions, excuses, side-steps, and smoke-screens.

So, I will simply point, again, to a more logical, direct, reasonable, accurate, and straight-forward definition: “*income*” is money which comes in, rather than goes out. If any other type of person receives a payment from someone, either in cash or via check, it will make **NO** substantive difference whether he puts it into a savings account, or a checking account, *if in fact* he owns and controls any money in *each and both* of those two accounts. What matters is ownership, control, and the ability to decide and control how much money gets paid out, and to whom, and when, regardless of which account was used to hold that money until it was paid out. We should apply that same type of logical and realistic standard to politicians; but, we don’t. The fact that they have passed laws which serve their interests, and help them get re-elected, by concealing and obscuring important facts that voters should know when they choose who to vote for, is yet another indicator of the basic problem, which is that the people in Congress have come to regard themselves as our leaders and commanders, rather than as public servants whose job is to serve the public interests, and public needs.

So . . . somehow or another, we have reached a point where, in the majority of races, the campaign expenses – for the winning candidate – are more than ten-fold higher than the official ‘salary’ that will be paid to that person, out of taxpayer funds, during the single term in office that is at stake during some particular election. The straight-forward numbers will show that:

(1) *voters and taxpayers* end up paying **LESS THAN 10%** of the “income” that a (typical) politician needs, to get re-elected, and to keep clinging to power; while,

(2) *campaign contributors* pay **MORE THAN 90%** of the “income” a politician needs, to stay in power.

If that is indeed the fact, then it should not surprise anyone to learn that the most powerful, persuasive, and intense pressure on any elected official, will come, NOT from the voters who provide less than 10% of his/her income, but from the campaign contributors who provide more than 90% of his/her income. The American political system reached that point, turned that corner, and began traveling in that direction, decades ago, and, *it should not surprise anyone* that the **THIRTY TRILLION DOLLAR NATIONAL DEBT** that our country is now struggling with (and cannot pay down), began to pile up at unsustainable rates at – *golly, what a coincidence!!! – just about the same time* that politicians realized they had to work for, represent, and ultimately obey their campaign contributors, rather than the taxpayers and voters they only claim and pretend to represent, and work for.

As a result, if and when a politician is faced with a situation that requires him to choose one group over the other, then, the most common response – by nearly any politician – will be:

(i) working and plotting with his staffers, advisors, and speech-writer(s), to create flowery, elaborate, oh-so-clever speeches, offering up some thread of logic which pretends that the politician is indeed serving the voters’ best interests, over the long run; while, nevertheless,

(ii) quietly doing whatever his campaign contributors demand, in exchange for their life-sustaining, power-sustaining financial support.

So . . . the goal stated above can be rephrased as follows:

“How can middle-class voters, citizens, taxpayers, and workers – the true heart and strength of America – create and use better ways to pressure and force politicians to begin actually working for them – for the middle class – instead of merely claiming and pretending to do so, while actually doing whatever their campaign contributors demand?”

Our first draft of an effort to describe a serious, practical, step-by-step approach to tackling that problem, is in the ‘Methods’ section of this website. You can jump to it, by clicking on the button below; however, we would invite you to read the next 2 pages, before you go there, because they contain additional information which we believe can help provide two more good and useful planks, to the platform we hope to use to support the methods proposed herein.

METHODS BUTTON

www.2party.org/methods-1

MIDDLE-CLASS POLICIES TOWARD POOR PEOPLE, AND POOR NEIGHBORHOODS

As a starting point, let me state – clearly, directly, and up-front – that I have no fantasies or delusions that I have some special type of skill in knowing the best ways to deal with poor people. Instead, my intent is to say something along the lines of, “This is what makes the most sense to me, as a non-expert, and this is where I would go looking, first, for hints and clues that might help lead to some answers. So, if there are any genuine experts in this subject who find these comments interesting, promising, and worth more attention, I hope they’ll get in touch with me.”

The initial statement of position is so painfully obvious and simplistic that it seems embarrassing to even put it into words. If “middle class” is defined to include (this is not intended to be sexist, as stated previously) any man (of any race, ethnicity, etc.) who works for a living, pays taxes, helps raise his own kids, and has enough financial stability to be at least somewhat able to help make his neighborhood and community better – as mentioned on a prior page, that is a fair, solid, and reasonable definition of ‘middle class’ in America, today – then it becomes painfully obvious that the best way to help the middle class (and to help enlarge and stabilize it), when it comes to how our government and society should deal with the poor, is by helping as many poor people as possible climb out of welfare and other forms of dependency and poverty, and climb up into the middle class. By holding jobs, paying taxes, and helping raise their own kids, middle-class workers actively contribute to the strength and stability of America; by contrast, people who are on welfare, and who are constantly wanting to be paid more and more money out of ‘the public trough’ (supplied by taxpayers), do not. For that painfully simple and obvious reason, our society (and our finances) would be better off, if we could find better ways to do more, to actually help more people climb up out of the poor and welfare-dependent economic levels, and up into a ‘holding a job, and paying taxes’ level. If middle class citizens and taxpayers can push and drive politicians to enact policies which will help even a modest percentage of poor people climb up out of the poorest and almost-poorest economic levels, up closer to (and, in many cases, into) the middle class, then our entire society, and nation, would become stronger, and more stable. Any merchant or service-provider would benefit from having more people who can afford to buy the goods or services that the sellers are selling; and, the heavy costs of welfare, crime prevention, and prisons, would also go down, as well.

Since the INITIAL answer is so simple and obvious, that means the REAL and DIFFICULT questions arise, next. Well, then why don’t we do more of that? Why aren’t we actually doing more, today, to get more people off of welfare, and into working positions?

Numerous programs – some at the federal level, some at state levels, and some at local levels – have been started, as efforts and attempts to do exactly that. But, I have never heard of,

found, or read about, even a single well-done and wide-ranging review, which could help show which particular efforts tend to work effectively, and which do not. So, the need we are facing, now, is how to analyze – and then improve upon – how well, and how poorly, various programs have been performing, which were started with the goal of accomplishing the goal of getting people off of welfare, and into working lives. This would be a very good time for a thorough and systematic review, of not just a few efforts, but of all the efforts by federal agencies, and in states and cities across the nation, to see how well each such effort actually performed, and to try to discern why the poor-performers didn't do better, and to identify any tweaks, improvements, or changes which seem to offer the most potential for improving actual performance, and results.

Those types of “project reviews” are commonly and widely used, to a point where they are pretty much standard operating procedure, in business and private enterprise; and yet, I have never seen any reports of anything similar being done, by any government agencies that have budgetary and operating control over these types of programs. Accordingly, The Two-Party Party would urge that any such studies and reviews become the subject of a high-profile review, which would help give all voters in the US (and, all members of Congress) a better sense of whether (and how) we have been able to make actual progress, in getting people off of welfare, and helping them climb up into the middle class.

I would also urge that any such review should find ways to include – and even actively recruit – active participation and cooperation by every major player and segment, in society. This would set out to create an active combination of government agencies at all levels (federal, state, and local), along with private enterprise, churches, schools, and any civic groups or clubs, private foundations, etc., with all of them engaged in large collective partnership, where none of the partners needs to control or dominate any of the others, and where the goal is for them to find ways to cooperate, exchange valuable and useful information, and work “in harmony”, in areas where they cannot directly work “together”. If that type of major effort could get started, all five of those major sectors (government, private enterprise, churches, schools, and other private organizations) could actively gain and benefit from more and better opportunities to begin working together, more closely and actively than they have in the past.

As an aside, for anyone who hears alarms go off whenever anyone suggests some type of cooperation which might lead to government and church officials attending the same planning meetings, I would recommend this article as starting point, for anyone who wants to try to figure out where the law actually stands, on that issue, today: “The Supreme Court’s Religion Conundrum”, by Marcia Coyle (www.constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-supreme-courts-religion-conundrum). Ms. Coyle has been the Chief Washington Correspondent for *The National Law Journal* for more than 20 years. That article is only as a starting point for analysis, because it cites a controversial 1990 decision (*Employment Division v. Smith*, easily found via a Google search) but then declines to mention that that decision triggered a federal law, in response (the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993). That federal law was then overturned by the Supreme Court, leading to a patchwork of state laws, in some but not all states. In her article, Ms. Coyle focused on several other Supreme Court cases that were still pending at that time, which she hoped might resolve some of the unanswered questions arising from the *Smith* decision. However, those subsequent decisions (notably including *Fulton v Philadelphia*, also easily found) are more notable for their attempts to sidestep hard issues, by resorting to unsteady

balance points, than for any efforts to clarify where the law actually stands. For example, the *Fulton* case gave conservatives the result they wanted, but then it took extra, additional steps to explicitly limit that result to the very narrow facts of that one, single, specific, particular, localized case.

As an environmental engineer, and as an inventor and patent attorney – both of which lead strongly away from questions about liberal versus conservative, and toward questions about what would help do some actual good – my attitudes, perspectives, and beliefs tend to point in the direction of, “Churches can and should be able to do a great deal of good, in helping poor people climb up out of poverty, and get off welfare. Since they have so much potential, to do so much good, they should be actively invited and even recruited to participate in any such effort. If enough people of goodwill and good sense will get involved, and if we can find ways to keep any forward progress from being hijacked by those with selfish and hyper-partisan goals and agendas, then they can find ways to work together. If we try, we can find good and balanced ways to help them help us, and also help the people they are trying to help.”

In addition to pointing out that we need to do a serious review and evaluation of what has worked well, and what has not, in helping poor people climb out of poverty and up into the middle class, we also should squarely recognize, and be willing to honestly and candidly discuss and debate, any problems which we already know (without having to wait for the results of any additional studies) are hindering and impeding efforts to help the poor. Those issues include the following:

(1) in view of the huge and horrible debts and deficits we will have to begin struggling with in the coming years, ANY decision or effort which is seen (or which can be portrayed, by opponents) as diverting or reallocating more funding toward the poor, will rapidly trigger powerful suspicions, and strong objections, from anyone who thinks THEY should be getting more of that money, instead of giving it to the poor;

(2) there are powerful biases and beliefs, not just among the wealthy, but among the middle class as well, that large numbers of poor people are indeed poor, largely because they do not know how to handle and use money intelligently; so, if more money is given to the poor, they will waste and squander large parts of it, rather than using it productively;

(3) as soon as anyone tries to discuss a possible way to help lift people out of poverty, a number of highly vocal people, who see themselves as (or who aspire to become) leaders of African-Americans, will immediately begin making calls for “reparations”, to make up for the past injustices of slavery. For right or wrong, better or worse, the fact is that such calls will immediately inject levels and types of divisiveness, into any such debates, which will quickly turn any potentially useful debates into generally angry and unproductive arguments. As pointed out many times, people can listen to understand, or they can listen to argue. The concern, and the problem, is that if a serious effort to help poor people climb out of poverty, gets turned into arguments over reparations – if people begin listening to argue, rather than to understand – that will severely increase the chances that no actual and genuine progress will be made, in actually helping poor people climb out of poverty. So, I would raise the question as to whether some of the leaders of “the reparations movement” might be persuaded to agree on a compromise

position, where “a genuine and serious effort to help poor people climb out of poverty” might come to be accepted, and supported, as a better, more practical, and actually achievable alternative to (or perhaps ‘form of’) reparations payments.

