

“Common Sense 2024” by P.M. Stuart

Introduction:

First, the country’s two-party system is clearly in full scale decline demonstrating its inability to provide sound leadership. Both Democrats and Republicans have lost their moral authority to govern and have instead as individuals insulated themselves from us citizens by promoting division, anger, and disillusion amongst us all. As a result, our governing process is stuck in neutral. Our “leaders” are ever more self-serving and focused on self-preservation (read: re-election), resulting in a profound sense of uncertainty for our collective future.

Clearly, most Americans are very unhappy with this two-party paralysis. We have dropped out of the habit of voting in record numbers sensing the current meaninglessness of the democratic process. We have seen decades of stagnant congressional inaction on critically universal important issues, while we have been immersed in foreign wars that have cost us trillions in taxpayer monies while sacrificing the lives of our fellow citizens on multiple battlefields.

While a very small percentage of Americans continue to be ever more obscenely wealthy, the Middle Class has continued to shrink at an alarming rate. We demand and support a living wage for all Americans. With the Supreme Court’s ruling that corporations are citizens (Citizens United), our legislators scoop up corporate lobbying monies for re-election while leaving average American citizens to “swing in the wind.” Our voices

are virtually totally lost in the process. With the Supreme Court's ruling that Presidents *are* above the law, our democracy moves further away from rule of law.

Second, 24/7 cable and social media "news" outlets have pivoted from delivering factual news data, to offering us citizens unending opinions on what we should think about controversial political topics, and which of 2 bi-polar sides we should support. The motivation for why news is delivered in this fashion is to heighten our emotions to hold our attention and thus keep us watching these programs (rather than to educate us with the information we need to successfully conduct our democracy.) This incessant, unending negativity has created a very corrosive and divisive force amongst us.

The news media's filtering of information that we need to govern ourselves is an extremely frightening development. "Flying blind" without adequate information makes the citizen's role in his/her democracy very problematic. This, when coupled with the abandonment in teaching young people civics decades ago, the two contribute to the general ignorance of our citizenry, and almost certainly predict a continued and significant decline in the political system.

A United Party of Left, Right and Center: The New *United Americans Party (UAP):*

We are all Americans who fiercely love our country. From this moment forward, we will reject the divisive anger and false promises of both Democrats and Republicans while committing

to a higher purpose: one that is full of authentic promise for improving circumstances for our fellow citizens. We will commit to continually acknowledging that this effort is bigger than any one of us, and that ***our personal involvement*** in this effort is one of the most important efforts we will ever make for ourselves and our families.

The Founding Fathers had the wisdom to frame a constitution to keep the potential for tyranny in check. At present we are feeling cheated: we are electing and paying the salaries of “public servants” who have not only forgotten who they work for, but also the concept of working itself (measurable metrics will be used to monitor legislators’ weekly hours spent in actual legislating efforts, number of bill sponsored as well as specific data as to who is providing each with re-election monies). We will now take back our democracy and fulfill the intent of our founders removing from office all who are “on coast.”

Accordingly, we are now motivated and ready to initiate a new American political movement from the ashes of these two current political parties. The UAP will demonstrate in actions and deeds what the vast majority of Americans need to reinvigorate our democracy. We will steadfastly give **equal** effort to both individual liberties and the common good.

Our Values:

- **Respect for each other:** We will fiercely guard the right to be heard. We will commit to listening to each

other even when we strongly disagree. Our most prized value is tolerance.*

****“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; it’s also what it takes to sit down and listen.” Winston Churchill***

- The requirement of **involvement**: We will strongly reinforce the requirement that as citizens we are the government, and therefore we *must* be involved! This *requires* that we vote. This requires us to educate ourselves in the matters of the day, and demand accountability from the news media: requiring that they provide clean, concise facts for us to digest. Gone is the day when we can simply blame our government while we do nothing to better its performance.

We must search out and rededicate ourselves to shared principles and common values as Americans. We will take actions to put our democracy on firmer footing for our sake as well as the sake of our children, grandchildren and for the generations of American who follow us.

Our 6 Goals:

1. A fair and simple flat tax system that is easy to administer, hard to game, equitable for all, and yields ample levels of revenue necessary to fund efforts we deem strategic to

America's success going forward. This system will eliminate 95% of all current deductions and in so doing eliminate tax cheaters and remove off-shoring of corporate tax havens.

Relatedly, a public funding of all federally elected positions through a **mandatory** annual \$10/\$20 (Voters vs. Non-voters) expense on all IRS tax filings, corporate and individual. *All private contributions will become strictly illegal.* All federal legislative and legal positions will be subject to a maximum of 12-year term limit with no private funds for publicly elected offices. Private monies found to be used in elections will constitute a federal Class C felony mandating the punishment of a minimum of a 10-year prison sentence.

2. Universal Healthcare and ample social security benefits for every citizen. Healthcare for all as comprehensive as our current legislators enjoy. As a country we unquestionably have the money to provide for this; we simply have lacked the political will to eliminate waste and the current inequality to access. No longer is healthcare a privilege. It is a right for all Americans. A secure, adequate self-sustaining retirement is also a basic right.
3. A strong military which includes proper funding to protect our country as well as generous top funding for veterans' health and education programs. Veterans deserve more than a gratuitous "thank you for your service" or a bumper sticker displaying the flag.

Relatedly, we must also insist on strong and well-funded intelligence services to understand threats to our government, infrastructure, corporations and citizens. In the era of heightened cyber warfare, this effort cannot be overstressed, and must be well funded.

4. Actions that reflect that climate change represents an existential threat to Mother Earth. A financial commitment to completely rebuilding our country's infrastructure so that we can once again lead the world in productivity and standard of living based on sound principles of a healthy climate.
5. A significant measurable reorganization of our public education system whereby we can assure that our citizens can be independently productive and play an active role in our democracy. Some dimensions in this effort:
 - Quality preschool care for all our children to ready them for success in elementary school.
 - A reinstatement of Civics as required coursework that students must pass in primary and secondary educational levels to prepare younger ones for involvement in our democracy.
 - Two- and 4-year college free tuition for all who continue to apply themselves in this effort towards good grades and matriculation towards successful certifications and degrees.
 - A system of adult occupation training and re-training, in part supported through adequate tax credits to

employers, the goal of which is to return under and unemployed to full employment while giving individuals and their families the key opportunity of sustainable economic self-sufficiency.

6. A strong, universally well educated, trained and adequately funded law enforcement system undergirded by state-of-the-art technology regardless of state or municipality. Law and order *is* truly the primary foundation of our American democracy, and at the heart of considerable controversy in modern day America. If we want law enforcement that reflects our cherished common values, then we must assure that those we entrust with this extremely difficult job are well qualified, well paid, well trained, as well as well-respected by us all.

JOIN US!

Under the United Americans platform, as citizens of this amazing country, collectively we most definitely have the capabilities and resources to accomplish these goals. Now let us commit together to leave behind the mutual antagonism of the failed two-party system, and mutually agree that we are all ready to work as United Americans to achieve our goals!

UAP

Restore America to a Thriving Democracy