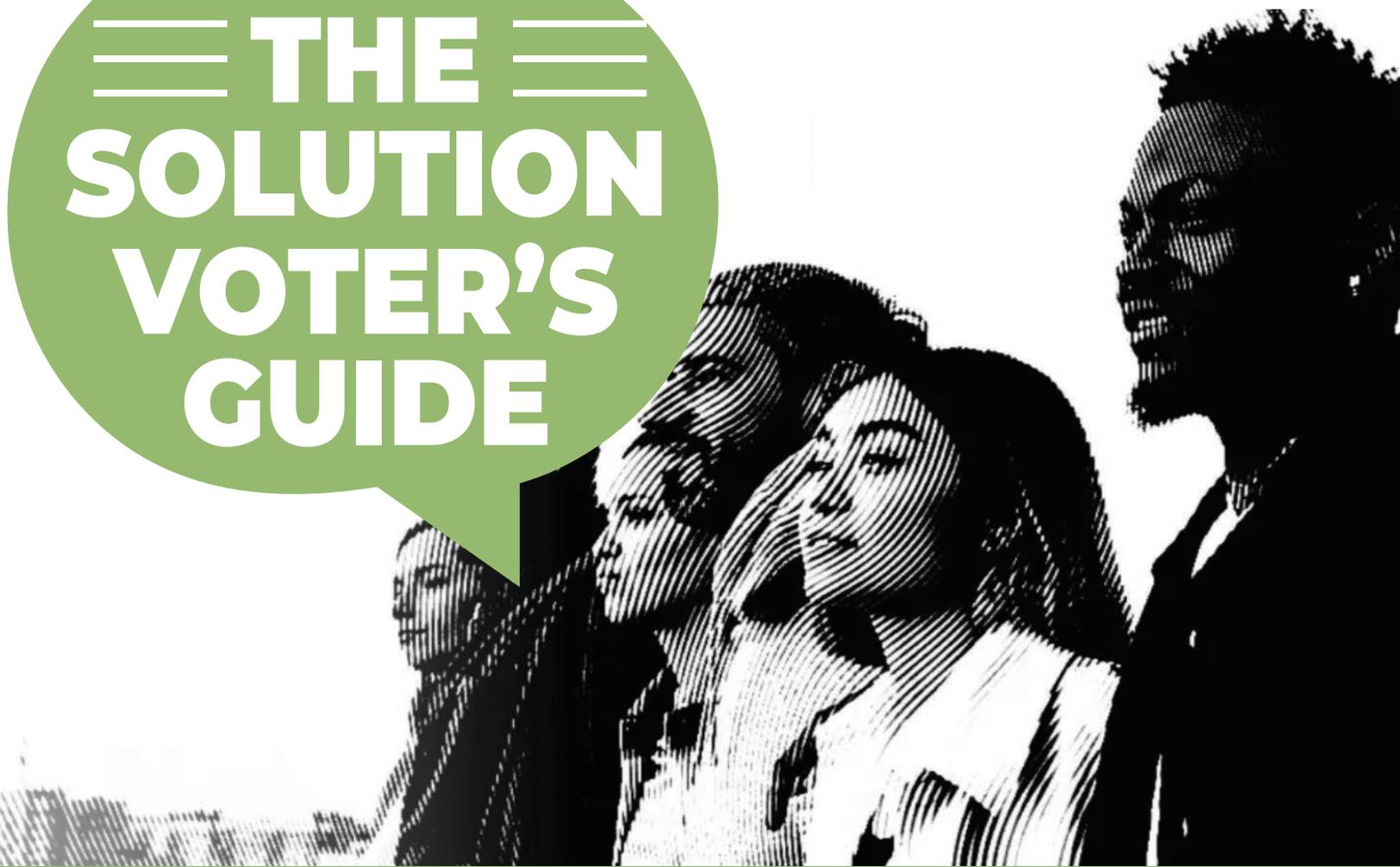


# THE SOLUTION VOTER'S GUIDE



# POLITICS | WITHOUT THE NUTS

How to end polarization and elect  
common sense problem-solvers



IN THIS  
TOGETHER

# THE SOLUTION VOTER'S GUIDE

# POLITICS | WITHOUT THE NUTS

## How to end polarization and elect common sense problem-solvers

*Disclaimer: This how-to guide is a work-in-progress. It reflects our team's views at the time of publication. It does not represent the perspective of any associated individuals or organizations. As we hear from them, and you, we will update, improve, and expand the guide.*

## Introduction

*Don't leave! The party has just begun.*

More people are choosing to be independents than to join either of the two major parties. We love independents, and share their frustration with the decline of the two major parties. But...