DEALING WITH RACISM, AND RACISTS

We also need to make a better, more serious, and more sustained effort to address racism, in America, if we hope to be able to lift large numbers of African-Americans out of poverty, and up into the middle class. As one who has studied a lot of biology, I regard racism as just one particular category of a larger set of behaviors called ‘*selfish gene behaviors*’. This page, on this website, is emphatically NOT the best place to try to explain or summarize ‘selfish gene behavior’; it is a severely complex and difficult subject, which likely would cause most readers, at a political website, to simply give up, turn away, and click to some other website. Nevertheless, I feel compelled to at least mention ‘selfish gene behavior’ as the fundamental source and cause of racism, because it is a topic that needs to be recognized, and faced up to, by anyone who is willing to work seriously and sincerely toward trying to reduce the problems that are being caused by racism, today, in America.

Boiled down to its essence, ‘selfish gene behavior’ teaches that humans (and all vertebrate animals, and even insects) naturally and instinctively divide people into ‘us’ groups (which the people doing the rankings will then try to help, support, cooperate with, and fight for), versus ‘them’ groups (which people will then begin to regard with anger and animosity, since ‘they’ are rivals, competitors, enemies, etc.). Except in cases where “direct rivalries” come into play, ‘us versus them’ rankings and decisions almost always reflect and obey an instinctive desire to help and promote those people who are most like you, and more closely related to you, against the competition and threats posed by less-closely-related rivals and enemies. As a white male, if I look at any white male, and any black/African-American male, I will instinctively recognize, and know, that the other white male, and I, share more of our genes, than either one of us shares with that black male. So, the next mental step, for a white male, is to automatically and instinctively regard any other white male as more of an ‘us’ group member, while the black male gets pushed and ranked downward, in some less-related ‘them’ group. That is the nature and essence of racism; and, racism is simply one specific manifestation of a larger and broader type of animal behavior called ‘selfish gene behavior’. Because of ‘selfish gene behavior’, most people are more inclined to help members of their own race, than members of other races.

A FIRST point which needs to be made, is this: if we know and understand the facts, the instincts, and the types of reasoning mentioned above, and if we are willing and able to honestly accept, and face up to, and address those facts and behaviors as one of the central and crucial issues in modern American society (and law, and politics, and policing, etc.), then we will have better chances of finding useful and effective ways to deal with those unpleasant and actively harmful facts and behaviors, than if we try to ignore them, refuse to face up to them, and allow them to be twisted and warped into pretenses, rationales, and excuses that large numbers of ‘white people’ will use, to try to undercut, belittle, damage, and hold down people from minority races.

A SECOND point which also needs to be made, is this: ‘selfish gene behavior’ is not an inherently bad thing. Instead, it belongs in the category of things that are good, but only in moderation, and when under proper control. A solid and realistic ability to understand and work intelligently with ‘us versus them’ groups, is part of what is necessary, for any young person to feel a true, genuine, and deep commitment to being willing to work hard and sacrifice, if it will help protect that person’s family, tribe, village, and relatives. It sits at the heart of what motivates and guides things like teamwork, cooperation, collective efforts, and partnerships.

The problem is that for too many people, the concepts of teamwork, cooperation, contribution, and partnership tend to stall, stop, and run out of reasons and desires to keep climbing higher, once they reach a plateau that can be described as, ‘family, friends, and people who look like me and speak the same language as me.’ That large, flat, solid and stable plateau is indeed reasonable, logical, and sensible, and I don’t hate or begrudge people who choose to stop there. Instead, I will suggest – in the hope of helping more people figure out how to deal with people who choose to stop at that logical plateau – that the best and most promising way to reason with people who choose to stop at the ‘and people who look like me’ plateau, should include messages that would roughly translate into, “You’re not evil, for wanting to stop, at this plateau. It does indeed offer a lot of good things. However, as someone who has been working for years, as a guide, helping people of all types climb this mountain, again and again, I can tell you something which you have not yet seen, and I will swear to you that it is indeed true, and real. If you will climb one more plateau higher, and learn how to work skillfully with still more people – who can be, and who want to be, on your side, and who would genuinely like a chance to be teammates with you – you will find that life, work, the ability not just to accomplish but also to truly enjoy things, and a lot of other things as well, are all better, up there, at that higher level. So, if WE – me, and my assistants – will work with you, and will commit to becoming part of your next-step-forward, higher level ‘us’ group, which you can join and belong to if you wish – are YOU willing to put in the time, effort, and energy it will take, to climb up to that higher and better plateau?”

The simple fact – as proven repeatedly by history and human nature—is that there are better, more useful, more sophisticated, more powerful and helpful and insightful judging criteria, than just skin color, which people can use – if they will learn how – to help them identify the best teammates, partners, and cooperators for them, based on their needs and goals at any particular point or stage in their lives. Making a major and long-lasting decision, choice, and commitment, based on nothing more than skin color, is one of the least intelligent, least insightful, least helpful, and least useful ways, to make an important decision.

Instead of turning a major decision into a single irrevocable and unchangeable choice and commitment, think of major decisions as having three stages, one after the other. In the first stage, there are good ways to make solid and useful ‘first draft’ choices and commitments, to pick out a set of promising teammates. In the second stage, once a team has been chosen, there are good ways to use intelligence, cooperation, training, coaching, and other skills, to get that initial ‘US’ group better prepared, better equipped, and more ready to compete effectively, against any ‘THEM’ groups. And, in the third stage, there are ways to release and remove members who, for whatever reason, are not working out well, and to bring in new members with potential to make the ‘us’ group better. The point worth noting is, both of those second and third

stages require flexibility, adaptability, and a willingness to face facts, squarely and honestly; and, one of the problems that arises, when someone makes decisions based on race and skin color, is that the types of stubborn, biased, and prejudiced attitudes that have to be carried, as the baggage of racism, directly degrade and hinder an ability to stay flexible, adaptable, and willing to look honestly at the outcomes and results of decisions made earlier.

If anyone needs evidence or proof of that point, they can look at the professional athletes, and major-league teams, in any sport that has a major league, and millions of fans. With the arguable exception of ice hockey (which is different, for its own reasons), all the other major sports became integrated, over a span of about 20 years, after they all realized, consistently, that there were far, far better ways to choose and then work with truly top-level athletes and competitors, if they would set aside and ignore skin color, instead of using that one single factor as an all-or-nothing, do-or-die factor. If they wanted to win actual championships, in direct competition against other teams, they had to choose and hire athletes based on merit, rather than skin color. So, racists can and should at least try to learn from their examples. Learn how to do the same thing they did, without having to take 20 years to figure out how to do it. They already did it, so look at *how* they did it, and then, figure out how to do the same thing, in less time.

Moving past the issue of racism, the position of both *The Middle Class Manifesto*, and *The Two-Party Party*, is that society – and, politicians, and political leaders in particular – need to find ways to:

(1) help loosen, relieve, and reduce a number of predatory behaviors and policies that hold poor people back, and keep them marginalized and living on the outer fringes of productive society. The problems that need to be addressed include: (a) black-on-black crime and violence; (b) policies that encourage business owners to suction any money they can get from a poor neighborhood, out of that neighborhood, as quickly as possible, rather than enabling and encouraging that money to circulate through that neighborhood several times, before it is taken out; and, (c) improvements that need to be made to public schools, public education, and after-school activities that are available to children and teenagers in low-income areas;

(2) develop better ways to teach and show poor people how to use what money they have, more skillfully and productively; and, create incentives and rewards for those who actually begin using their money more skillfully; and,

(3) find ways to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies, among the poor and unwed.

Finally, I will add one more mention, of something which might be able to genuinely help the cause. The best book I have ever read, on how people (and churches) can actually and genuinely help poor inner-city neighborhoods, is called *The People Parish*. It was written by Fr. Gerald Kleba, a Catholic priest in St. Louis. Fr. Kleba was a friend of the large Catholic family I married into, after I moved to St. Louis for a new job, met a wonderful woman, and married her.

Each and every chapter, in Kleba's book, was the story of how he had worked with his (mostly black/African-American) parishioners, to identify a specific problem, and find a way to, if not solve it, then at least make it "less bad". As I kept reading, I realized that his approach was

a marvelous demonstration of a management tactic I had read about, years earlier, in the classic business management book, *In Search of Excellence*. The strategy is called ‘The Chunking Strategy.’ It says that one of the most effective and successful business strategies is for management to identify the most important “chunks” that cause, aggravate, or clutter and entangle the worst problems that some company division is facing, at any given time. Instead of trying to solve an entire major problem, all at once, analyze it carefully to see whether one or more ‘chunks’ of that problem are playing key roles in causing that problem or making it worse, and if so, what the best strategy would be, to work on and hammer on that particular identified chunk, with better, more controlled focus, and with the increased level of pressures that can be generated by using a narrower focus. As companies figure out how to use that type of controlled and focused pressure, to make genuine progress toward solving the most important ‘chunks’ of larger problems, they usually find that if a crucial part of a problem can be solved, then the entire problem is likely to begin getting better, as the other parts of the problem begin adapting to the new and better reality which was achieved by taking care of a difficult and unwanted ‘chunk’ sitting in the middle of a serious problem. And, if a management team can actually solve 1 or 2 of its most difficult, challenging, and important problems, one year; and then, actually solve another 1 or 2 of its most difficult, challenging, and important other problems, the next year; and then, actually solve another 1 or 2 of its most difficult, challenging, and important other problems, the next year after that . . . well, it won’t take too many years for that management team to be recognized, within a larger company, as one of the best and most effective long-term strategic teams that the company has, even though they did not start out with that as their goal. The trick was to break down larger problems into workable, manageable ‘chunks’, and to then seriously tackle, focus on, work on, and make progress in actually solving problems, one chunk at a time.

I assume there were more overlaps, and fewer real boundaries, between the different chunks that Fr. Kleba was describing, in his book; nevertheless, the way he devoted each chapter to how he and his congregation tried to solve a particular problem, gave a powerful impression that he was indeed using ‘the chunking strategy’ to very good effect. So, for anyone wanting to try to actually help solve problems in poor neighborhoods, I would recommend that book as, at the very least, a good starting-point description of what some of those problems actually are.

MIDDLE-CLASS POLICIES TOWARD THE WEALTHY

As a preface to this section, the person who wrote the first draft of this “Middle Class Manifesto” would urge, exhort, plead with, and even beg (on bended knee, if that would help) Democrats to cleanly, clearly, and carefully avoid and stay completely away from the labels “socialism” and “socialist”, and from terms and phrases (such as “income redistribution”) which will be attacked, by Republicans, as socialist. Republicans have won voters, and votes, and elections, by latching onto and then using (against Democrats) a number of “catch phrases” which voters then begin to associate with whatever meanings the Republicans choose to load on top of those phrases.

