

Independent Veterans' Shared Governing Objectives

As Independent Veterans running for the United States Senate, we believe our country needs leaders who are willing to put country over party, service over self-interest, and solutions over partisan warfare.

We come from different states, different branches of service, and different life experiences. But we share a common belief: Washington is not working the way it should, and the American people deserve a Senate that governs responsibly, protects the right to vote, respects the Constitution, and focuses on the real challenges facing working families, seniors, veterans, and communities across this country.

We also believe voters deserve to see what independent leadership looks like in practice: veterans from different states and different branches of service sitting at the same table, working through hard problems, and putting country over party.

We are offering a different approach to governing: not another party machine, but independent judgment, fiscal responsibility, constitutional fidelity, respect for service, and a commitment to solving problems rather than scoring partisan points.

If enough Independent senators are elected to prevent either party from controlling the Senate outright, Independents could serve as the fulcrum, the balance point that requires both parties to negotiate in good faith, reject extremism, and do the work they were elected to do.

In recognition of America's 250th anniversary and the thirteen original colonies that declared independence, we offer thirteen shared governing objectives for a Senate that works for the American people again.

With that spirit, we support the following shared objectives:

1. **Protect Democracy, the rule of law, the Constitution, and Congress's role as a co-equal branch of government..**

No person is above the law. No party is more important than the Constitution. Our democracy depends on leaders who respect elections, institutions, and the rights of the people. Congress must reclaim its role as an effective check on the Executive Branch, protect the independence of our democratic institutions, and support electoral reforms that eliminate gerrymandering, partisan manipulation, and systems that punish leaders for exercising independent judgment. The Senate should also restore broad consensus for major appointments, including a 60-vote threshold for federal judges, Supreme Court justices, and cabinet officials, so that lifetime judicial appointments and senior executive officers are not confirmed by narrow partisan majorities alone.

2. **Get big money out of politics and restore government of, by, and for the people.**

As America marks the 250th anniversary of its independence, we should recommit ourselves to the basic democratic principle that citizens, not billionaires, corporations, special interests, or political machines, should decide the future of this country. Congress must work to reduce the corrupting influence of big money in elections, strengthen transparency, and restore public trust in representative government.

3. **Pass responsible budgets on time and end governing by crisis.**

Congress should do its job, fund the government responsibly, and stop using shutdowns, brinkmanship, and manufactured emergencies as substitutes for leadership.

4. **Protect Social Security and maintain solvency without cutting earned benefits.**

Social Security is an earned benefit, not a political bargaining chip. Any serious reform must protect current retirees, people near retirement, disabled Americans, surviving spouses, and working Americans who have paid into the system.

5. **Reduce the deficit responsibly.**

We must get serious about the federal deficit without balancing the budget on seniors, veterans, working families, disabled Americans, or the poor.

6. **Craft a long-term plan to reduce the national debt.**

Even before reaching a balanced budget, Congress should develop a serious, responsible plan to reduce the national debt over time and strengthen America's fiscal future.

7. **Ban members of Congress from using public office for personal financial gain.**

Public service should never be a path to personal enrichment. Members of Congress should be prohibited from buying, selling, or trading individual stocks while in office, and from participating in prediction markets or other financial instruments where they could personally profit from information, influence, or outcomes connected to their public duties.

8. **End revolving-door corruption and reduce special-interest control in Washington.**

Government should serve the people, not the powerful. Restoring trust requires limiting the revolving door between Congress, federal agencies, lobbying firms, and corporate interests that profit from insider access.

9. **Strengthen access to affordable healthcare, especially in rural communities.**

Too many Americans live in communities where hospitals are closing, care is too expensive, and basic healthcare is out of reach. Congress must treat healthcare access as a national priority.

10. **Support veterans, military families, and those who have borne the cost of our wars.**

Veterans should not have to fight their government for the care, benefits, and respect they earned through service.

11. **Restore the American Dream for all generations.**

Congress must work to ensure every American has access to a strong foundational education, affordable housing, childcare, healthcare, and the basic necessities of life. Restoring the American Dream also requires an economy that rewards work, not just wealth, along with responsible stewardship of our energy resources, natural resources, and the disruptive technologies that will shape the future.

12. **Maintain a strong national defense, strengthen alliances, and keep America a force for peace, democracy, security, and prosperity around the world.**

America must remain a force for peace, democracy, security, and prosperity around the world. Our strength is not measured by military power alone, but also by credible leadership, strong alliances, smart diplomacy, and a commitment to democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law, collective defense, and the preservation of peace and security.

13. **Use the power of Independent Veterans to bring both parties to the table on major national challenges.**

We, as Independent Veterans, pledge to America that we will put country before party. We pledge to make the Senate work again by using independent leverage to bring both parties to the table, reject extremism, negotiate in good faith, and govern in the public interest. Major legislation should be debated openly, subject to meaningful amendment, and passed in a way that reflects genuine bipartisan or cross-partisan support rather than procedural gamesmanship.

Candidate Signatures

//SIGNED//

TODD ACHILLES, CPT, (Hon Discharge)

U.S. Army

12 July 2026

//SIGNED//

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12 July 2026



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