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## Independent Voters Just Stood Up For American Democracy; Nevada Moves One Step Closer To Including Them With Open Primaries

**New York, NY** – If you're looking for a key to unlock what just happened in the 2022 midterm elections, look no further than the independent vote. In race after race across the country independents <u>overwhelmingly decided election outcomes</u> and rejected candidates who denied the outcome of the 2020 presidential. <u>Click here</u> for Open Primaries press release on the full impact of independent voters in the 2022 midterms.

And today the state of Nevada - where voters passed Measure Three 52% to 48% despite opposition from both political parties - moves one step closer to joining California, Washington, Nebraska and Alaska as the 5th state in the U.S. to fully empower independents by adopting nonpartisan, open primaries. It's also the second state, just this year, to open its primaries to independent voters-after the Maine legislature voted in large bipartisan numbers to adopt primary reform in June. Nevada requires that constitutional amendments pass twice in order to be enacted.

There are 652,000 registered independents in Nevada. They are the second largest and fastest-growing group of voters in the state and are 30% of the electorate. If passed on the second vote in 2024, Measure 3 will allow the state's independent voters to play an even bigger role in the state's political future.

Open Primaries congratulates the incredible teams at <u>Nevada Voters First</u> and the <u>Institute for Political Innovation</u> - as well as the indie rock band <u>The Killers!</u> - and the dedicated activists-Republicans, Democrats and independents- across Nevada for their tireless work on behalf of equal voting rights. They ran a campaign laser-focused on the rights of independent voters, now the <u>largest group of voters in the country</u> -including half of <u>veterans</u> and <u>young people</u> who identify as independents.

Voters created primary elections 100 years ago to curb the power of party insiders & special interests. Both parties tried to get rid of primaries as soon as they were adopted, and once that failed, they began asserting that primaries were "theirs." But primaries have never been private elections, and today Nevada voters took the first step towards winning them back for the people.

**Available for interview:** John Opdycke, President Open Primaries

Jeremy Gruber, SVP Open Primaries

Joe Brezny, Cesar Marquez, and Sondra Cosgrove, Nevada Voters First