

PUNDIT PONTIFICATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The following is a recounting of several myths and things being said about American politics, with an assessment of their accuracy, because opinions are only as valuable as they conform to truth and reality. Many of these quotes are offered especially for their humor and entertainment value, but one can also learn a lot from them all. Happy reading.

Note: Please see our American Values section for an assessment of America's assets and future global competitive advantage factors.

It is a good thing for a[n uneducated] man to read books of quotations.
-**Winston Churchill**

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE:

Status quo, you know, is Latin for 'the mess we're in'. -**Ronald Reagan**

I believe we are now in a struggle over whether or not we are going to save America.
-**Newt Gingrich**

It's never paid to bet against America.
We come through things, but its not always a smooth ride. -**Warren Buffett**



Please feel free to **offer concise and workable solutions**, and to debate the merits and demerits of all suggestions in this website's open, online 'Town Hall' forum. A brief word as to your qualifications on a given matter will help others in assessing the credibility of your solution(s). Thank you for caring about your country to get involved!

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Proverbs are short sentences drawn from long experience. -**Miguel De Cervantes**

1. BALANCED BUDGET

Not one Republican president has balanced the budget in 34 years.
You cannot trust Republicans with your money. **–Howard Dean**

2. BUSINESS

These capitalists generally act harmoniously and in concert,
to fleece the people. **–Abraham Lincoln**

Comments: Over-charging for a product or service is fleecing. Making a profit off one's labor is good business. Otherwise, your business becomes either a charity or bankrupt. Few businesses over-charge, but some do, and any who collude with their competitors on pricing—especially unofficially (so they can't get caught)—are not only breaking the law, but should be collectively boycotted by consumers.

3. CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The flood of money that gushes into politics today is a pollution of democracy. **–Theodore White**

Comments: Absolutely true, and something that needs to be resolved in the next eight years, if not sooner. Why is it Americans allow procrastination at solving political problems, when we can't get away with ignoring them often in our own lives?

4. CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Trying to take money out of politics is like trying to take jumping out of basketball.
–Bill Bradley

All elections revolve around and are often resolved by who raises the most money. That's unfair.
I'd like to see that process changed, but it seems once you win and get to Congress,
that doesn't happen. **–John Murray**

Comments: The inevitability of much money needed is merely his assumption and experience—not truly required, if you do it right. And, it's not “unfair,” but not right. If both parties are equally allowed to gather as many contributions as you can, there's nothing unfair occurring. Not right—because money is wasted and is unduly influencing political decisions is a matter we the people need to curb.

5. CAMPAIGN FINANCE

In order to be a top-tier candidate, I need 7.5 million dollars,
and I currently have 0.0 million dollars. **–Stephen Colbert**

Comments: I'm not sure what year this was stated, and I know he has more than nothing, but the sentiment—that politics has become too costly to be healthy—is certainly true.

6. CAMPAIGNING & GOVERNING

In constant pursuit of money to finance campaigns,
the political system is simply unable to function.
Its deliberative powers are paralyzed. **–John Rawls**

Comments: It functions—just not well. As I have said in our book, this need to campaign and raise money is a distraction to their doing as good a job in office as they should, and this problem needs to be resolved.

7. CAPITALISM

"Capitalism is the extraordinary belief that the nastiest of men, for the nastiest of reasons, will somehow work for the benefit of us all." –**John Maynard Keynes**

Comments: Politicians are not all nasty people, but too many of them too often become self-serving.

8. COMMUNITY SERVICE

Let us all take more responsibility, not only for ourselves and our families but for our communities and our country. –**William J. Clinton**

Comments: The conservative, too often, either omits the last two aspects, or wants it to be voluntary, so if anyone chooses not to participate and be patriotic—that's their prerogative (which ends all incentives for many).

9. CONSERVATIVES

Conservatives say if you don't give the rich more money, they will lose their incentive to invest. As for the poor, they tell us they've lost all incentive because we've given them too much money. –**George Carlin**

Comments: They obviously like money, so the disincentive would come only at very high tax rates. If you ever drive to the other side of town and see a 'hood or slum or 'project,' you'll quickly change your rhetoric that they have too many handouts, lapping it up off the poor hard-working tax payer. Certainly, welfare should only assist, at best, but never be enough to be able to live off of.

10. CONSERVATIVES

The unrestricted competition so commonly advocated does not leave us the survival of the fittest. The unscrupulous succeed best in accumulating wealth. –**Rutherford B. Hayes**

Comments: Strangely, those who most believe in intelligent design fully support Darwinian economics. Not all rich are unscrupulous, but it takes little unscrupulousness to be poor.

11. CONSERVATIVES

He mocks the people who proposes that the government shall protect the rich and that they in turn will care for the laboring poor. –**Grover Cleveland**

Comments: Obviously true. The rich need no protection—they 'have it made'—and they are only going to pay people "what the market will bear" on its lowest competitive end. It's business, not personal, which is exactly one of the reasons government is there as a counter balance to abusive tendencies.

12. CONSERVATIVES

The modern conservative is engaged in one of man's oldest exercises in moral philosophy; that is, the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness. –**John Kenneth Galbraith**

Comments: As to conservative theory/policy/philosophy (as opposed to attitudes or intentions/desires)... absolutely true. Who in their right mind believes the tax rebates conservatives clamor for would 100% go to charities to help the poor, believing the private sector can do welfare better than the government (not that all

that money goes to welfare)? We all know that much of not most of it will be used to make them wealthier. Don't buy the hype of this false claimed concern for the poor.

13. CONSERVATIVES

Conservatives define themselves in terms of what they oppose. **–George Will**

Comments: Not fully true. Freedom, self reliance, personal responsibility, hard work, family values and pro life are NOT things conservatives oppose. Yes, they do oppose many things, like big government, high taxes and regulations, abortion and gay marriage.

14. CONSERVATIVES

Have you ever wondered why Republicans are so interested in encouraging people to volunteer in their communities? It's because volunteers work for no pay.

Republicans have been trying to get people to work for no pay for a long time. **–George Carlin**

Comments: Very funny observation, with a lot of truth in it. From slave labor of black “immigrants” at our founding, to Gingrich’s recent call for ending minimum wage, big business always wants to make more money OFF OTHER PEOPLE. The parrot that that’s what business is for—making profit/money—and any calls for it to be done ethically are met with ‘if we don’t do it, another country will gain a competitive advantage over us.’ Self rules in this mindset.

15. CONSERVATIVE SLANDER

Conservatives are not necessarily stupid, but most stupid people are conservatives.

–John Stuart Mill

Comments: Research would be needed to prove the truthfulness or falsehood of the latter claim. There are many uneducated constituents in the Democrat party, but whether they are “stupid” is subject to definition. The point being made is rejected, as if voting for Republican values makes one stupid (because the author is a biased Democrat). What’s stupid about being fiscally responsible, defending our country and wanting a good economy, “stupid?”

16. CORRUPTION

Politics is the only field in which the more experience you have, the worse you get.

–Kinky Friedman

Comments: Not true in every case, but certainly far too often. The problem is, when they arrive in Washington, they are quickly trained in and perfect bad skills—like lying, political sticks and gridlock. Practice makes perfect at anything practiced, and time doesn't heal practicing bad things.

17. DEBTS

Congress is not an ATM. **–Robert Byrd**

18. DEMOCRACY

Democracy is not so much a form of government as a set of principles. **–Woodrow Wilson**

Comments: Very true. Citizens can freely vote for a leader, and the structures not be in place for the rule of law, freedom of speech, free enterprise, property rights, and a host of other concepts we warp up into this wonderful process called ‘Democracy.’

19. DEMOCRACY?

Democracy is when the indigent, and not the men of property, are the rulers. **–Aristotle**

In a democracy the poor will have more power than the rich, because there are more of them, and the will of the majority is supreme. **–Aristotle**

Comments: Not often true. If you think the poor in America run our government—apart from welfare—you are sadly mistaken.

20. DEMOCRACY?

Democracy is the recurrent suspicion that more than half of the people are right more than half of the time. **–E. B. White**

Comments: True, but it seems to have worked quite well in our history—especially compared to other alternatives. Not perfect, but overall quite well. The voice of the people usually is quite sane and wise.

21. DEMOCRACY?

Democracy is a pathetic belief in the collective wisdom of individual ignorance. **–HL Mencken**

Comments: It is not pathetic, but certainly the people are not always right, or we’d let “mob rule” reign.

22. DEMOCRAT PROBLEM

The Democratic Party looks at massive immigration, legal and illegal, as a source of voters. **–Tom Tancredo**

Comments: True, and so long as illegals are prohibited from becoming citizens, all they can do is look to them as voters—not rely on them as voters.

23. DEMOCRAT PROBLEM?

Why has the Democratic Party become so arrogantly detached from ordinary Americans?

Though they claim to speak for the poor and dispossessed, Democrats have increasingly become the party of an upper-middle-class professional elite, top-heavy with journalists, academics and lawyers. **–Camille Paglia**

Comments: Not a lot. Those from these three groups, for the most part, adhere to support—even government support—of the poor. Lawyers who don’t, tend more Republicans, and most academics and journalists lean liberal.

24. DEMOCRATS

Democrats are fighting for a new direction that includes protecting Social Security as well as making healthcare affordable, bringing down the high cost of gasoline, and making higher education more accessible for all Americans. **–Jim Clyburn**

Comments: If you're for the people, who could argue against these goals? If you're against the people, and for the special interests who pay your excessive campaign bills, we know the answer.

25. DIPLOMACY

It's a necessary quality of a diplomat or a politician that he will compromise.

Uncompromising politicians or diplomats get you into the most terrible trouble. **–John Keegan**

Comments: Compromise non-core values, and negotiate asking for more than you really expect (or want), so there's room to negotiate toward the middle.

