

# OPEN PRIMARIES

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## Independent Voters Are Breaking out in 2022 The Implications for our Democracy

**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 overwhelmingly decided election outcomes. Now Senator Sinema has declared her independence, and even Senator Manchin is suggesting that's a possibility as well. Open Primaries report-[\*The Next Great Migration: The Rise of Independent Voters\*](#)-is exploring the implications of these major changes.

We analyzed the data in states that register voters by party. What we found is striking:

### Key Findings:

- Independent voters are now the largest or second largest group of voters in half the states that require registration by party. This growth is across all regions of the United States and taking place in states dominated by one major political party and in states where the parties are at parity.
- At current rates of growth, independent voters will become the largest or second largest group of registered voters in 24 of the 30 states that require registration by party by 2035.
- Most states are seeing a significant decline in party membership.

Independent voters have officially arrived. Across the country, they are rejecting the politics of extreme partisanship, election denial, and disinformation. They are voting for candidates not parties. They are standing up for leadership, action over rhetoric, and democratic values.

Who are independent voters? Why did they play such an outsized role in the midterm elections? How do we empower them to continue to stand up for democracy? Why are leaders like Senator Sinema embracing independence?

We have decades-long experience in the independent voter movement and independent politics and we are available to discuss these very questions. The independent voter is THE topic of the midterms and every election from now on. Learn more with Open Primaries.

**The full report can be found at:** <https://openprimarieseducationfund.org/independents-report/>

### Report authors available for interview:

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Open Primaries is a national, nonprofit organization. More information can be found at  
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