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Independent Voters Just Stood Up For American Democracy and American Values

New York, NY – If you're looking for a key to unlock what just happened in the 2022 midterm elections, look no further than the independent vote. In race after race across the country independents overwhelmingly decided election outcomes.

Democrats voted overwhelmingly for Democratic candidates (96%) and Republican voters did the same for Republican candidates (96%). While the electorate was slightly more Republican (36% of the total electorate) than Democratic (33%), those numbers effectively canceled each other out.

Which made the independent vote (31% of the electorate) all the more crucial. Historically, each time the president's party has suffered especially large losses in a midterm since the mid-1980s (a list of electoral calamities that includes 1986, 2006, and 2018 for Republicans and 1994, 2010, and 2014 for Democrats), independents have voted by a double-digit margin for candidates from the other party. This time they swung 49%-47% in favor of the Democratic Party in power this election. Even those numbers obscure how far they swung in individual state races.

- Indies comprised 24% of the electorate and broke 57-39 for Fetterman in PA.
- Indies comprised 40% of the electorate and broke 55-39 for Kelly in AZ.
- Indies comprised 24% of the electorate and broke 53-42 for Warnock in GA.

WARNING!!!!: This doesn't mean that independents are now solidly in the Democratic Party camp. Far from it. They broke 49-48 for Kemp in Georgia and 52-46 for DeSantis in Florida, for example. Independents do not vote for parties, they vote for people. [It's the number one reason independents say they are independents.](#)

What it does mean is that independent voters have officially arrived. Across the country, they rejected the politics of extreme partisanship, election denial, and disinformation. They voted for candidates not parties. They stood up for leadership, action over rhetoric, and democratic values.

Who are independent voters? Why did they play such an outsized role in the midterm elections? How do we empower them to continue to stand up for democracy?

We have decades-long experience in the independent voter movement and independent politics and we are available to discuss these very questions. The independent voter is THE topic of the midterms and every election from now on. Learn more with Open Primaries.

Read our [report on Independent voters](#) and our [Law Review Article](#) on their legal status.

Available for interview: John Opdycke, President Open Primaries, Jeremy Gruber, SVP Open Primaries, Thom Reilly and Jackie Salit, co-authors of “The Independent Voter,” Paul Rieckhoff, founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and host of “Independent Americans” podcast, Dariel Cruz Rodriguez, founder Students for Open Primaries.

Open Primaries is a national, nonprofit organization. More information can be found at www.openprimaries.org