26. DIPLOMACY

A diplomat is a person who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you actually look forward to the trip. **–Caskie Stinnett**

Comments: Very humorous. Hopefully they are not often required to tell really bad news to foreign dignitaries, and usually they negotiate more compromising alternatives, but the fact that tact is essential to their duty cannot be denied.

27. ETHICS REFORM?

Politicians have limited power. They can't impose morality on themselves. How can they impose it on the country? **–Cal Thomas**

Comments: They can—they just don't choose to, because they don't want to, because then they'd have to change their habits and behavior. Whether there is irony here, they pass moral laws for others all the time. It is time for we the people to make them live by standards more becoming of the supposedly honorable profession they have embarked on.

28. ETHICS REFORM

Democrats always like to brag that their guys are smarter than the opponents and Republicans always like to brag that their guys are more moral than the opponents.

But if you're looking for morals in politics you're looking for bananas in the cheese department. **–Harry Shearer**

29. ETHICS REFORM

We want everybody to act like adults, quit playing games, realize that it's not just my way or the highway. **–Barack Obama**

Like its politicians and its war, society has the teenagers it deserves. **–Joseph Priestley**

What Washington needs is adult supervision. **–Barack Obama**

Comments: Yes, it's childish to fight so much, but their techniques can be very sophisticatedly adult. For a moral analysis and factual exposure of such 'tricks,' see our web site Archives.

30. ETHICS REFORM

Integrity is the lifeblood of democracy. Deceit is a poison in its veins. **–Edward Kennedy**

Democracy without morality is impossible. **–Jack Kemp**

Everyone tries to define this thing called Character. It's not hard.
Character is doing what's right when nobody's looking. **-J. C. Watts**

31. ETHICS REFORM

Politics have no relation to morals. **-Niccolo Machiavelli**

Comments: They, in fact, bear a great relation, but in practice, too often the two get quite separated. For examples, please see our web site Archives for a moral analysis of political tricks.

32. ETHICS REFORM

In politics nothing is contemptible. **-Benjamin Disraeli**

Comments: Sadly true. Idiom: "All's fair in love and war." I can't remember a negative campaigning trick that has backfired yet, where the party alleging or doing the wrong act lost because of that behavior or statement. Does anyone have an example of anything we Americans have considered beyond the pale in the past? Our web site blog is the perfect place to make your ideas known, so we all can benefit from your input on any issues related to improving our country.

33. EXTREMISTS

Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice.
And moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue. **-Barry Goldwater**

Comments: Extreme commitment—if demonstrated with dignity and self control, may be acceptable, but pure extreme behavior, merely to get attention, can actually hurt the cause.

34. FAME

Once your name becomes well known, politicians come courting. **-Charley Pride**

Comments: Sadly, people vote primarily for famous people. Apparently, if you're famous, it's because you've done something valuable that shows you'd be a good leader. Sometimes this is true, but reality TV starts prove it is not always.

35. GOVERNMENT

The essence of a free government consists in an effectual control of rivalries. **-John Adams**

The only justifiable purpose for political institutions
is to ensure the unhindered development of the individual. **-Albert Einstein**

Comments: Basically true. Blacks vs. whites, rich vs. poor, religious vs. secular; South and Midwest vs. East and West coasts; management vs. laborer, etc.

36. GRIDLOCK

Breaking News! Obama wants something, but Republicans say No!
Read this once every day we're on vacation. **-The Daily Show**

Comments: Surprise, surprise. When the Republicans regain power, the Democrats will likely do just the same thing.

37. HOPE & SOLUTIONS

There are, believe it or not, good politicians. –**Daniel Keys Moran**

Comments: True—just not enough of them, and those there often lose their voice, become party loyalists or get marginalized by party bosses as renegades (if they ever vote their independent conscience).

38. LAWYERS

The real reason that we can't have the Ten Commandments in a courthouse:
You cannot post 'Thou shalt not steal,' 'Thou shalt not commit adultery,' and 'Thou shalt not lie'
in a building full of lawyers, judges, and politicians.

It creates a hostile work environment. –**George Carlin**

Comments: Often true, but mainly funny. Many lawyers perform a valuable service and do an honorable job. However, as I have expressed elsewhere, the tendency to lie does seem to 'come with the territory,' unless a trier of fact (like a judge or jury) stops it.

39. LIBERALS

A liberal is a man who will give away everything he doesn't own. –**Frank Dane**

Comments: Only partly true. It wrongly assumes all liberals never pay taxes, though they do seem loose with OPM—Other People's (tax dollars) Money.

40. LIBERALS

Sometimes I wonder whether Washington's liberal politicians
truly understand the greatness that is America. –**Mitt Romney**

Comments: Trust me they understand. They're simply unwilling to put their head in the sand about our flaws, or rest on their laurels because of those assets, to say America is already as good as she can be.

41. MEDIA

No government ought to be without censors;
and where the press is free no one ever will. –**Thomas Jefferson**

Comments: Free, but also responsible to adhere to its code of being unbiased (i.e., objectivity), even in what stories they cover or chose to not cover.

42. MODERATES

I'm a moderate. I hang out in the middle.
I vote against my party with some regularity and try to compromise. –**Claire McCaskill**

Standing in the middle of the road is very dangerous;
you get knocked down by the traffic from both sides. –**Margaret Thatcher**

Comments: I do not support being in the middle just to be in the middle (i.e., opinion-less). Be independent enough to take the good of both parties, and reject the bad. It's possible, and our book, Dumb as a Donkey, Fat as an Elephant (and Principled Politician's pledge) tell you how.

43. MORALS & SOLUTIONS

To educate a man in mind and not in morals
is to educate a menace to society. **–Theodore Roosevelt**

Comments: True, but is school the proper venue? Nowadays, TV, movies, peers and the internet give people many of their values, especially those not of a religious bent.

44. NEED

It is essential for politicians to make a connection with us,
as Franklin Roosevelt did, as Teddy Roosevelt did, as John F. Kennedy did, as Ronald Reagan did.
–Peter Jennings

Comments: True—let them know you’re human and you care, but more important is what you believe in and intend to accomplish. Jay Leno has high likeability, but I wouldn’t want him to be president.

45. OBJECTIVITY & INDEPENDENCE

I do this real moron thing, it's called thinking, and I'm not a very good American
because I like to form my own opinions. **–George Carlin**

But on those occasions when I do strongly disagree with the Democrats and I don't say anything, I think I forfeit my right to have people pay attention to me when I say the things that I don't like about what Republicans are saying.

–Barney Frank

I do think the patriotic thing to do is to critique my country.
How else do you make a country better but by pointing out its flaws?

–Bill Maher

46. OTHER PEOPLE’S MONEY

Three groups spend other people's money: children, thieves, politicians.
All three need supervision. **–Dick Arme**

47. OVER-SPENDING

The assumption that spending more of the taxpayer's money will make things better
has survived all kinds of evidence that it has made things worse.
The black family—which survived slavery, discrimination, poverty, wars and depressions—
began to come apart as the federal government moved in
with its well-financed programs to help. **–Thomas Sowell**

Comments: They obviously have not structured it right. Provide the help needed to secure better skills and a better job, and require them to ‘pay’ for it in the form of token compulsory community service. Help them in the interim, but rarely if ever through direct gifts of cash, because that does breed dependency.

48. OWLS (OCCUPY WALL STREETERS)

Newt Gingrich had to work hard--getting Republican candidates to sign the Contract with America--
to nationalize the election that swept Republicans to victory in 1994. Democratic anti-Tea Party
campaign would do that for the Republicans--
nationalize the election, gratis--in 2010. **–Charles Krauthammer**

49. PARTIES

Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer.

Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past.

Let us accept our own responsibility for the future. **–John F. Kennedy**

It does not matter what party you are a member of in this great Nation of ours.

Accountability and competence are characteristics that Americans value throughout our great land.

–Jim Costa

50. PARTY DIFFERENCES

Do we believe that the goal of government is to promote equal opportunity
for all Americans to make the most of their lives?

Or, do we now believe that government's role is to equalize the results of people's lives?

–Paul Ryan

Comments: False dichotomy. Equal opportunity for all, and helping all to at least achieve a decent lifestyle vs. suffering too much. It's called being humane (as opposed to un-, sub- or anti-human).

51. PARTY PROBLEMS

As I've said repeatedly, Republicans are very good at describing things in black and white;

Democrats are very good at describing the 11 shades of gray. **–Joseph C. Wilson**

What is a democrat? One who believes that the republicans have ruined the country.

What is a republican? One who believes that the democrats would ruin the country.

–Ambrose Bierce

Comments: Both parties have some elements of principle, but neither has a lock on good ideas or integrity—in policy or especially practice.

52. PARTY PROBLEMS?

Conservative, n: A statesman who is enamored of existing evils,
as distinguished from the Liberal who wishes to replace them with others. **–Ambrose Bierce**

Comments: No liberal I've heard of wants new problems, though eliminating a significant portion of them might cause the public to call for their job being cut in half—like Rick Perry has suggested. Conservatives are not enamored with problems—they usually just ignore them and focus on having a good (and rich) life devoid of much consideration of others' challenges, or the country as a whole.

53. PARTY PROBLEMS

Left-wing politicians take away your liberty in the name of children and of fighting poverty,
while right-wing politicians do it in the name of family values and fighting drugs.

Either way, government gets bigger and you become less free. **–Harry Browne**

Comments: Family values never increased the size of government, and one's freedom to end a life ought to be questioned, if not curtailed. Your freedom is not absolute, where you can do anything and government should have no say. Whoever wants "liberty" from helping children and the poor really just wants sinful, selfish "license."