A classic example, if one is needed, is provided by the way Republicans seized upon the phrase “critical race theory”, and then twisted and distorted it into other meanings that the original creators and users never intended, and then used it effectively against Democrats, with at least one major victory (the Virginia Governor’s race, in 2021) which resulted, in substantial part, from how effectively the Republicans were able to use that phrase, as a weapon. This process is depicted fairly clearly in several candid statements from a far-right-wing Republican named Christopher Rufo, who first spotted that opportunity, and who has openly published each and all of the following statements:

*”I am **quite intentionally redefining** what ‘critical race theory’ means in the public mind”*

*“We have **successfully frozen their brand** – ‘critical race theory’ – into the public conversation and are steadily driving up negative perceptions. **We will eventually turn it toxic**, as we put all of the various cultural insanities under that brand category.”*

*“The goal is to have the public **read something crazy** in the newspaper and **immediately think ‘critical race theory.’**”*

The Wikipedia entry on Christopher Rufo also sheds light on who he is, and what level of honesty he feels compelled to abide by, in his public statements. It contains each of the following phrases:

*“**Rufo has misrepresented** . . . “*

*“**Rufo has also falsely claimed** . . . “*

*“**He also falsely claimed** . . . “*

Each of those phrases is followed by (i) a description of something Rufo publicly stated; and then, (ii) an explanation of why that statement, by Rufo, was false and misleading.

The point that needs to be recognized and understood, by any Democrats who might be interested in “The Two-Party Party” and/or “The Middle Class Manifesto”, is this:

IN THE WORLD OF POLITICS, LIARS OFTEN BEAT PEOPLE WHO FEEL OBLIGED TO BE HONEST, AND HAVE INTEGRITY. SO, DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THE LIARS TO WIN, BY GIVING THEM POORLY-CHOSEN PHRASES AND TERMS THEY CAN USE TO BEAT YOU, AND TO TRICK AND SEDUCE VOTERS YOU WILL NEED, TO WIN ELECTIONS.

So . . . for now, I would ask any and all readers to drop, omit, and carefully avoid any and all references to socialism, ‘income re-distribution’, and any other vague and imprecise but value-laden term which actively invites attacks and criticism by anyone who is seeking some way to attack. Please try to focus, instead, on what is actually being proposed and suggested in this section, which is about a new approach which politicians and ‘the middle class’ (and, ‘The Middle Class Manifesto’) might be able to create and use, to create a new category of public-spirited projects, working with people who are truly wealthy.

I propose to use an analogy, taken from medicine and health sciences, to set the stage, before describing what might offer a promising and potentially effective approach for how government, voters, the middle class, and society should deal with the super-rich. This proposal arises from a medical term, which is **EDEMA** (pronounced as “uh-DEE-muh”). In medicine, edema refers to the unwanted accumulation of too much liquid (which, in animals, means blood or ‘lymph’) in some part of the body. As a brief aside, “lymph” refers to the clear watery liquid that surrounds and bathes the cells, in any type of soft tissue. That watery fluid, outside the cells (and also outside of any blood vessels), helps oxygen and nutrients reach the cells, and it helps remove unwanted waste products (metabolites) that have been secreted by cells. In most types of soft tissues, lymph makes up about 1/6 of the volume of the tissue. It is created mainly by leakage of blood plasma out of the higher-pressure “upstream” zones in capillaries. After it leaves the circulating blood, it travels slowly between the cells, in any soft tissue, until it reaches a drainage channel, which will carry it more rapidly to a lymph node, where it will be processed. Eventually, it will re-enter the blood vessels that serve lymph nodes, and that blood will later pass it through the kidneys, which will add it to urine, and excrete it.

The medical problem called “edema” arises when something clogs up or otherwise hinders the flow of either type of circulating liquid (either blood, or lymph) through soft tissue. If more fluid keeps arriving, but cannot continue passing through and then readily leaving a limb, hand, foot, finger, or toe, it will directly cause swelling. In cases of severe clogging or other hindrance of fluid flow, the swelling caused by “edema” can rapidly become very painful, and the condition will be diagnosed as inflammation (which occurs when both pain and edema affect the same limb, extremity, etc.). In other cases, such as when the ankles and feet of an overweight and/or elderly person visibly swell up whenever that person is not lying down with his/her feet raised, the symptoms usually point to the condition called “congestive heart failure”, and that type of condition – even though it is a serious medical problem that requires attention – often does not cause serious pain, beyond a (usually) tolerable burning or itching sensation.

The bottom line is, edema is a bad thing, whenever it occurs. Indeed, the medical definition of “edema” says that fluid accumulation, in any soft tissue, rises to a point where it should be diagnosed and classified as “edema”, only when it crosses some boundary or threshold, and becomes severe enough to be painful, disruptive, or otherwise noticeable and unhealthy.

The reason edema is being raised as an analogous situation, in this discussion, is because the circulation of blood, in an animal, is directly analogous to the circulation of money, in a society. In complete seriousness, in the same way that blood's basic function is to deliver nutrients, and remove unwanted things, that is the same thing money does. On the supply side, money brings in "nutrients" (i.e., the things that people want and need, in much the same way that oxygen, glucose, amino acids, and other good and healthy biomolecules are what cells, inside an animal body, want and need). And, just as cells need – truly and seriously NEED – to have someone or something help them get rid of the waste products they create, money can also solve a human being's problems with "unwanted waste"; it can help people get rid of things they don't want; it can help get them out of a jam; it can pay off creditors, and others who are demanding things from them; and, it can help persuade a policeman, sheriff, court, or jury that some mistake was more of an unintended mistake, than an intentional crime (and, any lawyer who helps do that type of persuading also will have to be paid, usually in cash). There are good, valid, and even compelling reasons why the flow of money, through a society, is called "circulation", just as the flow of blood in an animal body is called "circulation".

And that circles back to the topic, and definition, of "edema". If too much blood ends up accumulating in the hand of some person, that affected hand will become painful, and it will lose its ability to function properly, which usually will include (but not be limited to) a loss of strength (which can arise, not as an innate and inherent loss, but as a result of an already-inflamed hand becoming even more painful, if someone tries to use it to grip something tightly). It also will reduce the mobility and "nimble-ness" of a hand (engorged fingers usually feel clumsy, stiff, and/or "fat", and they cannot be bent in normal ways). And, that person will have trouble doing anything that the hands normally help do (such as eating, writing, using a cellphone or computer, turning a television on or off, etc.).

In ways that are analogous (even if not directly similar), if too much money becomes concentrated in the hands (i.e., in the ownership and control) of just a small number of people, that condition can cause its own set of problems.

Some of those problems will directly affect the people experiencing (suffering?) that type of "engorgement". It's an old cliché to point out that money does not buy happiness; it might be more useful to point out that people who have middle-class lifestyles and houses (and, who live in middle-class neighborhoods) tend to have substantially better success rates in raising happy, sociable, and well-adjusted children . . . presumably because children who grow up in middle-class houses, and neighborhoods, get exposed to a wider and better variety of average, ordinary, typical children, thereby allowing middle-class children to play with, grow up with, get to know, and come to better understand the needs, wants, and problems, as well as the strengths, resources, and capabilities, of wider ranges and assortments of people.

Other problems arise from the fact that, if a substantial portion of the money supply, in a society, has been "sequestered" by a small number of people, then the rest of that society will suffer, because there simply isn't enough money left, to circulate among the other people who need it. As an example, if elite baseball players get paid hundreds of millions of dollars each year (any reader should be at least tempted to add, *'just to play a game!!'*), then it should not surprise anyone when: (i) a simple hot dog, or a regular-sized beer, at a major-league baseball stadium,

cost more than \$9 each; (ii) most middle-class parents cannot afford to take their kids to baseball games more than once or twice a year; (iii) large numbers of seats are empty at most major-league baseball games, in all but a few very large cities and a few unusually baseball-friendly cities. In addition, teams which must spend an over-large fraction of their salary on just one or two super-expensive players, tend to miss the playoffs (and, don't go as deep into the playoffs) more often than better-balanced teams, and teams which have better team spirit and camaraderie (as opposed to jealousy and resentment, among lesser-paid players, toward the salary hogs who are taking far more than just a 'fair' share of the money). In addition, if elite athletes in all major sports get paid hundreds of millions of dollars each (should one add, *'just to play a game!!'?*), then don't be surprised when everyday products become more expensive, because of a financial system that includes "the costs of advertising" as a major and critical linkage point, in a financial system which does indeed include 'player salaries,' in the same interconnected network as, 'products being sold at grocery stores, clothing stores, and every other kind of store'.

Returning to "edema" as a medical problem, it was a standard practice, for centuries (up until the mid-1800's, in many countries), for the early (pre-science) versions of surgeons and/or doctors, to create a cut, through the skin that covered some limb or "extremity" (such as a hand or foot), if that limb, hand or foot became severely inflamed and engorged to a point where the skin literally began to feel "tight". Their logic was simple: if there is too much blood in that limb, hand or foot, then you need to allow some of that blood to escape, and go elsewhere, since 'going elsewhere' can directly relieve the pressure, and the swelling. The problem was, it combined two factors: (i) that type of "bleeding" treatment almost never succeeded, or benefitted the patient, in any way; and yet, (ii) that treatment sometimes appeared to work, because many patients got better, eventually, despite (rather than because of) a "bleeding" treatment.

Suggestions that America should use "income redistribution" (i.e., the classic socialist approach of simply taking money away from the wealthy, and giving it to the poor) is directly analogous to pre-scientific "bleeding" treatments, in attempts to "cure" inflammation and edema. The problem is, neither the "bleeding" approach, nor the socialist monetary approach, actually works (let alone works 'effectively').

Instead, a cooperative approach, with a substantially greater likelihood of success, can be crafted, if people approach it in more logical, scientific, experiment-oriented ways which can evaluate the utility of a new approach, by seeing what results it creates. Accordingly, the proposal below is a first draft of how such a "trial run experiment" might be arranged, and approached.

It would involve approaching a number of multi-billionaires who have succeeded by building great companies (as distinct from, say, hedge fund founders); the names Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk, Warren Buffet, and Oprah Winfrey come to mind, as examples. A combination of financial specialists, angel investors, venture capitalists, retired executives, business and engineering professors, and representative of several government agencies – including the IRS, and the federal departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs – could jointly work up, and refine, an approach which is specifically designed to appeal to any one or more of those multi-billionaires. Here is a first draft of an in-person pitch, to be supported by a PowerPoint deck:

“You, ____ [Mr. Gates, or Buffet, or Bezos, or Musk, etc.] have already proven that you have extraordinary and world-changing talent, capabilities, insights, diligence, and managerial skill. We would like to offer you a chance to join the pantheon of true, all-time, historical greats who are genuinely respected by nearly everyone in the world – the super-elite category which, today, is represented by only a very, very few people, such as Leonardo DaVinci, and Benjamin Franklin (some people also believe that Edison, Einstein, Disney, and a few others also belong in that pantheon). How might you be able to accomplish even more than you already have? By working with us, and with any other people you nominate to join us, to help select, plan, fund, and manage a major, major project, which can and will truly help and benefit all of humanity – both through the initial project we will ask you to help fund, and also, by helping create a working model, example, and lesson that we can follow and use in other projects, and that any other nation can follow, if they choose. We have ____ [some small number of] proposals, as examples of what we are thinking of, and we invite you to propose any others that you would like us to consider. We are not asking for your time, to manage it, because you already are doing so many other things. What we would like, instead, is for you to nominate perhaps ten or twenty of the best and most promising managers you have encountered, during the course of your career and life. If you will nominate anyone, we will talk to that person about possibly joining us, and helping manage whatever project you end up funding.

