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Americans Elect and the end of the two party system

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TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2012 10:30

If you think the 2012 presidential race will be between Barak Obama and a Republican, better take another look. Americans Elect (AE) will have their candidates on the ballot in every state in 2012.

Although organizers refer to AE as a "nonpartisan" entity, it is registered as a political party and has a war chest of millions of dollars. As state deadlines for ballot access Elect has made it onto every state ballot thus far and intends to be on the ballot in all fifty states. This is not another attempt by a quirky millionaire to run a one time can of Directors includes, Christine Todd Whitman, former governor of New Jersey and Dennis Blair, former Director of National Intelligence. Their "Leadership" group includes individuals from financial firms and top academic institutions. While executives from the biggest corporations have yet to come on board, AE is run by powerful, well competent people.

A poll on the AE web site states that 80% of voters would consider an alternative presidential ticket in the upcoming election. AE is asking every American voter to register and delegate to Americans Elect. In June of this year there will be an online poll of these delegates to determine AE's presidential ticket. AE has already collected almost two million signatures in the process of getting on the ballot. The appeal of AE is that internet technology now allows America to have "real" democracy and bypass the corrupt two party system. There will be many people who think that this will give them a voice in the political process that they haven't had. A look at who is behind AE makes it likely that AE will be a "technocratic" party that will further punish the victims of the economic crisis.

The main point here is to recognize that the two party system is under attack and there will be a political realignment in the coming years. It is not a question of the possible new parties. A look at American history shows that under certain conditions new parties come into existence and old parties split or disappear. The United States is in the midst of an economic crisis that has led to a political crisis. Both parties have refused to punish the perpetrators of the economic crisis and continue to ignore the victims of the crisis by increasingly rejecting both parties.

Some progressives have lost any hope that corporate control of the Democratic Party can be broken. They have launched a new party, the Justice Party. Rocky Anderson, former mayor of Salt Lake City, is their presidential candidate. The Justice Party is less than two months old and is already active in 22 states.

Indications of the realignment of the political process are becoming clear. Attacks by Tea Party supporters are wreaking havoc on the Republican Party. The Occupy movement supports the Democratic Party. Progressives have organized the Justice Party. There will be at least three major candidates for president, Obama, the Republican nominee, Americans Elect nominee. Also, Rocky Anderson of the Justice Party, Jill Stein of the Green Party and the Libertarian Party candidate will be on the ballot in many states.

The 2012 elections is becoming a critical debate on the future direction of our country. The economic crisis is demanding that those who rule our country continue their fight for the overwhelming majority of Americans. All the major candidates will take the country in this direction. Activists must not sit on the sidelines dismissing electoral politics as an arena of struggle. Progressives cannot hold their nose and vote to support the lesser of two evils. Support for the Justice Party and Rocky Anderson gives progressives a clear path to debate in a principled manner and build a movement to save our country.

Lenny Brody has been politically active for 50 years fighting in the interests of poor and working class people. He was involved in the civil rights movement in South America and anti Vietnam War protests during the 1960s. Since that time he has studied economics and theories of political change while continuing his political activism. Mr. Brody is the Chicago chapter of Progressive Democrats of America to build an independent political movement that will fight for and empower the victims of the current economic crisis.

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oh snap!

You guys, the whole point is that we can elect people through AE who have been shut out by both parties, like Buddy Roemer or Gary Johnson. We do not need establishment candidate, we need a people's candidate.

1 week ago



Steve Moyer

I suspect this group is designed to CONTAIN real political movement. We need fundamental change. This isn't it!

2 weeks ago



JasonBoissonneault

We don't need more political parties run by "powerful and well-connected" people -- which is largely the cause of our woes in the first place. We need political parties representing the interests of the population, made up of the majority -- while protecting the interests of the minority, in proper proportions. Those who founded Americans Elect could not have predicted the massive consolidation of power by corporate interest, which usurps the checks-and-balances of the Judicial, Executive and Legislative branches.

2 weeks ago 2 Likes



John Hain

Anyone who joins a traditional political party that does not stand a chance of winning, yet expects to have an impact on the direction of our nation, will be very disappointed. Without proportionate Congressional representation a minor party effort yields nothing except to take votes away from the major party candidate that is ideologically closer to their own. Americans Elect may have been created by those with lots of resources, but doing it big by going for immediate participation by a sizable minority to nominate a candidate with broad enough support to have a chance at... [show more](#)

2 weeks ago



Eric_Saunders

Americans Elect is a fraud. So Wall Street is going to respond to Americans disgust with the two Wall Street owned parties by offering a third Wall Street controlled party that they think that we are idiots? Of course they do...

<http://www.salon.com/2011/12/0...>

2 weeks ago



Tom Cat

I agree. This is a smoke screen fueled by Republican Corporate money.

2 weeks ago in reply to Eric_Saunders



Eric_Saunders

Just "Corporate" imo. Obama and Bush have the same bankster overlords...

2 weeks ago in reply to Tom Cat 1 Like



Craig

Americans Elect is open for business support Craig Ennis.

www.craigennis.com

2 weeks ago

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