54. PARTY PROBLEMS?

Liberalism is trust of the people tempered by prudence.

Conservatism is distrust of the people tempered by fear. **-William E. Gladstone**

Comments: The author obviously is left-biased. Conservatives have a great reason to fear the majority voting against their beliefs (Ex.: the poor all voting)—they'll lose elections. Conservative trust individuals to care for their own lives without government assistance, and if conservatives distrusted the people, they'd seek to overturn free elections.

55. PARTY PROBLEMS?

Republicans have nothing but bad ideas and Democrats have no ideas. **-Lewis Black**

Comments: Almost completely wrong on all fronts. Nice try at a joke, but Republicans have some decent ideas, and anyone who says that Dems have no ideas simply has been sleeping.

56. POLITICIANS

Mothers all want their sons to grow up to be president, but they don't want them to become politicians in the process. **-John F. Kennedy**

There are many men of principle in both parties in America, but there is no party of principle. **-Alexis de Tocqueville**

Comments: True, because one is a respectable office, and the long-time regular practices of the other have rightfully earned their bad reputation.

57. POLITICIANS

Americans... still believe in an America where anything's possible —they just don't think their leaders do. **-Barack Obama**

Comments: Unfortunately, you are one of the many they have lost a lot of faith in, or hope for change to the better.

58. POLITICIANS

Politicians like to tell people what they want to hear and what they want to hear is what won't happen. **-Paul Samuelson**

Comments: Due to gridlock and ideological perfectionism, too often true.

59. POLITICIANS

Whenever a man has cast a longing eye on offices, a rottenness begins in his conduct. **-Thomas Jefferson**

Comments: Not every time, but often. Whenever a politician changes core convictions to match with a majority voting block, this rottenness has already begun.

60. POLITICIANS

A statesman is he who thinks in the future generations, and a politician is he who thinks in the upcoming elections. **-Abraham Lincoln**

The world is weary of statesmen whom democracy has degraded into politicians.

-Benjamin Disraeli

Comments: Perhaps it is better to say a good vs. bad politician, because a good politician does what is right (which will include the welfare of future generations). The difference between a good politician and a statesman, then, might only be the statesman is more adept at international relations and diplomacy.

61. POLITICS

Politics allows people to vote for the impossible, which may be one reason why politicians are often more popular than economists, who keep reminding people that there is no free lunch and that there are no 'solutions' but only trade-offs. **-Thomas Sowell**

Comments: That's why we have a representative democracy. Only an irresponsible politician would give the people everything they want—and bankrupt our country in the process. Unfortunately, there are many pols that fit that description (and they should be fined if not fired).

62. POLITICS

Politics is about relationships, people. A lot of its emotional. It's not rocket science. **-William M. Daley**

Comments: It NEEDS to be more about logic, and the fact that it's about peoples' emotions is one of the main reasons we have so many problems and so few resolutions.

63. POLITICS

Politics is war without bloodshed, while war is politics with bloodshed. **-Mao Tse-Tung**

Comments: Pretty true. It is a war for ideas and ideals. Problem is, it is a war between fellow countrymen—not enemies—and needs to be conducted more in that fashion. Families squabble, but they don't hate, attack, seek to destroy or separate very often. Model politics more on teamwork and the family, like the rest of us have to live our lives. It's called "commons sense."

64. POLITICS

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other. **-Oscar Ameringer**

Comments: Often true, but also votes from the middle class.

65. POLITICS

We have the Bill of Rights. What we need is a Bill of Responsibilities. **-Bill Maher**

Comments: True, but a hard sell in a self-centered community, where JFK's famous line has morphed into 'don't ask me to do anything for my country,' and, by the way, is there something in that treasury for me?

66. PRESIDENTIAL

All the president is, is a glorified public relations man who spends his time flattering, kissing, and kicking people to get them to do what they are supposed to do anyway. **-Harry S. Truman**

It's healthy for government to be a kind of moral catalyst, using the bully pulpit of high office. **-William Weld**

Comments: PR man is often true. He (or she) also ‘casts’ a vision for the future, and sends young men and women into war—not necessarily things they are supposed to do anyway, but important, none-the-less. They do have to use the carrot (flattery and incentives) and stick (kicking and the ‘bully pulpit’).

67. PRESIDENTIAL

Any American who is prepared to run for president should automatically, by definition, be disqualified from ever doing so. **–Gore Vidal**

Comments: One of the stupidest statements I have read. Certainly, one cannot prepare for every contingency, and certainly there is on-the-job training, but do be completely unprepared is a farce. I’m not sure what bad experience this quote was made in response to.

68. PRESIDENTIAL

We live in a world in which politics has replaced philosophy. **–Martin L. Gross**

Comments: Pretty true, as we hold philosophers as being academic, and out-of-touch with reality, while politicians at least have some power to make decisions that can impact lives. Plus, many of us (especially the youth) find philosophy boring, when compared to pop culture.

69. PRIORITIES

In politics it is necessary either to betray one's country or the electorate.
I prefer to betray the electorate. **–Charles de Gaulle**

Comments: Great wisdom of decision, though the two are not always mutually exclusive. In more common phrasing, there are times a politician needs to do (and vote for) things that are not popular, but need to be done none-the-less. Fortunately, at least in France, the rare few politicians have the courage to do the right thing.

70. PROBLEMS (CONSERVATIVES?)

It's no longer an exaggeration to say that middle-class Americans are an endangered species.
–Arianna Huffington

Comments: Not endangered, but shrinking with less chances for growth in numbers. Do the statistics bear out this claim?

71. PROBLEMS (DRAMA)

A politician's goal is always to manipulate public debate.
I think there are some politicians with higher goals.
But all of them get corrupted by power. **–Dean Koontz**

The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed
(and hence clamorous to be led to safety)

by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary. **–H. L. Mencken**

Comments: How does manipulating debate keep them in power? Just tell the facts and the truth, and solve problems! The public, after all, isn't all that interested in your manipulations, if you haven't noticed.

72. PROBLEMS (EGOS)

The mistake a lot of politicians make is in forgetting they've been appointed and thinking they've been anointed. **–Claude Pepper**

Comments: True in part. Some have ego problems. Still others are allowed to stay there long enough that they grow an entitlement mentality like some of their government benefit-receiving constituents.

73. PROBLEMS (EGOS)

Politics is just show business for ugly people. **–Jay Leno**

Comments: Is the “show,” ultimate fighting? CNN certainly offers little entertainment people tune in to see. And John Edwards and Bill Clinton (so women tell me) show this statement is not fully true as to people with faces made for radio.

74. PROBLEMS (FINANCIAL CORRUPTION)

Politicians in this country have always been for sale.
That is nothing new. **–Peter Schuyler**

Comments: Not true of every politician, but far too often true, if you know much about the daily activity of lobbyists in D.C.

75. PROBLEMS (HYPOCRISY)

Among politicians the esteem of religion is profitable;
the principles of it are troublesome. **–Benjamin Whichcote**

Comments: Often true. When you regularly engage in political tricks (**See:** web site archives), any conscience you may have had will bother you, and no one likes feeling uncomfortable.

76. PROBLEMS? (IDEOLOGY)

We're at the crossroads. Down one road is a European centralized bureaucratic socialist welfare system in which politicians and bureaucrats define the future.

Down the other road is a proud, solid, reaffirmation of American exceptionalism. **–Newt Gingrich**

Comments: Ever heard of ‘both/and?’ There are smart people in both groups, dummy. Quit pitting one against the other. It’s more the old beer commercial: less filling and great taste!

77. PROBLEMS (IDOLATRY)

We have, I fear, confused power with greatness. **–Stewart Udall**

Comments: Obviously true. Not every Congressman is a hero, just because they were able to achieve a majority vote. Greatness is doing great things, and many heroes have nothing to do with Congress—I mean nothing.

78. PROBLEMS (INSINCERITY)

A politician will do anything to keep his job—even become a patriot. **–William Randolph**

Comments: Funny. If being a ‘patriot’ were ever out of fashion, I’m sure many politicians would find something else to wrap themselves around to garner votes. We seem to need to define “patriot” more often, as the term gets abused a lot.

79. PROBLEMS (INSUFFICIENT INTEGRITY)

Ninety percent of the politicians give the other ten percent a bad reputation. –**Henry A. Kissinger**

Comments: Funny joke with a lot of truth in it—just not 100% so. A lot of bad apples doesn't necessarily constitute a percentage as high as 90% (as he surely knew, which makes the allegation also funny while generally true).

80. PROBLEMS (INSUFFICIENT INTEGRITY)

Politicians trim and tack in their quest for power,
but they do so in order to get the wind of votes in their sails. –**Ian Gilmour**

Comments: Trimming and tacking is a fancier way of saying flip flopping. People with core convictions are stable, and don't change their positions with political winds of change.

81. PROBLEMS (INSUFFICIENT INTEGRITY)

A group of politicians deciding to dump a President because his morals are bad
is like the Mafia getting together to bump off the Godfather for not going to church on Sunday.
–**Russell Baker**

Comments: Very true. Even the impeachment of Bill Clinton—not a high crime or misdemeanor—show how political tricks have superseded doing the right thing. Censorship, reprimand and other lesser procedures were available and more in order.

82. PROBLEMS (INSUFFICIENT INTEGRITY & VOID OF VISION)

There are actually very few U.S. politicians who have integrity and vision. –**David Korten**

Comments: True. What wins in today's environment is ruthlessness and short-sightedness toward their next election.

83. PROBLEM (INSUFFICIENT INTEGRITY)

It is hard to say why politicians are called servants,
unless it is because a good one is hard to find. –**Gerald F. Lieberman**

Comments: Quite true, although when they do their job, it is the country's business.