“Now, in exchange for us asking you, personally, to contribute what could become multiple billions of dollars, as seed money which will be supplemented by additional money from government, and hopefully, also from other private companies that applaud and approve of how we are jointly figuring out new ways for private enterprise and government to work together, we are willing to discuss whatever tax proposals you believe are reasonable, and realistic, which you would like those of us in government, to consider. And, so that we have at least a starting point to discuss and debate, we would propose to focus on “earned income tax credits”, as one of the models, and options, we would like to consider, as we discuss any proposals, requests, or negotiating points you might want to suggest. So, please take a month or two, to confer with your advisors about this proposal, and get back to us.

“And now, as another potentially major issue we will want to discuss with you, in the future, we would like to find some sort of cooperative way in which some members of labor unions can be allowed, encouraged, and incentivized to work with at least some ‘non-union’ people – or, perhaps we should call them ‘pre-union’ or ‘starter union’ people. One of our goals is to create job openings for several distinct groups of people who need jobs. These groups include, for example, young people who do not yet have work experience or histories; people who are taking a year or two off, either between high school and college, or after a year of college that didn’t go well; people who have been released from prison; and, people who are at risk of being sent to prison, unless they can straighten their lives out and learn to hold a stable job. Without being either pro-union or anti-union, we are aware, and we want to share with others, that at crucial times in our country’s history, such as after World War One, and again, during the Great Depression, trade unions played an absolutely crucial role in helping create a strong and stable middle class, in America, in ways that helped prevent socialist and communist organizers and propagandists from finding ways to pull in large numbers of Americans. That middle class became one of America’s most important sources of strength and stability, and we have become severely afraid that America needs something like that, again, as several sets of major and

potentially huge problems – including global warming and climate change, the out-of-control national debt, Congressional dysfunction, and threats to democracy as a form of government – all seem likely to become much more severe, in the near future, all at the same time, as a multi-whammy which might seriously threaten every person, and every company, in this country, and in numerous other countries as well. So, if you are willing to work with us, we would like to explore several possible options, for enabling union members, who we presume would be working for the government, at union wages, to take on the added assignment of teaching and training young workers, and at-risk workers, the lessons of how to do skilled work, how to work and get along with managers and co-workers, and things like that. We also will be talking with the trade unions, to explore various possibilities, such as creating a new type of union for people who have spent time in prison and who now want to join the work force, and perhaps one or more specialized unions for young people as trainees, apprentices, or whatever, who will learn to work with union members. We are not yet ready to make any decisions or commitments, on that front, but we do want to raise that issue, even at this early stage, because it could become an important part of what we are trying to do. Our goal is to begin talking with several different groups and interests, and find out whether there might be opportunities for agreements, and working arrangements, which can give young and/or at-risk people good training, while also getting the most work output, and the most useful and valuable results we can get, from whatever money you might supply, and any money that taxpayers and other companies might supply. This isn't a pro-union stance, or an anti-union stance. It is merely a realization, and a hope, that if we can get you and several other billionaires to help, we may be able to turn some kind of corner, and create some good, useful, innovative progress toward helping rebuild and re-stabilize the middle class in general, and middle-class workers in particular, in America.

“And now, having said all of that as a preface, here is our short list of projects we would like to propose, for your consideration. It is not an exhaustive list, but we hope these examples can help stimulate some thought, and some useful discussions and exchanges, between us.”

To accompany and support that “opening statement”, two examples are briefly summarized, below, of the types of projects that could be proposed, for funding by multi-billionaires who would be asked to become involved, such as by nominating skilled and trusted managers, who then could become involved with a major project, in some way.

1. One candidate major project could hire young, semi-skilled, at-risk, or other people, and train and employ them to install solar energy panels, on flat roofs (with options available for those who might enjoy the challenge of learning, later, to work on sloped roofs). This type of project could greatly speed up and increase: (i) the number of solar installation that can be used to reduce the burning of carbon-emitting fuel, especially in publicly-owned buildings; (ii) the number of “emergency charging stations” that can be available to the public, to let them recharge cellphones, laptops, emergency medical equipment, and similar electronic devices, if a disaster or emergency cuts off electricity in some area for more than just a day or two; and, (iii) the rate at which America will be able to reduce its carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

2. The second major proposal involves manufacturing, and then installing, railroad ties that are made, at least in part, from rubber that can be reclaimed from old discarded tires. This would

help repair and upgrade America's railroad system, in ways that would be helpful and beneficial for a number of reasons, including:

a. it is much more efficient (in terms of lower fuel costs, and lower carbon emissions) to haul freight or passengers via railroads, than on rubber-wheeled trucks or cars. I cannot say with certainty that this number is true, but if memory serves, this is the number I heard, on the episode of the *Modern Marvels* television show about how locomotives are made: it takes about 17 times more fuel to haul a ton of freight a fixed distance, in a diesel-powered 18-wheeler truck, compared to hauling that same ton of freight the same distance, on a train;

b. if railroad ties are made of rubber (presumably mixed with either an adhesive, or an extruding agent, or when used to create a water-tight coating around a wooden core), that rubber material can flex and yield, enough to keep rubber (or rubber-coated) railroad ties from cracking, even after they have been exposed repeatedly (and, for years and years) to freezing-and-thawing cycles (winter/summer, day/night) which cause severe cracking of railroad ties made of wood;

c. if railroad ties are made of rubber, they can both: (i) reduce the number of trees that need to be cut down, to provide railroad ties; and, (ii) create good uses for the piles (mountains, in some locations) of discarded tires that are scattered across America, and elsewhere. Because discarded tires can hold small puddles of stagnant water in quiet and protected locations, they create excellent places for mosquitos to lay their eggs, and that creates huge numbers of more mosquitos; and,

d. this effort could also help lay the groundwork for – if not “bullet trains” that travel at more than 150 miles/hour – then, at least, “express trains” that will travel at 80-100 miles/hour, and make only small numbers of stops between large cities, thereby providing fast and efficient service between large cities, and helping to reduce carbon emissions from airline travel.

The two projects mentioned above – i.e., asking multi-billionaires to help plan, assign skilled managers to help manage, and then help subsidize and fund: (i) teams of people who will install solar panel on government buildings; and, (ii) better railroads, with better and longer-lasting railroad ties – are just two examples that can be described. Numerous other candidate projects will occur to anyone who works with, or around, the “infra-structure” components that help support and enable everything our society does and needs, including travel, business, recreation and tourism, agriculture, etc.

The bottom line is this: if we look for them, and if we are willing to stay open to suggestions and input as we try to design and structure them, there are numerous highly promising ways that our government can, indeed, work with truly wealthy (and extraordinarily talented and successful) people, in ways which might be able to start good things (including useful teaching moments) moving in both directions, back and forth, between government, and private enterprise.

Methods and Tactics – Intro

This page contains an overview of a proposed plan of action, describing how a state organization, working in cooperation with a nationwide “Two-Party Party” organization, can begin taking steps to tackle the challenges of:

(1) helping voters figure out which of the two main-party candidates, in any specific race, will do more to actually, genuinely, and seriously work to help the middle class, rather than simply promising to do so, but then quietly doing whatever their largest campaign contributors tell them to do;

(2) helping get those candidates elected, via: (i) endorsements, by committees of accomplished and successful moderates, centrists, problem-solvers, and people who have led good lives; and, (ii) advertising, campaign activities, and other support, after the committees have announced their slate of endorsed candidates.

If those initial goals can be accomplished with even partial success (as shown by higher win rates, for candidates that have been endorsed by a state organization that is cooperating with The Two-Party Party), then other achievable goals will begin to become possible, and do-able.

One such goal is to “persuade and motivate” *both* of the two main political parties (Republicans, and Democrats) to begin nominating more centrists, moderates, and skilled problem-solvers, who can appeal to the large numbers of centrist and moderate voters who want government at all levels to actually help solve pressing and urgent problems. If moderates do not begin to establish THAT as one of their goals, they will continue to allow zealots, fanatics, and extremists, in either the Republican or Democratic party, to use insults, attacks, and aggression to create “last man standing” battles that repel and drive away moderates. That process has reached a point of allowing extremists in either party to choose “ideologically pure” nominees (and bombastic “show-ponies”, camera-whores, etc.), who will vow to never, ever compromise (or even negotiate in good faith) with anyone from the other party (since, according to those types of characters, the other party is racked and riddled with evil enemies of America, who are trying to destroy America, and everything good America has ever accomplished).

If moderates cannot find ways to “persuade and motivate” the two warring parties to begin nominating more moderates, centrists, and problems solvers who are willing to negotiate in good faith with members of the other party, then the divisions that have wracked and effectively paralyzed Congress, and have made it unable to function at even a basic level, will only grow worse.

So . . . with THAT as the alternative, The Two-Party Party urgently pleads with moderates, skilled problem-solvers, respectable people who have led good lives and had good careers, and others who have chosen (until now), and with good reason, to simply not go wading and wallowing in the toxic, infected, stinking, fetid swamp of “modern politics”, to change their position, and try to make good and useful connections with other moderates, centrists, and reasonable people.

The steps outlined below offer a feasible, realistic, and hopefully appealing opportunity to do exactly that. Nevertheless, they do not claim to be anything more than “an early draft”, written (up until the date of first posting on this website) by a single person (but who has several different skillsets, professional licenses, and perspectives, and who also has had the help of a number of friends, advisors, etc.). Therefore, if anyone out there thinks they can come up with a better set of proposals, then:

(1) they are urged to publish and post their ideas, in whatever form they choose, while hopefully also sending a copy to The Two-Party Party organization in Missouri, where it was first created; and

(2) they also are urged to seriously consider helping to create a Two-Party Party organization, in whatever state they live in (other than Missouri), and become one of the founding members, and leaders, of that organization, in that state. A proposed set of terms, to help guide interactions between any state groups that are formed, will be developed when needed, via negotiations with any other candidate groups; and, please note, in advance, that:

(a) any attempts at any form of nationwide control will (necessarily) be VERY loose, informal, and non-binding, during the 2022 election cycle; and,

(b) after Election Day 2022 is over, any and all state organizations that have tried to get up and running, can take stock, share information with each other, see who did what (and find out what seemed to work the best), and then begin working to try to assemble some sort of national organization, to begin getting ready for the 2024 elections.

METHODS AND TACTICS, page 2: Interview Committees

As described on the prior page, this is the first draft of a proposal for creating, in any state, an organization that may become strong enough, and persuasive enough, to begin helping to swing elections in the direction of candidates who will do more to actually help solve problems (rather than cynically exploiting them, to try to get re-elected), and to actually help the middle class (rather than merely promising to do so, and then quietly doing whatever some candidate's campaign contributors want him to do).

If you have not yet read the prior page, you should, because it builds a foundation, and sets the stage, for this page. You cannot adequately understand the steps below, unless you have read the prior page.

Okay . . . with that as preface, here is the step-by-step recipe:

1. Every even-numbered year – when the entire U.S. House of Representatives, and a third of the U.S. Senate, is up for election – any statewide organization that is cooperating (or even just ‘aligned’) with the goals of The Two-Party Party, should form “interview committees” (or task forces, or any other name the members prefer). Assume that, in some particular state, somewhere between 10 to 20 races will deserve attention, during that election cycle; this might include, for example, all Congressional Representatives, one of that state's two U.S. Senators, several statewide races (such as Governor, Attorney General, etc.), mayoral races in large cities, and possibly a few State Senate or House races that seem important. Several different “interview committees” may need to be formed, in any state; if so, they will need to agree, among themselves, about which races each committee will be assigned to monitor and interact with. In addition, an effort should be given to creating an interview committee for each and every Congressional district, in any state; no serious candidate for Congress will willingly agree to cooperate with a review committee made of people who don't even live in his/her district.