Leaving the party too soon can be a lost opportunity. You could miss the best part. Neither party is serving us well now. Both have too much money and too many idiots. But if you leave now, only the idiots will be left. And the power brokers who use them will have all the money.

It's easy to conclude that Americans are hopelessly divided between extremists on the left and right. But it's not true. Only the 15% furthest left and right detest each other so much they can't even talk, much less agree on anything. More than 70% of us are common sense voters who can find agreement even on the five "wedge" issues political professionals exploit to divide us: abortion, guns, race, immigration, and climate.

When we common sense voters quit either party to protest the extremists, we give the extremists more power over our politics. And by dividing voters, we give vested interests more power over our money.

Why just vote against the party and candidate you fear most? You're wasting your power. This concise guide helps you vote strategically, to give your fellow Americans a choice between quality candidates who put real solutions on the table, no matter their party or ideology.

## THE PROBLEM

*Does your vote count? Most of the time, no.*

Yes, most elections are fake.

But not the way you may have heard. It's worse than that.

If you're a red voter, you may have been told it's the blue party that steals elections, by stuffing ballot boxes or digitally shifting vote counts.

If you're a blue voter, you may have heard it's the red party that cheats, by shutting down polling places and blocking blue citizens from voting.

To the extent these narratives have truth to them, they are trivial problems, compared with what's really going on.

Bottom line, brokers for both major political parties manipulate districts, primaries, political donors, and the media to prevent us voters from choosing the parties or candidates we believe will best serve us.

It's one reason We the People are so often forced to choose between a bad candidate and a worse one, at nearly every level of government. The system is designed to disempower both red and blue voters - then trigger us to blame each other.

So don't complain about everyday Democrats or Republicans. Don't even rail against the politicians or party institutions. The problem is deeper. It resides with the power brokers whose terms of office never expire - because they're never elected. Instead, these influence masters retain small armies of lobbyists, pollsters, communicators, and elected phone bankers they call members of Congress, to extract money from vested interests, in exchange for protection from angry voters fed up by political promises constantly broken.

There are not just a few power brokers - thousands roam the nation's capital. They're not bad people, but they're caught in a very bad business model. They profit by selling protection to vested interests, with favors paid for by the \$4.5 trillion federal budget - plus trillions more spent for off-the-books wars, pandemics, giveaways, or economic crises. That's not even counting state spending.

But the power brokers don't just sell protection to vested interests - they create the threats that cause vested interests to need protection.

For example, by concentrating extreme red or blue voters together in hyper partisan districts, they amplify the power of extremists to threaten specific powerful interest groups. Conservative extremists direct voter anger toward big tech companies, labor unions, and social service contractors. Progressive extremists direct it toward big industrial companies, trade groups, and military contractors. Then the power brokers sign them on as clients - to save them from the voters they've stirred up.

The power brokers even have their stable of politicians who file "milker bills" that directly target the interest groups, to create profitable legislative threats the brokers can exploit.

To keep power, the brokers design legislative districts and partisan primaries guaranteed to elect only one party - but with just enough opposition voters to make the elections seem competitive.

And they concentrate political advertising dollars on highly partisan cable and digital "news" sources, paying only for the delivery of like-minded voters who will predictably buy the plausible nonsense they sell. Media companies gladly comply - their profits come from advertisers, and political ads are the most profitable of all.

Finally, to replenish their budgets to buy overpriced ads, on which they pocket a 15% commission, they deploy elected lawmakers as unpaid phone bankers, with fundraising quotas that determine which committees they serve on, which offices they work from, and how much money they can pull down when they finally graduate from office and take real jobs in the political industry itself.

The business model for influence-peddling is so deeply embedded, it has no clear leader or board to topple. Toss out Nancy Pelosi or Mitch McConnell? Their slots will be filled by others. It's simply the way business is conducted, and has been since the end of World War II. Nearly everyone follows the rules - because if they don't, they lose relative money and power.