84. PROBLEMS (INTERNATIONALLY)

If Americans knew how to deal with other people, they could bring peace to the world.
Alas, they have not learned enough yet.

The true American feels that he is 100 percent welcome anywhere he goes. –**Nguyen Cao Ky**

Comments: The 'Ugly American' syndrome has nothing to do with lacking outward looks.

85. PROBLEMS (INTERNATIONALLY)

The United States brags about its political system, but the President says one thing during the election,
something else when he takes office,

something else at midterm and something else when he leaves. **-Deng Xiaoping**

Comments: Often true, and a legitimate basis for some distrust of our leadership—and exactly why we need Pledged Politician’s in high office as quickly as possible. For a definition please see (and sign) our Petition for Principled Politics at this web site’s home page.

86. PROBLEMS (INTRANSIGENCE)

There is no visible sign that the current politicians in the U.S. are willing to see the need for change. **-David Korten**

Comments: True, and a case of the blind leading the blind.

87. PROBLEMS? (IVORY TOWER?)

I think politicians are so far out of step with what people really want. **-Paul Weller**

Comments: I don’t think they’re real far out of step. After all, they have opinion polls. However they are clearly out of step with our desire for them to cooperate and get things done—the way the rest of us have to do—and to tackle the big (and often hard) things, and quit ‘kicking the can down the road,’ as they say.

88. PROBLEMS (LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY)

Political promises are much like marriage vows. They are made at the beginning of the relationship between candidate and voter, but are quickly forgotten. **-Dick Gregory**

Comments: Funny, but marriage vows are not nearly as quickly forgotten, nor as often. I don’t think the politicians forget them as much as the people fail to hold them to them, perhaps because there are so many, they are less interested or we’re too busy to be able to care a lot.

89. PROBLEMS? (LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY)

Voters quickly forget what a man says. **-Richard M. Nixon**

Comments: Instead, in the future, we should politely pin them down and call their hands on promises broken. Keep a record—a tally. Otherwise, they’ll keep returning t this bad behavior.

90. PROBLEMS (LACK OF THINKING)

The politicians in this world... have at their command weapons of mass destruction far more complex than their own thinking processes. **-Charley Reese**

Comments: Too often true. No real need to think... party ideology is pretty set in stone—just parrot it.

91. PROBLEMS (LIMITED ALTERNATIVES) (Solutions: Third Party?)

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America? **-George Carlin**

Comments: True. More options might be better, but a better two would be even more valuable.

92. PROBLEMS (LIMITED ALTERNATIVES)

We would all like to vote for the best man but he is never a candidate. –**Kin Hubbard**

Comments: Jesus would be the only best man, and He is unavailable at this time. All we can ever hope for is the best one running, and if better candidates exist, political parties often tap them and seek to get them to get into the race as a better candidate for them.

93. PROBLEMS (LIMITED ALTERNATIVES)

Democracy is being allowed to vote for the candidate you dislike least. –**Robert Byrne**

Comments: Sadly, often true. In fact, more than 50% either like or tolerate every President, at least before they take office (or they could not be elected). No research I have seen shows the percentages who tolerate vs. “like” their candidate.

94. PROBLEMS (LIMITED ALTERNATIVES)

America gets the politicians they deserve. That's it. And you keep struggling. –**Al Lewis**

Comments: Morally, they deserve better—this is America, after all, but practically it's true, because we are the ones who elect them, and you get what you pay (and vote) for.

95. PROBLEMS (LOBBYISTS & MONEY)

A fool and his money are soon elected. –**Will Rogers**

Comments: Often true. You have to ask yourself how big is their ego—to spend money they can't recoup, or why they got so concerned for the good of their country—when they could still be making good money elsewhere, or if there might be perks outside the office that even make this decision a financial gain in the long run.

96. PROBLEMS (LYING)

Washington, DC is to lying what Wisconsin is to cheese. –**Dennis Miller**

Comments: It's like the apt adage, ‘lawyers are liars,’ and ‘if my lips are moving...’ Difference is, there aren't nearly as many fans of politicians as cheese heads, and at least there the people truly do own the organization.

97. PROBLEMS (LYING)

It is our experience that political leaders do not always mean the opposite of what they say. –**Abba Eban**

Comments: Hilarious, and an acknowledgement that occasionally politicians do the right thing, and don't lie.

98. PROBLEMS (LYING)

In order to become the master, the politician poses as the servant. –**Charles de Gaulle**

Comments: Very true. People craving power would never come out and say that's why they're running.

99. PROBLEMS (LYING)

You can't trust politicians. It doesn't matter who makes a political speech. It's all lies—and it applies to any rock star who wants to make a political speech as well.

—**Bob Geldof**

Comments: Usually true, but it will not be with the 2020 Pledge class. Is anyone speaking of Bono U2—not Sonny), here?

100. PROBLEMS (LYING)

What generally happens in this county is that our politicians don't serve us well because they don't tell the truth, and they don't keep their promises. —**Peter Garrett**

Comments: That's because voters buy what's positive, even if it's a campaign promise lie. Hard and needed decisions aren't always positive, but they are always hard and needed.

101. PROBLEMS (LYING)

One of the reasons people hate politics is that truth is rarely a politician's objective. Election and power are. —**Cal Thomas**

Comments: Absolutely true statement by my respected childhood Sunday School teacher at Tallowood. Hi Cal—congrats on all your success.

102. PROBLEMS (LYING)

Politicians like to tell people what they want to hear—and what they want to hear is what won't happen. —**Paul Samuelson**

Comments: Putting a title on that allegation—that is called 'LYING'—intentionally, knowingly saying something you know is untrue. Stop doing it, even if you believe it causes you to win.

103. PROBLEMS (LYING)

After believing in promises made and never fulfilled by Labour [in Britain?], people have become increasingly disenchanted with the process assuming that all politicians will say anything to gain power, and then never follow through. —**Adam Rickitt**

Comments: Sadly, the problem does not exist only in America. Our book, Dumb as a Donkey, Fat as an Elephant: Common Ground Through Common Sense for the Common Good offers an abundance of solutions to political problems the world over, and is not limited to the American dilemma (especially but not exclusively chapter 5).

104. PROBLEMS (MONEY & BUSINESS)

It's wherever business rules, business is going to get the politicians they want because they control the money and money controls the power. —**Rob Walton**

When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators. —**P. J. O'Rourke**

Comments: Money does control power, but it should not, and it does not have to be so. Buying and selling are hardly controlled by government, now (except government contracts), but in the future it will be fully controlled by Big Brother (**See:** our book on Prophecy). Anytime government helps labor—as the Obama administration has, this statement’s counter-balancing truth can be clearly seen.

105. PROBLEMS (MONEY INFLUENCE)

It is money, money, money! Not ideas, not principles, but money that reigns supreme in American politics. **–Robert Byrd**

The law is bigger than money—but only if the law works hard enough.
–Thomas Dewey

106. PROBLEMS (NUMBER ONE?)

Wherever you turn, there is always something wrong with the politicians.
They have everything they need to save the world, and they don't save it. **–Nana Mouskouri**

Comments: Perhaps the strongest, most important truth expressed in this file. The world could be rescued from many of its major problems (Ex.: economic morass, starvation, wars) if only they could bang their heads together enough for something to come forth from that head banging.

107. PROBLEMS (OTHER PEOPLE’S MONEY)

A large family and Democrats have a lot in common:
teenagers and Democrats are always happy spending other people's money. **–Anne Northup**

Comments: Even a small family does that—children don’t work, yet—it’s called child labor laws. Democrats are not the only blame-worthy ones. Ever heard of the Homeland Security, the Iraq war, our military build-up under Ronald Reagan and the bank bailouts under George Bush? Both parties spend our money—it’s all a matter of which activities they should and should not spend it on.

108. PROBLEMS (OTHER PEOPLE’S MONEY)

The politicians in Washington are spending trillions of dollars of our money.
When are Americans going to stand up and say enough is enough? **–Joe Wurzelbacher**

Comments: The Tea Party answered your call. Now those in charge just simply can’t come up with agreement on anything to cut. It’s like an over-weight elephant that can’t figure out which peanuts to quit inhaling. It’s truly amazing to behold.

109. PROBLEMS (OVER-SPENDING)

When the federal government spends more each year than it collects in tax revenues,
it has three choices: It can raise taxes, print money, or borrow money.
While these actions may benefit politicians, all three options are bad for average Americans.
–Ron Paul

Comments: Printing money is harmful in devaluing the dollar and/or causing inflation. Streamlining government and cutting where they can is job one. We’re already borrowing, so that’s no new alternative (though we need to do so less, especially with China), and taxes on the rich—only if needed—would need to be a last resort.

110. PROBLEMS (PARTISANISM)

I think people are tired of politicians trying to poke each other in the eye. –**Mark Warner**

Comments: True. Problem is, politicians don't seem tired of it yet.

111. PROBLEMS (PARTISANISM)

Politics, it seems to me, for years, or all too long, has been concerned with right or left instead of right or wrong. –**Richard Armour**

Comments: Absolutely true, and the reason which prompted the writing of our book.

112. PROBLEMS (PARTISANISM VS. PARTY LOYALTY)

I always voted at my party's call, and I never thought of thinking for myself at all. –**William Gilbert**

Comments: Very funny joke (I hope). Such partisanism, disguised (i.e., 'spun') as party loyalty, is KILLING our country.

113. PROBLEMS (PATRONIZING APPEASERS)

Politicians have to be committed to people in equal measures. –**Angela Merkel**

Comments: They don't have to be, and shouldn't be if they're standing for principal, and have enough judgment to discern differences between individuals in their own positions. Treating people with equal deference who are on opposite sides of an issue means you are slighting the one on your side and lying to the one on the opposing side.

