

COMMISSION ON POLITICAL REFORM

Taking
The Pulse
of American
Democracy

The Commission on Political Reform launched in 2013 to investigate the causes and consequences of America's partisan political divide and to advocate for specific reforms that will improve the political process and that will work in a polarized atmosphere.

WHO ARE WE

We are Democrats and Republicans, liberals, moderates, and conservatives. Many of us have served in local, state, and national elected and appointed offices. Others are nonprofit, religious, and academic leaders. We came to public service with deeply held convictions that continue to inform our decision-making. Our experience tells us that a strong, vibrant political system is one that is able to accept strong differences among its participants and channel those differences in productive ways.

Co-Chairs: Former Senate Majority Leaders Tom Daschle and Trent Lott, Former Senator Olympia Snowe, Former Secretary Dan Glickman, and Former Governor Dirk Kempthorne

Commissioners: Former Secretary Hope Andrade, Molly Barker, Former Senator Robert Bennett, Former Representative Henry Bonilla, John Bridgeland, Susan Eisenhower, Reverend Floyd Flake, Mark Gearan, Heather Gerken, Michael Gerson, Former Representative Charles Gonzalez, Former Governor Jennifer Granholm, Antonia Hernandez, Karen Hughes, Victoria Kennedy, Chris Marvin, Former Representative David McIntosh, Eric Motley, Reihan Salam, Former Mayor Kurt Schmoke, Diane Tomb, Former Secretary Ann Veneman, Ronald Williams, and Elaine Wynn

National Conversations on American Unity.

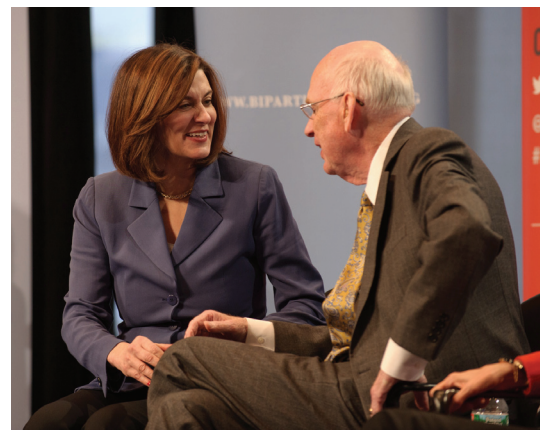
The Bipartisan Policy Center's Commission on Political Reform in partnership with *USA TODAY* hosted four town halls on political reform to solicit input from stakeholders, experts, and political leaders across the country. Public input was an integral part of the commission's process to craft a package of realistic and actionable recommendations for improving the political process. All forums were open to the public and available by live webcast.

- The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Library, Simi Valley, CA – March 6, 2013
- The National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA – July 23, 2013
- The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH – October 15, 2013
- The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, Boston, MA – March 26, 2014



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

WWW.BIPARTISANPOLICY.ORG



OUR FOCUS

After 18 months of deliberation, we are pleased to present more than 60 recommendations that provide a realistic path forward to strengthen U.S. democracy. We make our recommendations in three discrete topic areas where immediate attention to addressing how polarization affects the political system can yield results.

1 ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Creating a Fairer, More Open, and More Transparent Process

Making the redistricting process fair for both parties

Engaging Americans in primaries

Fixing voter-registration lists

Promoting disclosure of campaign finances

2 CONGRESS

Transforming Congress into a Higher-Performing Organization

Promoting regular order

Strengthening inter-branch dialogue

Empowering members and committees

Reforming the filibuster and guaranteeing minority amendments

Adopting a two-year budget cycle

3 PUBLIC SERVICE

Calling for a More Engaged Citizenry

Committing to one year of service

Repairing an overburdened appointments process

Incorporating public service into the classroom

Scaling up service opportunities

Encouraging Americans to run for office