**But the political industry has an Achilles Heel - and as a voter, you have the boot to kick it with.**

# SOLUTIONS FOR STRATEGIC VOTERS

## *Six ways to give your vote the power of ten*

Strategic voters think before we vote. We ask questions like:

*Do I want to be “just another Democrat” or “just another Republican?” Or do I want my vote to make a difference where it counts most?*

*Do I want to pile on in a race whose partisan outcome is obvious? Or should I join a party or candidate where I can “break the tie” in a close race, and defeat an extreme polarizer with a problem-solver?*

*Which party needs more problem-solvers like me, to shift power from extreme polarizers and power brokers, to problem-solvers who can get things done?*

*If I’m a Republican, can I beat an extreme polarizer and elect a problem-solver?*

*How about if I’m a Democrat? Can I help a pragmatic idealist beat a divider?*

*Do I live in a district designed to disempower people like me - thinking human beings? How can I turn the tables?*

The Achilles Heel of the political industry is the “battleground” - the small number of districts and states where elections have become competitive, as populations shift or reforms are passed. Here, voters are almost evenly divided, half blue and half red. Outcomes are not preordained.

In conventional politics, these races are won by whichever party delivers the most reliable extreme voters to the polls - the ones who genuinely hate the opposing party and everyone in it. Only about 2% of the electorate are “swing” voters who can’t decide which party is more worthy of their anger. So strategists mostly ignore them. Instead, they will pay hundreds of dollars to motivate those last few mindless partisan voters to get themselves to the polls.

But there is an alternative way to play this game: be a strategic voter. Choose to ignore the politics of fear that smear an entire party, regardless of who is running. Set aside your animosity toward the party that either stormed the capitol or burned down the police headquarters. Instead focus on individual candidates. Inside each party, who are the problem-solvers - those who put solutions above partisanship? Who are the polarizers - those who so sweepingly condemn the other side, and that wouldn’t support anyone of their political hue?

Then, support the problem-solver - whichever is best, and most likely to be elected.

If we want our votes to actually count, we can’t promise our votes to one party only. We need to be “free-range voters,” grazing on both red and blue grass.

This works most effectively in competitive primary and general election races. In partisan primaries, two or more candidates from the same party face off. In competitive general elections, two or more candidates from the same or different parties may battle it out.

Here are six ways you can be a Solution Voter, and use your vote strategically, in support only of common sense problem-solvers, not true-believing polarizers.

- 1. Be the decider, not the reliable party-line voter.** Be willing to vote for or against either party, based on which offers you problem-solvers versus polarizers. As the voter who can swing the race either way, you have the power of ten or more voters.

- 2. Register for the party you can help fix.** There are people with good hearts and good heads inside both parties - despite all efforts to run us out. Join the party you can best help fix - by defeating polarizers who divide, and electing problem-solvers who unite us.
- 3. Sweep extreme dividers out of partisan primaries.** If you're in a Republican district, join the party and work to defeat dividers, and elect the problem-solvers. If you're in a Democratic district, do the parallel - vote for the problem-solving Democrat.
- 4. Clean up politics in competitive general elections.** In battles between red and blue, support Solution Democrats over Divider Republicans, or Solution Republicans over Divider Democrats. Support problem-solvers of over dividers, no matter their party.
- 5. Don't vote for stereotypes - vote for human beings.** Maybe you're a Democrat, because regardless of their competence, their politicians seem to care about people. Maybe you're a Republican, because no matter how mean their politicians may seem, at least they can be rational, occasionally. Forget that. Choose whichever party and candidate has the heart-and-head combination best positioned to solve problems.
- 6. Most important right now, sign on!** Sign the letter and make the pledge to be a Solution Citizen, and use your dollars and votes only in support of candidates, causes, and companies that put authentic problem-solving over polarization.

## CONCLUSION

*This is not the conclusion*

Yes, most elections are fake, but not in the way most of us have heard. For over 70 years, political power brokers have steadily increased their power over federal power and spending, by dividing the common sense majority into opposing political armies, then extracting money from vested interests to protect them from the mobs they mobilized.

The partisan duopoly uses partisan district boundaries, closed primaries, and media advertising to amplify the voices of extremists in each party, then directs their bombast to voters in the opposing party. Voters accept deeply flawed candidates in their own party, to avoid the demons they see on the other side.

This business model for influence-peddling is so deeply embedded, there is no clear leader to topple - not Pelosi, McConnell, Koch, or Soros, the ones we're triggered to demonize. This is simply the way the business of politics is conducted. Every sophisticated political pro knows it. Most with the courage to challenge it lose money and power. So they figure, why try?

But by being strategic voters, a small group of common sense citizens can shift the advantage away from polarization, elect problem-solvers from across partisan lines, take back America's democratic republic, and move the nation forward again. It's our America to save. Why not try?

We come from different places and parties, and live different experiences. But we are all In This Together. Our diversity is what fills our gaps, corrects our mistakes, completes us as a nation, and makes us whole, powerful, just, and free.

"A republic, madame.  
If you can keep it."

— Benjamin Franklin

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## WHICH DO YOU CHOOSE?

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