114. PROBLEMS (SOURCES)

Now, there's one thing you might have noticed I don't complain about: politicians.

Everybody complains about politicians. Everybody says they s_ck.

Well, where do people think these politicians come from? They don't fall out of the sky.

They don't pass through a membrane from another reality.

They come from American parents and American families, American homes, American schools, American churches, American businesses and American universities, and they are elected by American citizens.

This is the best we can do folks. This is what we have to offer. It's what our system produces:

Garbage in, garbage out.

If you have selfish, ignorant citizens, you're going to get selfish, ignorant leaders.

Term limits ain't going to do any good;

you're just going to end up with a brand new bunch of selfish, ignorant Americans.

So, maybe, maybe, maybe, it's not the politicians who s_ck.

Maybe something else s_cks around here... like, the public. Yeah, the public s_cks.

There's a nice campaign slogan for somebody: 'The Public S_cks. F*** Hope.' –**George Carlin**

Comments: We the people do stink at not insisting on better candidates, and requiring changes to ethics laws, but we're really only allowed to choose between the lesser of two evils until those things happen.

115. PROBLEMS (UNINFORMED ELECTORATE)

The average voter has to hear a point seven times before it registers. –**Paul Weyrich**

Comments: Assuming this statement has been researched and proven is exactly why there are so many various formats to our one book (and website). It's important enough, this author wants you to get it, then do something about it.

116. PROBLEMS (WARNING)

Turn on to politics, or politics will turn on you. **-Ralph Nader**

Comments: Since politics takes many unexpected tosses and turns, it is true that at almost any time, legislation can be passed contrary to what you might like.

117. PUBLIC OPINION

A public-opinion poll is no substitute for thought. **-Warren Buffett**

118. RELIGION

When religious leaders get involved in elections, it is usually with a reactionary social agenda. **-Elizabeth Joan Smith**

Adherents of the new religious right reject the separation of politics and religion, but they bring no spiritual insights to politics. **-Christopher Lasch**

I think Democrats keep the commandments of the Lord more. **-Lincoln Davis**

We should not run away from religious teachings. We should run to them.
-James Carville

Comments: True—usually abortion and gay marriage. I don't know if these issues are “reactionary,” but the religious right IS often single (or dual) focused (except for the black church, which is often focused more on helping the poor among them (i.e., the ‘Social Gospel’).

119. RELIGIOUS RIGHT

If churches want to play the game of politics, let them pay admission like everyone else. **-George Carlin**

Comments: I totally agree, and that is the current state of the law. Violations are rarely enforced, and politicians are not always subtle in their vote seeking churches.

120. RELIGIOUS RIGHT

The point is that there is tremendous hypocrisy among the Christian right. And I think that Christian voters should start looking at global warming and extreme poverty as a religious issue that speaks to the culture of life. **-Al Franken**

Comments: True on the poverty issue, as well as decrying greed and the pride and selfishness of some portion of our rich.

121. RELIGIOUS RIGHT

The Clinton administration launched an attack on people in Texas because those people were religious nuts with guns. Hell, this country was founded by religious nuts with guns.

Who does Bill Clinton think stepped ashore on Plymouth Rock? –**P. J. O'Rourke**

Comments: In most cases, the two groups of religious “nuts” being spoken of here are only “nuts” to anti-religion, self-absorbed people who don’t respect a belief or commitment to God.

122. RELIGIOUS RIGHT

When you talk about evangelicals, don't forget that a significant proportion of the evangelical community is African American. And most African Americans—well over 90 percent, thoroughly evangelical, thoroughly biblical—will probably vote Democratic. –**Tony Campolo**

Comments: True, yet their evangelistic-ness is usually superseded in priority by belief in the “Social Gospel” of helping the poor (i.e., social ministry).

123. REPUBLICAN SLANDER

Republicans are men of narrow vision, who are afraid of the future. –**Jimmy Carter**

Comments: They do seem to suffer from having individual life blinders on, but they are usually quite optimistic about America as the land of opportunity. The only thing they really fear is the growing population of the non-rich, who, if they all voted, could significantly impact their pocket books. Glenn Beck (and Ted Nugent) is so terrified of this he has written a rambling rant on how to prepare for eventual physical violence!

124. REPUBLICAN ‘MODERATES’

There are a great number of Republicans who are economically conservative but have hearts and a consciousness about their country. –**Tim Robbins**

Comments: Do you really believe all the money government would return to them would be pumped back into private charities? Actions speak louder than words, and doing and giving help much more than mere ‘caring.’

125. REPUBLICANS

Republicans should simply focus on first principles and give the American people what they want—an honest party dedicated to common sense, fiscal responsibility and limited government. If we govern to save the country, we'll do well as a party. –**Tom Coburn**

Comments: Few could debate these values, and few believe government should waste tax dollars. The only debate centers on how limited government’s functions should be.

126. RESULTS?

Our elections are free, it's in the results where eventually we pay. –**Bill Stern**

Comments: In more ways than just dollars.

127. RESULTS?

Politicians fascinate because they constitute such a paradox; they are an elite that accomplishes mediocrity for the public good. –**George Will**

Comments: Excellence is for the public good—never mediocrity. If they are truly in an elite class, they should produce elite results. Kind begets kind. The extraordinary do extraordinary things. It's that simple.

128. RESULTS?

Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it, misdiagnosing it and then misapplying the wrong remedies. —**George Carlin**

Comments: Some politicians may look for trouble, but they shouldn't have to look far, because many times the trouble seeks them out. They do get some remedies right, like the idea of helping the poor and elderly through enacting Social Security and Medicare—though now those programs have lost their way and need reforming, for their inadequate funding will soon render them obsolete.

129. RESULTS?

He's suffering from Politicians' Logic.

Something must be done, this is something, therefore we must do it. —**Antony Jay**

Comments: Fortunately, at least, there's always the other party to tell them not to take the action proposed. I've never heard of any instance of Congress taking any action just because it was available for them to take, some bit of an exaggeration here.

130. RESULTS?

Politicians and diapers have one thing in common.

They should both be changed regularly, and for the same reason. —**George Carlin**

Comments: True, and voters seem to be as interested in doing this dirty job as a new parent—at least the job of replacing them with *clean* diapers.

131. RESULTS?

People want a result.

Immigrant voters aren't stupid, and they're going to know who's on their side. —**Tom Snyder**

Comments: In other words, Democrats support Latinos (a minority) more, but neither party is courageous enough to fix the illegal immigration problem.

132. RICHES

The forces in a capitalist society, if left unchecked, tend to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. —**Jawaharlal Nehru**

Comments: If those forces are the free enterprise system, this statement is true, as proved out by history and statistics. To blame this condition on government—except by their being able to levy higher taxes on the wealthy—would be a misstatement.

133. RICHES

The cure for capitalism's failing would require that a government would have to rise above the interest of one class alone. —**Robert Heilbroner**

Comments: This statement assumes the American government is in the pockets of the wealthy, but with a complete political party devoted to helping the poor—both of which fight for the middle class—it can hardly be sad to be fully true.

134. SOCIAL CHANGE

If you want to make enemies, try to change something. –**Woodrow Wilson**

Comments: True enough, but make them anyway. Status quo is unacceptable, and voters of all stripes have now learned that if they raise a ruckus—even if insincere—their cause will get attention. And they’ve learned that politicians fear losing votes by angering anyone.

135. SOCIAL SERVICES

As people do better, they start voting like Republicans—
unless they have too much education and vote Democratic,
which proves there can be too much of a good thing.

–**Karl Rove**

Markets are designed to allow individuals to look after their private needs
and to pursue profit. It's really a great invention and I wouldn't under-estimate the value of that, but
they're not designed to take care of social needs. –**George Soros**

Comments: By his own words, Karl roving reporter believes you get stupid when you achieve “success” and start wanting to use it to help others, and solicit government’s help, as well. Too much education, to him, means you open your mind up to a world beyond personal gratification and selfishness.

136. SOLUTIONS

Politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians. –**Charles de Gaulle**

The most important political office is that of the private citizen. –**Louis D. Brandeis**

Comments: Absolutely true. For too long we voters have done just that—outsourced our responsibility to another department—politicians—and the country is significantly suffering as a consequence.

137. SOLUTIONS

We're a nation of laws, but the good thing about America,
is that laws reside in the people and people can change the laws. –**Rick Warren**

Comments: That’s exactly what needs to happen on campaign finance, and especially ethics reform.

138. SOLUTIONS

Voters don't decide issues, they decide who will decide issues. –**George Will**

Comments: Duh—that’s why ours is a representative Democracy.

139. SOLUTIONS

If more politicians in this country were thinking about the next generation
instead of the next election,
it might be better for the United States and the world. –**Claude Pepper**

Comments: Not even or only the next generation. How about just caring what's in the best interest of all currently living generations?

140. SOLUTIONS (NUMBER ONE)

Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer,
but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past.
Let us accept our own responsibility for the future. **–John F. Kennedy**

Comments: Nothing anyone can say to this statement but that it is 100% true and accurate. The only problem with it is getting our modern parties to return to this “old-fashioned” principle of this Democrat hero.

141. SOLUTIONS (NUMBER ONE)

If your neighbor has a completely different view on abortion, gay marriage, stem cell research,
all of those things, you still are both Americans.
Neither one of you is necessarily more patriotic than the other.
Neither loves their country any more than the other one does. **–Phil McGraw**

Comments: True in most cases. Some Americans may not like their country, but they are a rare breed.

142. SOLUTIONS (NUMBER TWO?)

One of the ways to make sure policies are more transparent
and to help restore people's confidence in politicians...
is to ensure renewal at the highest level of office. **–Pauline Marois**

Comments: Absolutely true, and our hope for the year 2020.
All the problems of the world could be settled if people were only willing to think.