These interview committees will play a crucial role, so they need to be formed in ways that can inspire trust, or at least some level of respect. Page 4 in this section discusses factors that should be taken into account as those committees are being formed, and as potential members are being considered.

2. The goal is to create committees – note the plural of that word; no one committee should try to do all of this work, for all 10 to 20 races that are being evaluated, in any particular state – which will spend enough actual time, in person, with *EACH AND BOTH* of the two main-party candidates, in each race that will be included in an “endorsement slate” in that state – to develop a well-informed assessment of which candidate is the better candidate, in each race, based on criteria such as listed below. As a general presumption, direct “face time” with *EACH* candidate should total up to about 6 hours, and should be in at least 3 different types of “settings”, such as, for example:

- (i) a private conference with the candidate, plus his/her campaign manager and any other staffers the candidate wants to include;
- (ii) a lunch or dinner, preferably at a private home or in a closed-off room at a restaurant, so that it will be quiet enough for everyone to hear anyone who is speaking;
- (iii) a small gathering after a campaign event where the candidate gave a speech, and had to answer at least one or two questions;
- (iv) riding in a car (or on a campaign bus, etc.) with the candidate.

None of those gatherings have to be strictly limited to the candidate plus selected people from his/her staff.

Any interview committee should recognize and simply accept, in advance, that any *INCUMBENT WHO IS RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION* will have major built-in advantages, in any race, and therefore, usually will not want to take any unnecessary risks, by agreeing to be interviewed at length by some committee which will then issue a candid assessment of him/her. Accordingly, if they meet reluctance, resistance, or an effort to craft elaborate requirements that could be used to thwart a negative evaluation, an interview committee can use any accommodation, “work-around”, or stratagem that the committee members (collectively, and with additional supervision and input by the statewide organization) believe might be helpful. As one example, an interview committee might try to combine their request for a meeting, with a request by a separate and independent reporter or journalist for an interview which will lead to a story about the candidate. Candidates love the free publicity of stories and articles written about them, so they are inclined to grant such interviews. The committee might learn some interesting and useful things, by listening whatever questions the reporter or journalist chooses to ask; and, the reporter or journalist might come away from that gathering, with a better understanding of (and, hopefully, appreciation for) what the interview committee is doing, and how, and why.

Similarly, the statewide organization can consider sponsoring and moderating a debate between the candidates in some particular race, at a university, or a large church with a good auditorium. Most candidates will take any opportunity to address any crowd of more than a few dozen people, especially if they know some reporters and cameras will be there, so long as it is in a friendly (or at least neutral) environment. If all of the members of an interview committee are seated behind a wide table (in the center of the stage) that divides the two candidates, and if the committee members will allocate the best questions between them (so that every member gets to ask some good questions), they may be able to create a good, balanced, and fair impression, among the audience. If that happens, and is witnessed by both candidates (and especially if that debate – with balanced, even-handed, and fair questions coming from all of the committee members – gets a good write-up by one or more reporters who saw the whole thing), both candidates likely will become more inclined to agree to one-at-a-time meetings with that committee, where they can talk privately, without an audience.

LEARNING ABOUT – BUT NOT USING – UNPLEASANT INFORMATION

This is merely a first draft of an effort to address a difficult subject. It is raised, because anyone who has been involved in politics will realize that any interviewing committee might – just might – find itself in a position where it must decide how to inquire into, and how to use the

results of, offers or hints of information which might raise questions and doubts about the character and/or judgment of some candidate in a race. Like it or not, it happens. Stated in other words, if this proposal does not show at least some awareness that this might happen, in some races that interview committees are analyzing, then this proposal could be attacked and/or dismissed for being woefully naïve, and unprepared. And, so . . .

Any and all members of any interviewing committee should be warned, in advance, that someone might blurt out some private and personal secret about a candidate, or might dangle a tantalizing hint (which might be bait, on a fishhook) in front of an interviewer. So, any such committee, and all of its members, should discuss these types of possibilities, before any member can be put into a position where they might have to deal with such a situation. And, the entire committee should agree (or at least reach a collective understanding), in advance, on how any member who receives such information (or offer, or hint) should respond to it.

A starting presumption I would suggest, is this: unless some sequence or pattern of missteps and mistakes indicate a need for limitations and restrictions of some sort, any committee – and/or, any member of any such committee – will be free to seek out, and talk in confidence with, anyone who might be able to help them do the committee’s assigned task in better – and better-informed – ways. As just one example, unless some factor strongly suggests otherwise, any one or more members of an interviewing committee can make a proposal, to the entire committee, that they would like to contact such-and-such a person, or group of people, in a small group, without the entire committee there. It often happens that some insider has some good, useful, and directly relevant information, and might be willing to share it, but only with one or two “simpatico” people; and, he or she would be unlikely to be candid and fully honest, if six people – including one or two he does not know, and has no reason to trust – are staring at him in some sort of meeting.

Presumably, any such request or inquiry should be made to all of the members of the committee; however, in some circumstances (such as, if disputes have arisen between two or more people on an interview committee), it might be advisable for the person proposing a smaller meeting, to discuss it only with the chairperson (or co-chair-persons) and/or the statewide organization, and let those other people help choose the best path forward.

The natural instinct of any serious contender for an important office is to be cautious, cagey, controlled, and controlling, when answering questions from someone who might then turn around and damage his/her chances of winning that election. Therefore, the members of any interview committee need enough leeway and flexibility to enable them to gather whatever information they believe will enable the committee, as a whole, to reach the best-informed decision the committee can make, on which candidate to endorse, in any race which that interview committee is analyzing.

However, for that very same reason, every member of any such committee should make – and should be fully and completely willing to voluntarily make, without qualms or reservations – a commitment that whatever they might learn, will be used solely and strictly for the purpose of making a well-informed, well-reasoned, and well-supported decision, on which candidate to endorse in any such race. It is emphatically *NOT* the task, and it absolutely must *NOT* become a

secretive goal of ANY such committee (or committee member), to begin dabbling into (or, upon learning something untoward, to go digging deeper into) the private personal lives and secrets of candidates for political office. *EVERYONE* has made mistakes, and *EVERYONE* has secrets; we know that, and we are not trying to find some new way to prove it yet again; and, every member of any interviewing committee should have enough experience, maturity, judgment, and mistakes of his/her own, to know that one of the best ways to learn better judgment, and acquire more motivation, is by learning from mistakes. A classic example (which could become ‘a teaching moment’) was set forth in a novel which most young people today have never even heard of: *The Red Badge of Courage*. It was about a soldier who fled from a battle, in an act of cowardice and desertion. He then began to feel so much shame and guilt, from knowing what he had done, that he vowed he would never do that again. He joined up with a new group of soldiers who didn’t know what he had done, and with them, he bucked up enough courage and fortitude to become one of the bravest and best soldiers in that new group. So . . . if anyone needs a good example or role model, to help them figure out what to do after they have made a serious and possibly terrible mistake, reading that novel, and discussing it with others, might be able to help that person regain their bearings, and choose the best path forward, from wherever they are.

There are *NO* perfect candidates, and *NO* perfect people. All of us know that, already. So, in complete seriousness, the *ONLY* goals of The Two-Party Party can be summarized as follows:

(i) to help voters figure out which candidate is the better candidate, out of the two main-party nominees in any particular race, when evaluated based on standards and guidelines that have been openly disclosed and published; and,

(ii) to establish a level of sufficient respect, among voters, that we can “persuade and motivate” *BOTH* of the two main parties to select nominees, for any important elected office, who can and will appeal to “moderate” voters (defined as: voters who want any officials they elect, to talk with, listen to, and be willing to negotiate in good faith with, moderates from the other party, as part of the collective obligation that *ALL* “public servants” should be subject to, to actually solve at least some of the problems that are threatening and endangering America).

ANY use, of *ANY* private information, about *ANY* candidate, which does not fall *SQUARELY, DIRECTLY, AND DEFENSIBLY* within *BOTH* of the two goals described above, will undercut, damage, and raise the most serious doubts about – and will trigger highly aggressive attacks against – everything The Two-Party Party hopes to accomplish, as it sets out on a difficult and challenging attempt to do something that has never been done before.

GIVING CANDIDATES A CHOICE RE: PRIVACY RE: THEIR EARLY LIFE

Another suggestion may also be able to help, and merits at least some discussion, among any state organization and/or interview committee. Indeed, the Two-Party Party (of Missouri) would like to openly propose it as a generally good idea, for all political races, at all levels.

Given the fact that one of the best ways to learn (and to truly internalize) important lessons is by learning from mistakes, any interview committee (or state organization) should ask each and every candidate to choose either of two options, as ‘boundary lines’ that any state

organization, and any interviewing committee, can and will respect. Any candidate can be invited and encouraged to choose either one, written as a public statement (or as a letter to a committee), using the following at a starting point which any candidate can modify, to suit his/her tastes, preferences, and personal situation:

OPTION 1: “I do not claim or pretend to be a perfect Christian, or to be Christ-like. Instead, I can only look toward the examples and teachings of Christ, and try to learn what I can, both from what Christ said, and from what Christ did, with his life. And, I find it very interesting that the Bible says, and we know, almost nothing about the first 30 years of Christ’s life, and about what Christ did, or may have done, during those first thirty years of his life. So, I have become interested in the suggestion that perhaps he may have been actually trying to show us, and teach us, something, by that simple fact of his life. I have reached a point, in my life, where I do not and will not hold, against anyone, any mistake that he or she might have made, before the age of thirty. I am entirely willing to simply accept, about any candidate, for any office, that the first thirty years of that person’s life were a good time to grow up, to make some mistakes, and to learn from those mistakes. And, I would encourage any and all voters to do the same. We may be keeping some truly good people from going into politics, when their talents and accumulated experiences and wisdom might be able to do some genuine good, in public service. And I don’t want to do that. So, I hereby declare, about myself, and about any opponent I may run against, that I do not want to have to try to explain and justify any mistakes I may have made, before I turned thirty years old. And, I will not ask any questions, of any sort, about what my opponent might have done, before reaching the age of thirty. Since that boundary line is inspired by the Bible, and by what we know and don’t know about Jesus, that is good enough for me. I hereby throw in my lot, my commitment, and my allegiance, with that goal, and that ideal.”

OPTION 2: “My life can be divided into two main parts: *BEFORE* I met my [wife/husband], and *AFTER* I met my [wife/husband].” [After that beginning, the candidate should add whatever s/he chooses, to tell more about himself/herself, and about his/her spouse, and their relationship, and how they make it work.] The implicit statement: “Please don’t ask me about stuff I did, before I met my spouse. Because my life changed, so much, and for very good reasons, starting at that point. Ask me about what I’ve done, since then.”

The *NEXT* page discusses what can/should happen, *AFTER* all of the interview committees in some particular state have submitted their evaluations, and proposed endorsements, to the statewide organization.

Methods & Tactics, page 3 -

AFTER THE INTERVIEW COMMITTEES SUBMIT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS

Everything on the PREVIOUS page relates to how an interview committee should evaluate both of the two main-party candidates, in any race assigned to that committee. Everything on THIS page relates to what happens, AFTER those interviews have been completed.

