

American Hope Petition - Tracked Changes

V 1.1 - Revised 7.12.24

Resolved: ~~Our Political Party~~ Leaders Shall Take Responsibility for Polarization

Summary: We can fix our destructive political divisiveness starting with existing solutions that party leaders, ~~elect~~ elected officials, and candidates aren't talking about. ~~These leaders~~ Parties can set the expectation that elected officials work together, build relationships, and bring our communities together, and that candidates clash about ideas and not personal attacks and stereotypes. Sign the petition to demand that our parties, ~~elect~~ elected officials, and candidates accept responsibility for detoxifying politics ~~by adopting—and work together to adopt~~ a joint “House United Plank” for all party platforms ~~or by mutually adopting any other written agreement this campaign season~~ to turn the page on endless fighting and dysfunction. ~~We further demand that candidates and elected officials express their views about polarization this year as a vitally important issue facing the nation and our communities.~~

Petition: Our major parties are convening separately to draft national, state, and county platforms with competing visions for a deeply divided nation in 2024. In addition to their voicing political differences, however, we respectfully demand that party leaders, ~~elect~~ elected officials, and candidates pledge action on a mutual goal.

While a competition of ideas is healthy, we, the undersigned voters, demand that leaders from all parties also cooperate to speak with one voice about a single vitally important yet overlooked issue – accepting shared responsibility for fixing our toxic political culture.

Although partisanship and disagreement are normal in a free society, we describe our current contempt-filled politics as suicidal to our national union and republic:

- That historic levels of polarization are blamed for governmental dysfunction and citizens' lack of trust in the nation's vital institutions such as elections and courts, and in each other as well-meaning neighbors and Americans,
- That despite widespread awareness of this destructive problem, our political parties, candidates, elected officials, journalists, and citizens have collectively been derelict in the duty to confront hyper-partisanship and mutually destructive antagonism as a clear threat to our republic that we must solve as partners with united commitment,
- That we have effective steps for establishing working relationships across political differences and instilling realistic mutual trust in public bodies and our communities. Yet our leaders do not confer about these detoxifying solutions, designed by bipartisan insider experts, nor do they acknowledge a joint responsibility to fix this problem.

Our birthright as a nation is a fragile common destiny that is threatened by fear of each other and complicity in dividing Americans into enemy camps for political gain.

With civic courage and imagination about solutions, our parties can lead the nation toward a more perfect union regardless of whether voters place them immediately in power. If they commit publicly to joint responsibility for detoxifying politics, they will assure that a renewed American spirit of solving problems together is spotlighted center stage this election season.

The undersigned voters therefore petition our major political parties to work with the other parties at the national, state, and local levels, on a mutual House United Plank in each party's platform, or in mutual party resolutions, to take responsibility this election season for cross-party cooperation toward solving our entrenched polarization. We hereby come together across political differences to respectfully demand that our leaders – nationally, in our 50 states, and in our 3,143 counties – take this action as models for all political parties. We commend the plank's suggested items (below) as a starting point for discussion.