143. SOLUTIONS

If you open up the mind, the opportunity to address both profits and
social conditions are limitless. It's a process of innovation.
–Jerry Greenfield

144. SOLUTIONS

The trouble is that people very often resort to all sorts of devices in order not to think,
because thinking is such hard work. **–Thomas J. Watson**

Comments: Amen, and our book has made that logical thinking very easy to understand, interesting and in laymen's terms. All that's left is to read it and pass rational policies!

145. SOLUTIONS (GOOD VOTERS)

Building a better you is the first step to building a better America. **–Zig Ziglar**

Comments: Personal responsibility is always part of the solution to our problems. Without a moral electorate, even moral laws fail in their effect.

146. SOLUTIONS

It's time to replace career politicians with citizen's politicians.
It's time to elect people who are going to stand up to the Washington elite
and stand up to a White House and Congress hell-bent on ramming socialism down our throat.

-Christine O'Donnell

Comments: What a witch!—Just joking (she had alleged prior experience as a witch). Making taxpayers help the poor is not evil or “Socialism,” but the call for citizen politicians (or at least long-term politicians with a citizen’s mind-set) is certainly needed.

147. SOLUTIONS

The voters reward good performance. So, I'm going to go out and focus, if I become the governor, to do the very best job I can as governor. The rest of it will take care of itself.

-Dave Heineman

Comments: If only this were true. Fulfill that pledge, anyway, but voters can be as partisan as their leaders, often because that’s the only choices made available to them.

148. SOLUTIONS (REALISM)

I believe politicians should always remain realistic. **-Eduard Shevardnadze**

It seems to me that politicians ought to use the same words as other people. **-Barney Frank**

Comments: Totally agree than plain speech and realism are much needed. Problem is, people like the drama of the other alternatives (even though it hurts our country).

149. SOLUTIONS? (REALISM)

The way to connect with voters on the plan is to simply give the facts.

Fifty per cent of taxpayers pay 97 per cent of the taxes.

By most people's standards, that's already fair.

The President is playing the class warfare card because he knows that a lot of people may never hear that particular fact. But it's a fact. **-Herman Cain**

Comments: Some truth here, but I’m not sure ‘by most people’s standards’ fifty percent paying 97% is “fair.” Every citizen needs to pay their part, even if the poor pay it through compulsory sweat equity in exchange for their government benefits. Michelle Bachmann recommended as little as a 410 contribution from the poor, which is a ludicrous suggestion representing NO patriotic duty (but money is not readily available to the poor—which is why they’re poor) so community service is a much more realistic and reasonable solution. A rent car mentality comes to many who receive things for nothing.

150. SOLUTIONS

What is the primary purpose of a political leader? To build a majority.

If voters care about parking lots, then talk about parking lots. **-Newt Gingrich**

Comments: Stupidity! Sure, you listen to and care about what they care most about, but you also should lead, by educating and encouraging them to care about things they need to/should, in order to have a better (vs. only self-centered) country.

151. SOLUTIONS

The largest party in America, by the way, is neither the Democrats nor the Republicans.

It's the party of non-voters. **–Robert Reich**

Comments: Absolutely true. If Clinton's economic expert's claim is documented, the number one way to implement our book is to educate those who are disillusioned with (or ignorant of) politics that solutions exist and a movement is under way to resolve its many drawbacks. It's tentatively called the 2020 Pledge Class—Congresspersons of all stripes—citizens and professional politicians—voted in by numbers large enough to broker power between extremes in both parties (more details in our book)

152. SOLUTIONS?

Vote for the man who promises least; he'll be the least disappointing. **–Bernard Baruch**

Comments: Wise, but you can also vote for people who promise a lot—if they're honest (like "Pledged" Politicians, in 2020 if not sooner).

153. SOLUTIONS

I did not deal well with the politicians. I tend to tell people that when they are full of crap, that they are full of cr_p. **–Robert Crandall**

Comments: Yeah, they're not used to being real, or hearing others call a spade a spade. That's where the political correctness mentality comes in, re-phrasing and spinning everything positive so we delude ourselves and fail to address real problems because we have 'positively' promoted it as not much of a problem for so long.

154. SOLUTIONS? (PESSIMISM?)

If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal. **–Emma Goldman**

Comments: Very funny, and a lot of truth to the fact that our single vote isn't usually enough to get the people in D.C. to do the right things.

155. SOLUTIONS? (PESSIMISM?)

There ain't no answer. There ain't gonna be any answer.
There never has been an answer. That's the answer. **–Gertrude Stein**

Comments: Funny, untrue, but often what we see as the result of Washington politician's repeated failures.

156. SPINNING

I've never been able to understand why a Republican contributor is a 'fat cat' and a Democratic contributor of the same amount of money is a 'public-spirited philanthropist'.
–Ronald Reagan

A leader in the Democratic Party is a boss, in the Republican Party he is a leader.
–Harry S. Truman

Comments: I hope he was just joking, because the answer is obvious. Rich Democrats obviously support the government helping the poor, or they'd vote Republican. Rich Republicans obviously don't support government helping them, and somehow believe that voluntary charitable giving alone could sustain them in a stable enough way that no one would ever suffer intensely, or die (an assumption I do not agree with).

157. STRATEGY

You can't know too much, but you can say too much. **-Calvin Coolidge**

It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool
than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt. **-Abraham Lincoln**

Comments: These astute men seem to have stumbled on a Biblical truth—"In the abundance of words, sin is unavoidable." (Pv. 10:19; *paraphrased*)

158. STRATEGY

It's the movies that have really been running things in America ever since they were invented.
They show you what to do, how to do it, when to do it, how to feel about it,
and how to look how you feel about it. **-Andy Warhol**

159. STRATEGY

Memo to White House: Calling voters stupid is not a winning strategy. **-Karl Rove**

Comments: Ignorant and selfish is OK? George Carlin essentially did, with much logic in support (See comment in this file). Either way, just tell the truth (and 'do the right thing'—a good campaign motto for politicians to consider).

160. STRATEGY

The great thing about this town hall format is that it allows us to hear
what's on the minds of Americans. Tonight, it was clear—
voters have quite a few questions about the direction in which the current administration is headed.
-Janet Napolitano

Comments: Always stay in touch and never lose the pulse of the man on the street, 'average American' backbone of our society.

161. TEA PARTY PROBLEMS?

A Harris poll I've seen says only 12 percent of the electorate names taxes
as one of the most important issues facing the nation.

Voters put tax cuts dead last, behind education, Social Security, health care, Medicare and poverty.
-Lane Evans

Comments: Tea Partiers are concerned about taxes, but with 51% of us not paying any, and the middle class not in the tax bracket of the rich, especially conservatives and rich Republicans are those most concerned about "over"-taxation.

162. TEA PARTY RACISTS?

The tea bag__rs. The one thing they hate is when you call them racist.
The other thing they hate is black people. But they won't say it. **-Bill Maher**

Comments: I speak from experience of living among many of these—they TRULY don't hate black people. Their 'worldview' truly is blind to how conserving tax dollars spent by government—a good thing—could be taken as 'racist,' because they earned their money, and expect that every black person on welfare can earn a good living if they try (even though it may still be a destitute lifestyle living on low wages). Some, to be sure, don't like blacks—and they truly will deny it to the grave.

163. TEA PARTY APPEASEMENT?

Well, first of all, I think that a lot of the voters who are voting for the tea party candidates have really good impulses. That is, they believe that for years and years and years, the people with wealth and power or government power have done well and ordinary people have not. That's true. **-William J. Clinton**

Comments: Is this a trick to try to lure Tea Party voters democrat, as Tea partiers aren't upset that the rich have done well—they want them to do better, by receiving greater tax returns. Often the parties seek to lure loyal constituents of the other party through certain means (Ex.: religion, abortion, gay marriage and the fear of gun control for otherwise poorer blue collar Democrat constituents).

164. THIRD PARTY

A government full of Democrats would rather have you be a Republican, and a government full of Republicans would rather have you be a Democrat, than have you oppose both. **-Brian Celio**

165. TRICKS

Three groups spend other people's money: children, thieves, politicians.
All three need supervision. **-Dick Arme**

166. TRICKS

All politicians should have 3 hats—one to throw into the ring, one to talk through, and one to pull rabbits out of if elected. **-Carl Sandburg**

Comments: I disagree with the talking through your hat (i.e., lying). They clearly often have no magic tricks up their sleeves, and the first hat is more and more the hat of fame or notoriety—or money.

167. TRICKS (PERSONAL ATTACKS)

The problem with smear campaigns is that too often they work. **-Mark Shields**

Comments: True, and the voters who reward this behavior are primarily to blame. If it didn't work to being electoral victories, politicians would not use them.

168. TRICKS & PERSONAL ATTACKS

I can't stand John McCain. **-Harry Reid**

I hate Republicans and everything they stand for. **-Howard Dean**

On the other side, I do believe that the rhetoric we are seeing from the Democrats today is unprecedented, is a new low in presidential politics and goes beyond political discourse and amounts to political hate speech. **-Ed Gillespie**

169. TRICKS

What politicians want to create is irreversible change because when you leave office someone changes it back again. **-Estelle Morris**

Comments: True sometimes, but rarely are big programs overturned, and precedent keeps many policies in place throughout succeeding administrations.

170. TRICKS

I feel very strongly that you can't just beat people up anymore;
you have to work hand in hand and find ways to compromise,
and get big business involved, because it won't happen otherwise. **–Ted Danson**

171. TRICKS? (SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENTS)

Conservative voters increasingly understand that the one legacy a president can leave
is his judicial appointments. **–Paul Weyrich**

Comments: True, and a sort of 'trick' to push your agenda firmly and for years—if the justice nominated
actually vote the way a President hopes they will in the future. They don't always.