1. Roughly a month before Election Day (late September, or early October), the state 2PP organization will begin compiling endorsement recommendations from the committees in that state, on each race that any committee has been analyzing. Each endorsement recommendation cannot be merely a simple yes/no, on/off, all-or-nothing, Democrat-or-Republican recommendation; instead, the relevant factors will need to be described and explained, in ways that can enable the statewide group to do its job skillfully, and balance various factors as it chooses a slate of endorsements covering the entire state. That discussion period can and should take up to about 2 weeks, to make sure it can be done properly, and with pragmatic, results-oriented skill and judgment.

2. About 2 weeks before Election Day – in mid-to-late October – the state group will issue a statewide slate of endorsements. And – here is a key point – in order to build and maintain a balanced, broad-based level of trust among the voting public, those endorsements will need to stay somewhere within a specified level of balance, between Democratic candidates, versus Republican candidates. A presumptive figure is hereby proposed, at the 60-40 level (i.e., neither party can be awarded more than 60% of the endorsements; and, each party must receive at least 40% of the endorsements). The need for the entire statewide group to reach *THAT* balance point, explains why any and all committee endorsements need to be described and explained in ways that will help the statewide committee reach that balance point, even though it likely will mean that the state committee must “adjust” some of the recommendations, by some of the interview committees. As a simple example, if some particular endorsement is expressed as “evenly matched, with only a slight lean in favor of the candidate we chose,” then that race would be included in a list of “possible adjustment candidates”.

It has to be recognized, from the outset, that there are ways to “game” any such system, and any arbitrary percentage level that might be set. For example, some state group might choose to endorse a heavy majority of Democrats in the high-level, most important races, while sprinkling in enough Republican endorsements in less-important races to meet the “balanced percentage” requirement. That risk must be recognized, and addressed seriously and carefully, even if it cannot be “resolved” to everyone’s satisfaction.

As one example of a possible approach, if and when a state 2PP group reaches a point where it is regarded as a serious factor which can indeed swing elections, some of the review and selection meetings by the state group might be attended by people representing either the

Democratic or Republican party “machines”, at both state and local levels . . . perhaps at joint meetings, perhaps at separate meetings, and perhaps at some combination of both.

As another example of a possible approach, the two state parties could be asked to agree, in advance, upon numerical “weightings” that would be assigned to each of the various offices that are being contested, during that election cycle; and, the 60-40 balance could then be arrived at while applying the pre-determined “weighting” to each endorsement.

3. As soon as a slate of endorsements is announced (with as much publicity as possible, presumably about 2 weeks before election day, to give that announcement enough time to be reported, and sink into the minds of voters without getting stale), a state 2PP group should be ready and able to spend a substantial amount of money on TV ads, mailings, door-to-door efforts, and other advertising-type efforts. Unless otherwise agreed, *ANY* such ad should try to deliver the message, ‘We are not zealots, advocates, or party hacks; instead, we are good and honest people who have done well in our lives, and now, we are trying to give back. We are a combination of both Republicans and Democrats, and we are doing our level best to help create better government, by helping voters look beyond the paid advertising, to figure out who the real best candidate is, in each race. We have spent serious time, getting to know each and both of the candidates, in every race we have analyzed. And that is why we ask you to take our recommendations seriously.’”

In addition, any state 2PP party should be ready to engage actively in a full range of less costly efforts, such as: (i) postings on its own website, other websites, and social media; (ii) making its high-level members available for interviews, debates, etc.; and (iii) holding rallies, parties, debates, and other gatherings.

A simple, basic, to-the point theme can be used to understand, and explain, everything above, along the following lines. Any Two-Party Party group, in any state, should take whatever steps are necessary, so that it can truly and honestly say something such as:

*“We have organized small-enough-to-be-workable, but large-enough-to-be-balanced, groups of intelligent and objective adults. Each and every one of them deserves respect, because they have done well in their own lives and careers. And, we have arranged for them to get to know both of the candidates in a race, and to then share their insights and conclusions with voters. We did that, because we are firmly and honestly convinced that **THAT** is a much, **MUCH** better system, than having voters make up their minds based on nothing but TV ads. No one should claim that our system is perfect; however, everyone should recognize that it is better than what we’re doing now.”*

PROPOSED STANDARDS FOR EVALUATION

Any state organization which decides to take on an effort such as this – and, any committees which help a state organization do the actual work of evaluating candidates in that state – should have enough freedom and flexibility to tinker with, adjust, adapt, and rephrase their standards, to a point where the people involved can get solidly behind them, and explain and defend them with conviction, and enthusiasm. As a first draft for others to work with, I

would propose that any statewide organization, and any interview committee, should be ready and able to tell the voting public that *THESE* were the main standards that it tried to apply, as it considered and compared the merits and limits of each candidate, in any race:

1. Which candidate has made more of a true and genuine commitment to helping middle class workers, citizens, and taxpayers, even if it means having to tell large campaign contributors, ‘I will not do what you have asked, but if you want, we can keep trying to find an accommodation that will indeed help and protect typical middle-class workers’ ?

2. Which candidate has shown more of a genuine willingness to talk with, listen to, and bargain and negotiate in good faith with, members of the *OTHER* political party, to try to actually solve problems for the good of *ALL* citizens, and *ALL* taxpayers?

3. Which candidate appears more willing and able to face up – squarely, directly, and honestly – to hard facts, difficult truths, and unpleasant forecasts and predictions, even if doing so will not help him/her win re-election, or make him look ‘better’ in the eyes of voters who do not adequately understand a complex situation?

4. Which candidate is more likely to place, ‘Doing what is best for the nation, and for my district/state, and for *ALL* of its citizens, taxpayers, and voters’, ahead of, and more important, than, ‘Well, first, I have to get re-elected, and then, after I’ve done that, we can talk about what I should do, next.’

Methods & Tactics, page 4

CREATING INTERVIEW COMMITTEES THAT CAN GAIN RESPECT FROM VOTERS, BY EARNING AND DESERVING IT

This is a first draft of the types of guidelines for how “interview committees” can be created and managed, by any state group that is working toward goals that are compatible with The Two-Party Party. It may be necessary to adjust and adapt these guidelines and goals for the needs of any particular state, especially during the 2022 election cycle, while these types of groups are trying to get up and running, and get some experience. Nevertheless, we hope that: (i) any state group will at least ponder these comments; (ii) if some state group believes these guidelines can be improved, they will send us an email, telling us WHEN they are going to be considering and discussing various proposals, during a video conference, so that we can join that conference, hear what they have to say, learn from that experience, and offer any suggestions we would like to have considered, by them, before they make any final decisions.

1. If an interview committee has 6 people, it can be arranged/assembled so that:

(i) two members will be trusted and lifelong Republicans, who have established a reputation for being “moderate,” defined for this purpose as, “willing to at least listen to, and negotiate in good faith with, moderate Democrats”

(ii) two members will be trusted and lifelong Democrats, who also are “moderate” as defined above;

(iii) the final two members should not have a record of political leanings or activities; instead, they should have spent their lives and careers being good and diligent workers, who enjoyed a fair amount of success, not just in their careers, but also in having stable and happy marriages, and in raising kids who turned out well and became respectable citizens with good jobs.

2. If handled properly, age and experience can help establish (or at least enable) respect and trust. After seeing how my own personal and political attitudes and experiences evolved and matured, over time, I would strongly prefer to **NOT** have anyone who is still in his 20s or 30s, on any interview committee. Instead, I would have a greater tendency and willingness to trust – or at least listen seriously to – someone who is at least 40, and not yet into his/her 70s, when it comes to the types of evaluations these interview committees will be making.

3. The members of an interview committee should have calm and reassuring demeanors, and communication styles. The committees (and their endorsements) will be harshly attacked, criticized, and insulted, by candidates who were NOT endorsed (and by their staffs, as well). So, the members of any such committee need to be the type of people who can take that type of criticism in stride, without responding in a similar manner.

Having said the above, I would add that it is not just a “pipe dream” to think that genuinely good people can be found, who can be persuaded to work with committees like these. In complete seriousness, a proposal comparable to the above would not be an unusual statement of plans and goals, in business; and, lots and lots of truly skilled business consultants are indeed readily available, who would *LOVE* to be asked and invited to serve on a committee such as this (so long as they can add it to the ‘Work Experience’ section of their resume/CV, which should be actively encouraged, by any state organization).

What is being proposed here is similar to a business management team on a work retreat, talking honestly among themselves, about what the main goals of their company should be, over the next five years. The main difference is, the need to get better people into elected offices, in government, is probably somewhere between a thousand times, and a million times, more important than some strategic plan that some single company has decided to consider, evaluate, and then decide upon. Why? Because this is the fate of the entire United States we’re talking about.

We can gripe and moan all we want about how badly impaired and dysfunctional Congress has become, without doing anything to actually fix the problem; or, we can create a logical and reasonable approach which has a real chance to succeed, if we will study, evaluate, and learn from the types of methods, tactics, and strategies that competent, capable, well-run companies use, to tackle and actually solve the challenges they face. It is not a miracle, or an out-of-reach idle fantasy, when a company finds and implements ways that enable and require its employees, managers, officers, and directors to work together, to achieve a set of goals that the entire company has somehow agreed upon. Rather than being some sort of ‘miracle’, the fact is that thousands of well-run companies do exactly that, every month, and every year.

The bottom line is, the deeply disturbing and even frightening dysfunctionality of our political system, at this time in history, has created a unique opportunity to offer truly skilled and qualified people a genuine, serious, and very real chance to have – and to create, and exert – a huge, critical, and enormously positive and needed influence, and impact, on what will happen in politics, in the U.S., over the coming 20 to 30 years. And – even better – we can offer qualified and respected people a genuine and actual chance to do that kind of good, ***without requiring them to sacrifice and severely damage*** their own private and personal lives, and the happiness and well-being of their families, to some god-awful craving and need for power. We are not asking the people on these committees to stop whatever they are doing, and spend the entire next year, running and campaigning for some office, at huge personal, privacy, and financial expense to themselves. As an analogy, we are not asking anyone who might be willing to serve on these committees, to start building new factories from scratch, at huge expense. Instead, we simply are asking them to go inside factories that are already there, and to look around and see how they are doing their work, then come back out with informed and insightful appraisals of which factories have the better people, and the better machinery, so that we can make better choices about which ones we should choose, sign contracts with, and invest in, so that they will make better-quality things that we need to buy.

In today’s politics, far too many voters make their choices, of which candidate to vote for in *THIS* race, and which one to vote for in *THAT* race, and who to vote for in these third, and

fourth, and fifth races, *and in twenty other races*, based on information which is not just inaccurate (which would be bad enough), but which is actively and intentionally misleading, and in many cases, outright dishonest. The reason so many candidates spend so much money on TV ads, is because so many voters end up making their decisions, based on TV ads. However, ***the very nature and essence of TV ads is that they have absolutely no duty, obligation, or responsibility to accurately and honestly describe who a candidate really is.*** Instead, they are open invitations for campaign managers and pollsters to figure out what the public wants to hear, and then create false and misleading ads which tell those voters whatever they said they want to hear. It would not (and will not) be difficult, to be able to create something which is at least ***“better than THAT”***. And, for the first few election cycles, the only thing that really will be necessary, to establish a foundation and begin making serious progress, and to gain enough credibility and attention to later be able to climb up to a higher level, is to be able to sincerely and honestly offer the voting public something which is, truthfully and accurately, ***“better than THAT”***.

