

The Left and the U.S. Elections: A New Politics Symposium



It is half a year from the national elections in the United States. The campaigns are well under way, and the debate on the left as to how to relate to the elections is under way as well. *New Politics* has invited leftists with a range of different views to comment on what position they think the left ought to take.

All the contributors lament the state of electoral politics in the United States today and all understand the limits of the Democratic Party. They diverge, however, in the conclusions they draw from these limitations. For some, the task is to change the Democratic Party or push it to the left. For some, the priority is to develop alternative parties that can challenge the two-party duopoly. And for some, the electoral arena is at best a secondary arena of contestation.

We invite further comments from readers.

- Stewart Alexander, [Running for President Against the System](#)
- Ben Case, [Occupy Election Season!](#)
- Jeff Cohen, [Progressive Election Strategy and the Norman Solomon Campaign](#)
- Thomas Harrison, [The Left Should Declare Its Independence from the Democrats](#)

- Ian Matchett, [Diverting the Spectacle: Radical Students and the Election Season](#)
- Jill Stein, [Independent Politics for a Green New Deal](#)
- Paul L. Street, [Strategic Reflections on the Quadrennial Extravaganza](#)