172. TRICKS?

There is one rule for politicians all over the world:
Don't say in power what you say in opposition;
if you do, you only have to carry out what the other fellows have found impossible.
–John Galsworthy

Comments: Not necessarily true. The guy now in power may be able to achieve it, but less incentivized, and
the real problem is if you opposed policy X out of power, and now support it in power, you're rightly a
hypocrite. Better stated, don't ever say you're for anything that once you get into power will be impossible to
achieve—not due to your opposition, but because it's truly impossible to achieve, for then you look either inept
or like a failure.

173. VALUES VOTERS

You talk about the values that you have whether they're in favor or not in favor.
That's how you lead. The reality is, we're losing more and more elections. **–Artur Davis**

Comments: Apparently this author is ticked off that the religious right pushes abortion and gay marriage
issues every election, even if many of their own (Republican) party don't care or don't want them to. As Roe
vs. Wade is unlikely to be over-turned, and the Supreme Court has allowed states to decide for gay marriage,
the horses are out of the barn, and a political party must focus on a broader range of platform issues, to be able
to attract a majority.

174. VALUES VOTERS?

I will use whatever position I have in order to root out hypocrisy.
Democrats have strong moral values.
Frankly, my moral values are offended by some of the things I hear on programs
like "Rush Limbaugh," and we don't have to put up with that. **–Howard Dean**

Comments: Often true. As I said, half his integrity tied behind his back, just to make it unfair, and ethics *not*
on loan from God.

175. VOTERS

As we have always seen here in the U.S. the universal truth about elections is that people vote their pocketbook. **–Jennifer Dunn**

Comments: Basically true. Those with any money want to keep as much for themselves, and those with little to none would always welcome a gift from the tax payer forced by the head of government. It's the vast middle class who is interesting to watch, since they don't need or get many government perks, but also often relate more to the wealthy—as they someday desire to be among them, yet can also relate to the strugglers one 'class' below them.

176. VOTERS

Research has shown that the perceived style of leadership is by far the most important thing to most voters in evaluating officeholders and candidates.
–Robert Teeter

Comments: Reagan delegated, many were more hands-on and some were quite brash (Ex.: Johnson). Please don't judge your leaders by whether you'd like to have them as an employer, but whether they can get things done. Results always trump methods and manner, or "tone" (unless you like nice guys who get little done).

177. VOTERS

You have to remember one thing about the will of the people:
it wasn't that long ago that we were swept away by the Macarena.' **–Jon Stewart**

Comments: Quite true. We neither have 'mob rule'—where the judgment of our leaders only follows opinion polls, nor a dictatorship—where the voice of the people could be completely ignored. It's a partnership.

178. VOTER FRUSTRATION

I'm your average Joe guy. I don't really care for politicians. **–John Mellencamp**

Comments: You're not alone, John. 82% of Americans recently said they wish all Washington Congressmen would be thrown out. That's not just an average attitude, it's exceptional, and mainstream majority.

179. VOTER FRUSTRATION

Ninety eight percent of the adults in this country are decent, hardworking, honest Americans.
It's the other lousy two percent that get all the publicity.
But then, we elected them. **–Lily Tomlin**

Comments: Very funny, and too often true. I'm not sure 100% of non-politicians match this description, but point made, just the same.

180. VOTER FRUSTRATION

What this country needs is more unemployed politicians. **–Angela Davis**

Comments: True. The only problem is, they reproduce like cock roaches, and until enough of them are committed to the principled practice of politics, this situation will not be turned around.

181. VOTER PROBLEMS (APATHY)

Bad politicians are sent to Washington by good people who don't vote. –**William E. Simon**

Comments: And people with bad biases, or who get tricked or lied to by these men in the campaign process.

182. VOTER PROBLEMS (APATHY)

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors. –**Plato**

Comments: Have you ever seen Congress say, do or vote for things you thought were ludicrous? If we were rich or famous enough to run for Congress (and lawyers, with an interest in these things), many more of us would—and could probably do a lot better job.

183. VOTER PROBLEMS? (APATHY)

America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote. –**George Carlin**

Comments: Not necessarily a problem. It's great that we go to such lengths to help others experience freedom—it's just not so commendable how few of us do such a simple task as voting.

184. VOTERS & IGNORANCE

Too often we... enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.
–**John F. Kennedy**

Americans seem sometimes to believe that if you are a thinker you must be a frowning bore, because thinking is so damn serious. –**Jacques Maritain**

Comments: Very true in America. We're busy, there's a lot of information, and pop culture offers us many more interesting subjects to spend our free time on. Therefore, "guttural politics" is our default mode.

185. VOTERS & IGNORANCE

People will pay more to be entertained than educated. –**Johnny Carson**

Comments: Completely true. It's so bad, even if the education were offered free, they seem to have little interest boning up on issues. Apparently, the only time a person needs to learn anything is in school.

186. VOTERS & IGNORANCE

Half of the American people have never read a newspaper.
Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half. –**Gore Vidal**

Comments: Very funny. Newspapers being on the decline, the numbers have likely shifted, but the truth that many citizens are quite in the dark on political matters is very true, and needs to be curbed.

CONCLUSION

See how many people think and speak about politics, other than those in the profession. Your ignoring it could put you in the minority. (Example of skewing statistics—many authors are repeated, and though many are cited, they represent a tiny fraction, or percentage, of humanity. Granted, many are important members of that elite minority, which makes their insights all that more valuable).

The Top 100 Global Thinkers—SUMMARIZED

(Source: ForeignPolicy.com)

1. AFRICA

London-based investment firm proved that profit could be made in African economies that the world had long ago written off as too risky. —**Miles Moreland**

2. AFRICAN LEADERS

Grant \$5 million over 10 years—plus a \$200,000 annual stipend thereafter—to retired African heads of state who were democratic and incorruptible. —**Mo Ibrahim**

Comments: Only if they earned that much (i.e., that's reasonable compensation for their position and accomplishments)—no unearned handouts. Why do we have to reward people for doing the right thing and doing their job?

3. BANKING CRISIS

Weak regulations and moral hazard were disregarded in favor of injecting cash back into the most risk-prone banks, while substantive issues such as the foreclosure crisis and the scarcity of small-business loans have worsened with neglect.

As for the wave of austerity sweeping Europe, he recently cautioned, that could send the world into an economic tailspin. —**Joseph Stiglitz**

4. CHINA

Take on China state TV's self-censorship, its flawed educational system, and particularly its wayward officials. —**Han Han**

Comments: True. Unaware of what's flawed in their education system that we often emulate as world Class (and not interested or able, at present, to explore it).

5. DEBT & DECLINE

The tipping point in the decline of world powers is the moment when the interest on a country's debt surpasses its defense expenditures—a moment the United States will reach, he warns, in about five years. —**Niall Ferguson**

6. DEBT & THE ECONOMY

We have run out of money. Rather than trying to revive the economy through stimulus packages and deficit spending, opt for radical cuts.

—**David Cameron** (British Prime Minister)

Comments: Amen (or is that word Politically Incorrect to say, ha ha).

7. ECONOMIC BUBBLES

There are the same intellectual pitfalls at work in medieval currency wars, modern subprime mortgage crises, and in the *irrational exuberance* of the 1920s and the early 2000s.

—**Carmen Reinhart & Kenneth Rogoff**

Comments: Just as we have stated in our Economic Plan in the book, Dumb as a Donkey, Fat as an Elephant.

8. ECONOMY

"The new normal" describes the post-crisis economic era: one in which growth remains stubbornly low everywhere but the developing world.

–**Mohamed El-Erian**

A reliable critic of Barack Obama's economics brain trust, while also assailing his tax-cutting Republican detractors for conspiring "to destroy the credit of the U.S. federal government" and so bring about "the end of the U.S. era of global dominance." –**Martin Wolf**

Comments: As we have said in our book, Dumb as a Donkey, Fat as an Elephant, no normalizing/rationalizing aftermath to an unjustified bubble will reach the financial heights of that exaggerated euphoria and hype, but that is a good thing, as it produces more reasonableness and longer-term stability in the markets.

9. EDUCATION

Finland's serious emphasis on education means pupils regularly score first among developed countries on science and reading, bringing education reformers from around the world to Finland's door.

–**Tarja Halonen** (President of Finland)

Comments: American educators—Go there and learn something for your own education and usage.

10. EUROPE

A unified Europe must commit to economic reform at home and free trade abroad.

–**Carl Bildt** (Swedish Foreign Minister)

11. FREEDOM

A real "freedom agenda" will start with democratic rules rather than free markets.

–**Daron Acemoglu**

The key to eliminating extremism is for the West to embrace its own "side" of a [global] cultural war that is already very much happening. –**Hirsi Ali**

Comments: As we have said in our political book, America has historic weaknesses we must not only acknowledge, but remedy. We are not fully responsible for engendering our enemies' ill will, but even as the more odd ball Ron Paul has said, we do bear some responsibility. No country is perfect.

12. GENERATIONAL CHALLENGES

America's baby-boom generation, failed to postpone gratification, invest for the future, work harder than the next guy and hold their kids to the highest expectations.

The result is a country unable to keep up with China and other emerging economies.

–**Thomas Friedman**

Comments: Solution: Change it—everyone who is guilty in fact. Save more, work harder, and embrace

more contentment with what you have, as the Bible says.

13. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

"I'm quite happy to offend everyone." Trying to convince developing countries to invite wealthier states to commandeer sections of their territory.

Those countries would, in turn, establish a consistent rule of law, invite international businesses to invest, and put locals to work.