Since so MUCH is at stake (i.e., the future of this nation, the future of this planet, and the future of all humanity, including our children, and our grandchildren) – and, since huge numbers of people truly and seriously want something – anything – which works better than the current system – it should not be all that much of a challenge to create intelligent and serious interview committees, made up of mature, intelligent adults who have lived good lives, had good careers, and raised good kids. And, it should not be all that hard to persuade voters that a set of honest, candid, and transparent evaluations, by mature, responsible, and objective adults, would be at least SOMEWHAT better, at providing useful, insightful, and honest information to voters, than the system of slick, calculated, and misleading marketing puffery and TV ads – paid for by the candidates, but created by others – that we are using, today.

Facing Up Squarely To The Most Divisive, Polarizing, and Hate-Filled Issues That Are Tearing America Apart

As any number of commentators have previously pointed out, we have reached a point where most politicians no longer even try – or even pretend to try – to actually solve (or even try to reduce the damage from) any of the most divisive, polarizing, hate-filled problems that are tearing America into angry and opposing camps, today. Instead of trying to solve those problems, politicians have learned how to abuse, exploit, and ‘milk’ the boiling-hot anger that keeps driving people apart, in each and all of the hyper-divisive issues. In the same way that a steam engine or industrial boiler works by using the heat from a fire to boil water, and turn it into high-pressure steam, the anger created by exploiting and ‘milking’ the most divisive issues can be used to provide power, publicity, and pathways to election, for politicians who have learned to extract three **VERY** valuable resources, using the heat generated by those fires:

(1) **MORE MONEY** – in the form of more, and more, and *endlessly more* campaign contributions, from people on their side of the divide.

(2) **FREE PUBLICITY AND ATTENTION** – which are *even better than paid advertising (!!!)* ; and,

(3) **FREE AND UNPAID – BUT DEDICATED, DEVOTED, AND HARD-WORKING – CAMPAIGN WORKERS (!!!)**

For political candidates, those three resources – more money, free publicity, and dedicated campaign workers – are so valuable that they can fairly be called **THE HOLY TRINITY, FOR POLITICIANS**. And, so, politicians have learned to ‘game the system’, by keeping the most polarizing and hate-filled issues boiling hot, super-angry, and as divisive as possible.

There also is another aspect of ‘the most divisive and angry issues in America,’ which most people don’t pause to consider. In one of his ‘Common Sense’ podcasts (I would appreciate it if someone would tell me which one, so I could go find the exact quote; the version below is a paraphrase, from memory, but it is a pretty vivid memory), the history podcaster Dan Carlin quoted a high-level political staffer, who had candidly admitted, to a friendly interviewer:

”And if we ever got into some really, really bad trouble, with some sort of really severe scandal or blunder that threatened to do lasting damage to our side, some friendly legislators would introduce some sort of hyper-divisive, deeply polarizing gun control legislation. And then, all the reporters would flock over to that issue. And then, all the negative attention to our blunder would dissipate. And, once that happened, no one would pay any more attention, to how we had screwed up.”

Isn't that a lovely (and useful, and productive, and helpful) way, to actually lead a nation? That's what politicians do. Need to draw attention away from a really bad mistake? That's easy; just have someone introduce some extra-divisive, extra-polarizing bill, into one of the chambers. Need more campaign contributions? If so, just introduce some really, really divisive legislation. It doesn't make a bit of difference whether that bill has even a remote chance of actually passing. *If it pulled attention away from your screw-up; or, if it gets you more campaign contributions . . . well, **GREAT! THAT** was the **REAL** goal, from the start!*

If anyone wants stacks and stacks of examples to prove that point, they should track down some articles which describe how several members of Congress – notably including Marjorie-Taylor Green, Jim Jordan, and Rand Paul – have dedicated staff people standing by, at the ready, to blast out huge numbers of emails, quoting any statement or action, by any Democrat or liberal, which can be shaped, sanded, and then painted up, to make it look like a horrible and awful direct frontal attack, and assault, on the patriotic American values that are held sacred by whoever receives those emails. And, since those members of Congress have staffers standing at the ready, all pumped and primed to grab anything they can find which they can then reshape and tweak to make it look really threatening, they can blast out those kinds of email fund-raising messages, within – quite literally – only about 3 or 4 minutes after the supposedly '*This was a vicious attack against our sacred and patriotic American values!!!*' event actually happened. That is one of the main things that those three members of Congress do . . . *instead of* (it should be pointed out) the actual legislative work which they (supposedly) were elected to do.

However, any number of deeply disturbing and seriously threatening problems actually need to be solved, or at least improved, somehow. Our \$30 trillion national debt is inflicting severe damage to our nation's ability to fund things our country will need, in the future; the symptoms of global warming can no longer be pretended away, and are going to continue inflicting multiple hundreds of billions of dollars in damage, every year, from now on; our roads, bridges, water supplies, and other infrastructure components are growing severely old and unreliable, and are wearing down, and wearing out, at much faster rates than they are being repaired or replaced; and, on and on, into as much gloom and pessimism as anyone can bear, or should be asked to live in.

So . . . the position that The Two-Party Party is proposing, and advocating, can be summarized as:

(1) our politicians, and political parties, should be challenged (and embarrassed) by concerted efforts to point out how cynically and caustically they have learned to exploit, abuse, and 'milk' the most angry, divisive, and hateful issues that are dividing the public today, in order to get elected and then re-elected, in Congressional districts that have been drawn in ways that deliberately divide them into 'safe' seats for either Republicans, or Democrats; and,

(2) once a set of 'bridge-building' efforts (discussed below) have been described in some detail by The Two-Party Party (and any other organization that chooses to get involved and contribute to this effort), any and all Congressional candidates should be asked about those bridge-building efforts, to see whether any such candidate supports – or opposes – those efforts,

and why; and, they also should be asked whether they would propose to modify any of those proposals, with specific additions or revisions.

With that as a preface, the following is offered as a short list of the most divisive, polarizing, antagonizing issues facing American voters and politicians, today. This list stopped after five items, in an effort to both: (i) sustain a helpful level of focus on these five items; and, (ii) demonstrate and prove – to the public, and to politicians – that ‘bridge building’ efforts can be commenced in any, each, and all, of these five areas, regardless of whether any progress is being made in any of the other four.

1. Abortion

2. Guns, ‘gun control’ efforts, and Second Amendment issues

3. Health care costs, and the ‘Obama-care’ law

4. Immigration, porous borders, and arguments about non-existent ‘paths to citizenship’

5. Global warming, climate change, and sea-level rise

A first draft of a position paper on each of *THE FIRST FOUR ISSUES* – suggesting a specific ‘bridge-building’ effort on that particular issue – has been prepared, and is being discussed, quietly and privately, among various advisors (political and otherwise). Even though each such proposal can be (and eventually will be) summarized in a single paragraph, putting that type of condensed summary into this website, at this time, would not give any of those proposals a serious chance to make an actual difference, in real life. Instead, when a proper time arrives, each of those four ‘position papers’ will be announced, presumably during a speech which will last about 40 minutes, in front of an audience, with the rest of the hour for questions from the audience (hopefully, that will be followed by another hour, for additional questions from anyone who has live-streamed the announcement). Those four speeches, describing those four proposals, will be videotaped, and will be uploaded to this website, as well as to the Two-Party Party channel on YouTube.

GLOBAL WARMING, AND SEA LEVEL RISE

In direct contrast to merely putting down a marker on each of the first four issues listed above, and committing to replacing that marker with a detailed position paper, Pat Kelly’s position on the issues of global warming, climate change, and sea-level rise takes a totally different approach. It is set forth in detail in his campaign website, www.kelly4senate.net, and can be briefly summarized as follows:

1. So far, most candidates are avoiding the issue of global warming, during the 2022 election cycle. Democrats don’t want to get sucked into it, because any realistic programs look like pleas and pitches for bigger and bigger government; and, Republicans avoid it, because their history shows a long pattern of deliberately blocking any attempts to try to help slow it down. However,

it must – absolutely must – be raised, and addressed, because of how huge and destructive its impacts will be.

2. Instead of advocating for any government programs, we should use the 2022 election cycle to simply reach agreement on a set of crucial facts which every candidate should know about, and be required to either accept or reject, and which numerous voters understand well enough to discuss and ask about, in pointed and informed ways that cannot be easily sidestepped and evaded. The question for 2022 elections should not be, “What should we do about it?”, but, instead, “Which candidates are smart enough to actually understand the facts and the warnings, and have enough courage and integrity to begin doing what needs to be done, to at least try to minimize the damage, destruction, and suffering?”

3. Accordingly – as a former environmental engineer, and as a patent attorney with years of experience in both understanding complicated things, and explaining them to non-experts – Pat Kelly has compiled descriptions of 9 specific hard, provable documented facts, concerning global warming. As a sample of several of those 9 facts:

(a) The bright and reflective snow and ice cover, over the northern Arctic ocean and regions, has totally disappeared, over an area that already is 125 times the size of the entire state of New Jersey.

(b) When that bright, reflective, protective cover disappears, the ocean and land surfaces beneath it begin absorbing about 5-6 times as much heat energy, from sunlight. That additional energy uptake will cause even more and faster melting, exposing even more energy-absorbing darker surfaces, leading to a self-accelerating (often called “runaway” or “vicious circle”) condition.

(c) Over the past century, average ocean levels, worldwide, rose about 8 inches. They are now rising more than 4 times faster; the “most likely” scenarios, in all of the respected computer models (accepted by the U.S. Navy, etc.) are forecasting 14 inches of additional sea level rise, in just the next 40 years (and, that assumes no “major” catastrophes occur, such as collapse of the ultra-huge Thwaites glacier, often called “the Doomsday glacier”, in Antarctica).

(d) Although coastal areas include only a small portion of the earth’s land surface, they include most of the world’s largest cities, and its most densely populated areas. As a result, nearly 40% of the world’s entire population (about 3 billion people, out of about 7.3 billion total) lives in “coastal communities”. Those areas are going to be hit the hardest, and the soonest, as sea levels continue to rise.

4. In view of those facts, Kelly is advocating Congressional hearings, ***THIS YEAR, BEFORE*** election day in November 2022, to get those facts out on the table, and confirmed by experts, so that voters will be better informed, when they must choose who to vote for.

Anyone who wants more information on global warming, climate change, and sea-level rise, can find it at www.kelly4senate.net (and, at numerous other sources, including those cited at Kelly’s website).

DATING, SOCIALIZING, AND NETWORKING

**with people who are different from you,
and who think differently than you . . .**

Without getting into details at this early stage, the “tolerance, balance, and try to learn from people who are different from you” approach of The Two-Party Party might become a gateway to efforts to make certain types of social interactions more . . . interesting in unpredictable ways, and educational, and rewarding, in ways that might be guided to good effect.

Suppose, just suppose . . . that some of the largest and most widely used dating services and cellphone apps could be persuaded to create – and then help manage and support – a special option, for dating people from the OTHER party. For example, if a user says, “*I am an unmarried female Democrat, age range ____, and I would like to be paired up with an unmarried male Republican, age range ____,*” then that filter would be used to screen potential candidates.

Obviously, this option would not appeal to everyone, and yet, some people might want to try it, to see how it goes. Especially if it means two people could have a ready-made, served-up-as-an-appetizer thing to talk about, from the moment they meet. Alternately, people who gather at a political function could be given color-coded name tags, to indicate whether they are Democrat or Republican (or, any Republican could be given a red-colored drink (red wine, a red can of beer, a Bloody Mary, etc.; and, any Democrat could be given white wine, a blue can of beer, etc.). Regardless of which indicators are used, the rule would be, ***‘Introduce yourself to, and talk with, at least five members of the OTHER party, before the night is over.’***

If developed into a dating system, it would require a written agreement and commitment, from anyone who wishes to join it. It might also require an added fee to help get it going, help weed out non-serious abusers and exploiters, and pay for skilled supervision and management. In general, the written agreement could require that BOTH of the people must agree to each and all of the following (although this first draft was written by an attorney, it obviously will need more thought, care, and attention, as well as some serious test marketing):

1. I WILL WATCH a video coaching session, before my first ‘two-party date’; and, I will talk with a coach/facilitator who will make sure I understand, not just the rules, but the reasons for the rules, and what is expected of me, and what I can and should expect from the other person;

2. I HEREBY AGREE AND PROMISE that during any such date, I will listen, as much as I talk;

3. I HEREBY AGREE AND PROMISE that if I disagree with something the other person says, I will regard and approach that disagreement as an interesting and potential learning and skill-building challenge, and as an opportunity to practice and improve my skills in discussing things civilly and respectfully with someone who does not, at the start of the discussion, have the same perspective or opinion as me;

4. I HEREBY AGREE AND PROMISE that I will not become loud, angry, or abusive, no matter how strongly I might disagree with what my date says. If I lose my temper and violate that commitment, then I will pay the entire cost of the meal, and any entertainment or other costs that were involved; and, I will either: (i) pay a small fine to the organization, as an apology, and as a commitment to do better the next time, if I'm invited to go on another two-party date; or, (ii) withdraw from that organization's Two-Party Party service;

5. I HEREBY RECOGNIZE AND AGREE that both people on any date I go on will be encouraged to bring along a two-minute sand timer; and, at any time during a date, either person may:

(i) pick up that timer, and begin toying with it, without activating it, as a warning gesture that the other person has begun to dominate the conversation in ways that are at risk of becoming unpleasant; and/or,

(ii) "activate" that timer, by placing it in open view, on the table, with the sand in the top chamber running downward.

Activating the timer will be a direct warning, by the person who did it, that the other person has been talking too much (at least, during that particular exchange, within a larger conversation), and not listening enough, and seems to be trying to dominate the conversation, and possibly the other person. If and when that action is taken, the person who did NOT put the timer on the table should apologize, for putting the other person in a position of having to take that action; and, after apologizing, he or she can use any amount of time remaining – up to the two minutes provided by the running timer – to finish saying anything he or she wishes to say (such as a summary, explanation, defense, clarification, whatever). When the sand runs out, either person may reverse the timer, and the person who first activated the timer, and then sat quietly and listened while it ran out, gets to speak for (up to) the next two minutes, without no interruptions or distractions from the prior speaker, who is required to just sit patiently, and listen carefully, to the other person's entire statement, regardless of whether they agree or disagree with it.

6. I HEREBY RECOGNIZE AND AGREE that, during the first ____ (three? five?) dates that I go on, using this dating system, each person on the date can and should activate the voice recorder on his/her cellphone, and then set that phone, face-down, on the table between them. This will enable either person to simply get up and walk away from that date, with a recording of that conversation; and, an assumption arises that any person who gets up and leaves in the middle of a date should send a copy of that recording (via the dating service) to the person who became unpleasant or aggressive, with an implied request, 'Please listen carefully, to yourself, because this recording is of you. And then, ask yourself WHY the other person got up and left, while you were still talking; and, think about how someone else will most likely respond, if you begin talking to him/her in the same manner and style you were using, in this recording of you.'

7. I HEREBY RECOGNIZE AND AGREE that either person may use his/her cellphone to begin recording audio and/or video of any exchange, at any time, if they feel the other person has become abusive, or seems to be threatening to become abusive. Any such recording can be shared with the organization that arranged the date, and it must be shared, if either person wishes to lodge a complaint against the other person, and try to have that person either: (i) disqualified from subsequent participation in the two-party option, or (ii) required to go to one or more coaching sessions, before being allowed to go on any subsequent two-party dates.

Now, having set forth the above “first draft”, the author would like to add several more comments, to help put them into context:

1. Humans are intensely social animals. We need connections with others to be complete, and/or to feel complete, and fulfilled. However, the advent (and dominance) of video games, cellphones, “social media”, hundreds of different TV channels and streaming services, and other factors, have created some of the most destructive and perplexing barriers that have ever been created (short of, perhaps, The Black Plague, centuries ago) for young people who are trying to learn how to create – and then maintain, and sustain – close and satisfying relationships, especially with “the opposite sex” (an untrue but revealing misnomer). Accordingly, the system proposed above clearly isn’t for everyone; and yet, it might well be able to create, and then fill, a potentially useful and valuable niche.

2. One of the great challenges of conversation is in learning how to talk with (and, how to listen to) people who really do think, and act, differently, from you. Many people are actively looking for ways, and opportunities, to learn, practice, exercise, and use those types of skills (which, for anyone who might not already realize it, are VERY valuable in business and work settings). The approach set forth above might help create and develop not just a single pathway from Point A to Point B, but – perhaps, and hopefully – a number of new and innovative approaches to helping people make connections with people they otherwise would not encounter, or might not regard as potentially interesting partners, not just for starting-point conversations, but possibly for serious and lasting relationships.

3. Everything said above is consistent and aligned with one of the basic principles and lessons set forth in a related website, at www.tetraheed.net. That principle is represented by the phrase, “One-two-sigma-delta”, where:

(1&2) The “one” and “two” refer to two different things, two different people, two different parties, etc. For example, assume a man and woman are dating, and trying to decide whether to make a deeper, higher, stronger commitment to each other. Even if they take that step and form a couple, pair, partnership, etc., the man will continue to be an individual, with his own strengths, resources, and assets, and also with certain deficits, weaknesses, needs, etc. Similarly, the woman also will continue to be an individual, with her own set of resources, and needs. Those two people will become parts one, and two, of a tetrahedral relationship.

(3) The THIRD part of their tetrahedral relationship – the “sigma” part – uses the Greek (or Cyrillic, if you prefer) letter Σ in the same way it is used in math and science equations, to refer to the SUM of two or more things. If two people are involved, the “sigma” (or summed,

combined, etc.) portion of their relationship can be called a couple, pair, team, partnership, company, family, or any similar term which implies “a single unit, but containing more than just one person.” For example, if two people get married, then they will be creating a “family” which did not exist before, and which will have its own new types of needs, and resources. The family will need a place to live; the family will need some kind of income; the family will need to have some kind of transportation; and, the family will need to decide what to make for dinner tonight. The new entity that is formed, if and when two people make a true commitment to each other, can become (and can make both of their lives) better than either person was experiencing before they met, >> **IF** << both of the two people can and will begin thinking in terms of “we” and “us” as a new and distinct entity, which needs to be fed, nurtured, protected, enjoyed, and allowed to grow, in its own right, without denying in any way that each and both of the two people, in that relationship, continue to be distinct and separate individuals.

(4) The FOURTH part of their tetrahedral relationship – the “delta” part – uses the Greek (or Cyrillic) letter Δ in the same way that math and science equations use it, to refer to the DIFFERENCE BETWEEN two things. Rather than begrudgingly tolerating (or actively resenting) how someone is different from you, you can and should learn to respect, nurture, fertilize, cultivate, and enjoy the fruits of those differences, because those are what can (and should) enable a relationship to remain active and interesting over a span of years, or even decades. As just one example, the thing that allowed me and my wife to have something new and different to talk about, five nights a week, for more than thirty years, arose from the fact that she went off to an office, with other people there, every workday, while I (as a patent attorney who could work via computers and emails) stayed home, worked on patent applications, and was available to help handle the daily chores of raising kids. People who can learn to take those kinds of differences, not just ‘in stride’, but as opportunities to experience, learn from, and become a part of how varied, diverse, and rich life can be, and who can turn those types of encounters into good memories, assets, and strengths, will be better equipped to find happiness in a wider variety of situations, than people who go through life thinking, “Everyone else should be more like me, and should think and act more like me.” As a brief aside, that kind of selfish, ‘this is all about me . . . or, at least, it SHOULD be all about me’ thinking pattern, usually is classified and regarded by psychologists and therapists as a major symptom of a ‘narcissist personality disorder’, named after a young man in a Greek fable who fell so deeply in love with his own reflection, and image, that his obsession ended up killing him.

So, a dating service or system which actively pairs up people who will willingly go into a first encounter, knowing that the other person is both:

(i) different from them, and yet,

(ii) willing to accept those differences, as a starting point, and to at least try to learn whatever they can, from the other person,

might be able to help create some conversations and connections that will become more interesting, more educational, more fulfilling, and even better suited for helping people grow and mature into better people, than at least some of the other alternatives that currently are available.

Beyond just the possibility of a dating service, I would also encourage anyone who works with any Two-Party Party group (or affiliate, or whatever), to actively try to pair up Democrats with Republicans, in as many activities as possible. One of my pleasant daydreams is that a Democratic woman goes to some sort of political function put on by the Two-Party Party, and then goes home after the event is over, and tells her husband, "I got paired up with a Republican man, at the event, and it turned out nicely. He wasn't over-bearing, or condescending, he didn't try to convert me, and he listened as much as he talked. I actually enjoyed spending time with him."

Since I've been happily married (and not dating) for decades, and since I will be focusing on the Senate race in Missouri during 2022, I do not plan (or want, or hope) to be actively involved in any efforts to create or manage a dating service or other networking effort of this sort. If anyone contacts me, saying they might want to help set up and possibly even help run something like this, I will share it with a group of about 15 nieces, nephews, etc., who function as my advisory council on matters relating to their generation.

Contact Info

If anyone wishes to contact the people behind “The Two-Party Party”, use any of the following options:

E-mail: patkelly4senate@gmail.com (at least until August 2, 2022; if I do not win the Democratic primary, the better email address will become tetraheed@gmail.com)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tetraheed/

Twitter: twitter.com/tetraheed1

Please note that the same environmental engineer & patent attorney who created this “2PartyParty” websote, is running for the U.S. Senate (Democratic primary 2022), and also created:

www.tetraheed.net

The [tetraheed.net](http://www.tetraheed.net) website describes how a number of under-appreciated geometric shapes (triangles, tetrahedrons, etc.), and the principles which make them strong and stable, can be used to create better and stronger structures, systems, and relationships. It also describes (and illustrates) how too many arguments arise from mere differences in perspective, rather than differences in reality, and it explains the “one-two-sigma-delta” concept, which could greatly improve a lot of relationships, if understood more widely –

– AND –

www.kelly4senate.net

It’s my campaign website, and contains more info about me (for people trying to decide whether they should trust me, enough to vote for me), and about global warming and sea-level rise (a MAJOR part of my campaign, and why I decided to jump into that race, even though I’m a political unknown).