The fastest path to development is to let a thousand Hong Kongs bloom.

–Paul Romer

Comments: On the ‘offending everyone,’ that is not the intention of our “Donkey” book, but on many issues may end up being its effect. As we have said, if the truth hurts, it’s only the sting of the needle inoculating you from further harm.

14. GLOBAL ECONOMY

Penny-pinch government’s way to economic recovery.

–Angela Merkel (German Chancellor)

15. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

We are at the end of the era of Western domination of world history.

Multiple powers will now share the burdens of global governance, and our world will ultimately be more stable than the current fading unipolar moment.

–Kishore Mahbubani

America needs to get over itself.

The future world order will be dominated by new emerging powers along with old leaders as China and India take their place at the table.

–Fareed Zakaria's

Comments: I do not believe America’s leadership end must come, but if American voters do not make the necessary changes to their voting habits (Ex.: Pledge class 2020), the trend is certainly in that direction (sadly).

16. GREEN LIFESTYLE

Green technology can be profitable. **–Vinod Khosla**

17. HEALTHCARE

Cutting health care costs will require better data and decision-making processes.

–Atul Gawande

18. HUMAN RIGHTS

America has lost the moral high ground in promoting human rights globally, and it’s time to bring the rest of the world into the discussion. **–George Soros**

19. ISLAM

Convince European Muslims that it is possible to reconcile democracy with religious dogma.
–**Tariq Ramadan**

Comments: Wonderful objective.

20. ISRAEL

Urged Israel to bomb Iran's Bushehr reactor, and anti-U.N. –**John Bolton**

A plan to construct the institutions of a Palestinian state in two years:
opening dozens of schools and housing centers across the West Bank
and pledging that at least half of the Palestinian Authority's budget this year will be provided by tax
revenues rather than aid.

As a result, the West Bank's economy grew at an impressive 7 percent clip during 2009, while Palestinian
security services cracked down on attacks
meant to destabilize the peace process. –**Salam Fayyad** (Palestinian Prime Minister)

Comments: As my Blog Archive shows (and my church's Bible Fellowship leader at the time and 2
DTS professors should attest), I emailed Israel's Prime Minister of this need back in
October 2009. Delay in doing good (and the right thing) can only encourage increased bad,
or as George Bush called it, evil-doing.

21. LATIN AMERICA

We still have in Latin America ... this atrocious tradition of authoritarianism and brutality.
–**Mario Vargas Llosa**

22. MILITARY SPENDING

How to live within straitened means while not creating a perilous vacuum
in international affairs? Setting priorities rather than trying to do everything,
weakening unsavory rivals by reducing oil consumption,
and attaching the U.S. economy to sustainable engines of growth. –**Michael Mandelbaum**

Comments: Priorities are essential, but a dialogue needs to be had in the international community about
other nation's roles and financial responsibilities, as we as a whole cannot let genocide and
wars continue unabated, and proper planning for the inevitable (given man's history) is
wiser than defaulting to chaos or letting Uncle Sam do it all (then criticizing from the
sidelines).

23. MORTGAGE CRISIS

Reshape the mortgage code to avoid opaque language, restructure existing mortgages,
and stay in touch with panicked borrowers. –**Sendhil Mullainathan & Richard Thaler**

24. NATION-BUILDING

Invest in high schools and universities as primary 'nation-building' initiatives.
–**Ashraf Ghani & Clare Lockhart** (The Institute for State Effectiveness)

Comments: A very vital key (to building nations) in the new economy/21st century.

25. NATO

NATO must be willing to mount operations far afield on behalf of the international community, Albright argues, regardless of what Moscow and Beijing have to say. NATO is a very powerful tool that we thought should be made more agile and versatile in a period of unpredictability. **–Madeleine Albright**

Comments: Amen. If America cannot convince China and Russia to join proper military aims (likely due to historic tensions never resolved or forgiven/moved on from), our national interests and sovereignty demands no less.

26. POLITICS

With accusations of fascism and socialism bandied about, the advent of trutherism and birtherism, and the Tea Party's meteoric rise, American politics seem to have coarsened and radicalized in recent years—an age-old reality with potentially devastating consequences both for the United States and the world. A steady march of trends can undermine democracy: political primaries that reward extremists, presidents who prefer loyalists over independent-minded experts, and a military gaining an ever-stronger foothold in the civilian domain. When a superpower is in decline, its unreliability will spur rising powers to search for more reliable partners." **–Bruce Ackerman**

Comments: Amen, with the exception that I do not believe the military is impacting our communities for ill in any negative ways. They are our heroes (the lone exceptions being the PTSD anomalies who 'lose it' and shoot up people or places—extremely rare!).

27. POVERTY

Treating children for intestinal worms dramatically improves school attendance. **–Esther Duflo**

Global poverty is about bad governance. Responsibly used natural resources offer the best route out. Preservation-minded environmentalists are 'romantics,' while free market economists are 'ostriches.' **–Paul Collier**

There is a circular trap of poverty and disease, calling for a broad anti-epidemic arsenal that ranges from prevention to counseling and improved support for health-care institutions to a more holistic look at the social and economic factors that enable the disease. **–Helene Gayle**

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) takes into account education, health, and factors such as accessible drinking water, rather than just income. **–Sabina Alkire**

28. RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

Western society is robust enough to embrace even illiberal practices (Ex.: Islam), so long as these are not violent. Living with values that one does not share is a price to be paid for living in a pluralist society. **–Ian Buruma**

Comments: Amen. The violence is where the dogma crosses an unacceptable line, and government must always monitor any build up of violent tendencies within our borders (and beyond).

29. SOLUTIONS

Nathan Myhrvold's Intellectual Ventures brings together investors and innovators with the aim of solving big problems and making money doing so. Among the ideas on the table are using geoengineering to fight climate change, zapping malaria-bearing mosquitoes with lasers, and developing nuclear reactors that can run on uranium waste.

Cognitive Surplus: Imagine how our world would be different if Americans put the time they spent watching television—an estimated 158 hours per person per month—to productive use. **–Clay Shirky**

Comments: As we have said in our Elephant of a book, if more Americans—especially our youth—would use their minds more and spend less time committed to entertainment and emotions/opinions, likely any and all problems could be solved (adding in the need to find related funding).

30. WAR

The future of warfare will look like the 2008 Mumbai attacks—attacking in small, agile units. We need to get smaller, closer and quicker. **–John Arquilla**

Danger of cyber attacks. **–Richard Clarke**

America's worst threats are not great-power rivals but the upheavals associated with failed and failing states. **–Michèle Flournoy & Anne-Marie Slaughter**

OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

We welcome you to inform yourself on some of the most important subjects of life—Religion, Politics, Business & Innovation. With that aim in mind, feel free to check out any of these helpful reads:

- **Wit & Wisdom: Don't Speak About Politics or Religion (A Voter's Manifesto)**

Our blockbuster live-tweeted book, that significantly changed American politics and Christianity from 2014 to 2018 (and which many of the world's VIP's have already seen written, and warmly received).

- **Dumb as a Donkey, Fat as an Elephant: Common Ground Through Common Sense for the Common Good**

Over 2,000 unique, new products ideas inside—FREE!

Our landmark book on how “We the people” can change Washington for the good (and to do good, both in policies and practice), using common sense to secure unifying solutions, efficiently and within budget.

- **The Way Things Ought To Be: A Global Vision for a Better World**

Over 500 unique, new products ideas inside—FREE!

Common sense solutions to most of the world's problems, both globally and domestically.

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- **Idioms for Innovators & Immigrants**

Anyone desiring to understand (or appeal to) America's pop culture, advertising and values, thousands of common expressions we use in everyday expression are defined in common usage.

- **The Gospel According to God**

The most thorough, Bible-based treatise on what it takes for a person to go to Heaven. Documenting and critiquing the two major views of the historic Lordship Salvation vs. Saviorhood Salvation controversy.

- **New Testament Color Charts**

These charts graphically explain the meaning and layout of God's latest Testament, using pictures, colors and text. It allows an easy understanding of context and perspective when studying the Bible.

- **Architecture Aficionado: How Anyone Can be Inspired to Admire (and Create) Architecture**

For an excellent summary of the most important topics of the Bible (which recently turned around a leading U.S. mega church), see our FREE web site, www.WillYouLiveForever.org

For a broad treatment of common sense, common ground solutions to politics-as-usual, see our FREE website, www.AmericanAnswers.org

JOB OFFERS?

Until such time as I am allowed to pursue my true passion—*Politics*—I would be happy to consider professional opportunities in the areas of:

- **PRODUCT DESIGN (R & D)**
- **ADVERTISING**
- **ARCHITECTURE DESIGN**
- **BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CONSULTING (STRATEGY & EFFICIENCY)**

Please review the tabs on **innovation** & **architecture** to review my credentials (as well as the **over 3,000** new product ideas throughout our three books), & contact us.

If any Management Consulting firm needs an Innovation Specialist (as Ernst & Young had in the 1990's), I would *love* to be considered.

Any business needing freelance consulting services for increasing sales through product offerings/R & D, advertising, architectural changes, problem identification and solutions, competitor analysis, employee motivation and customer interaction analysis, please give me a call. Thanks.

JAMES MERONEY

FREELANCE DESIGNER (& BUSINESS CONSULTANT)

EXPERIENCE

Fortune 500 Management Consultant (for a Big Four Consulting Firm), Houston, TX

Managing Attorney, Houston, TX

Advertising Executive, Houston, TX

Business Development Executive, Plano, TX

EDUCATION

MBA/JD, Texas Tech University

M.Div., Southwestern Seminary

BBA, Baylor University

* Graduate Architecture studies at University of Illinois, Texas A & M and University of Houston

More details at:

