



**Open Letter to No Labels delegates to March 8, 2024 Convening  
*By Citizens to Save Our Republic***

Congratulations on being a delegate to the March 8 No Labels virtual convention. What you do at that meeting could have a profound effect on the future of America as a free and democratic nation.

Since its inception, No Labels has been a positive force for compromise in our political system. The Problem Solvers Caucus, started by No Labels in 2017, has often been the last bastion of defense against Congressional dysfunction by pushing for bipartisan agreement where none seemed possible.

The current effort by leaders of the Problems Solvers Caucus to come up with a compromise on the border and national security bill is a case in point. No Labels' advertising campaign in support of that effort is an enormously positive contribution. We commend your efforts on that front.

The 2024 presidential election is the most important our country has faced since the Civil War. It is no overstatement to say that democracy will be on the line.

Simply put, the Republicans are likely to nominate former President Donald Trump, who poses an existential threat to our democracy. The Democratic candidate will likely be President Joe Biden, who poses no such threat.

With the stakes so high, it is imperative that Americans have a clear up and down choice this fall: do they want to continue as a democracy with Biden or become an autocracy with Trump.

That choice must not be impeded by a third-party spoiler, who cannot win but would almost certainly split the pro-democracy vote and help elect the authoritarian Trump.

**For that reason, we are asking you, as a first order of business at the No Labels Convention, to pass a resolution directing the No Labels leadership to sign the Citizens to Save Our Republic's "No Spoiler Pledge."**

The CSOR pledge is a simple one. By voting to sign the No Spoiler Pledge you will commit No Labels to not be a spoiler in this pivotal election for our democracy by returning Donald Trump to the White House.

If by July 1, No Labels and/or its ticket has not qualified to be on the ballots in enough states to have a mathematical chance to win 270 electoral votes and is not competitive in five or more states, No Labels commits to withdrawing its candidate from the ballots in the swing states that will decide the election. That will insure an up or down vote for democracy.

Signing the CSOR pledge would in no way prevent the No Labels ticket from campaigning and advancing its message in all the other states.

We believe signing that pledge is not only a vital step toward safeguarding democracy but also allows No Labels to further the values it has long espoused.

Here's why.

- America's experiment with self government is in jeopardy and could soon collapse, and could move to an authoritarian model under Donald Trump;
- Congress has become dysfunctional reflecting that divided electorate which has made compromise — essential to functioning self-government — nearly unachievable. If compromise is impossible — the American people will might give up on self government and opt for an authoritarian model at the direction of Donald Trump;
- We believe that a decision by No Labels to place a third-party candidate on the ballot would undermine the good work of the Problems Solvers Caucus and pose a direct threat to the future American democracy — by dramatically increasing the likelihood that Donald Trump, who has promised to discard our democratic system for a more authoritarian model, will be elected.
- We believe that it is critical that voters be given a straight up and down vote on democracy at the polls this fall — a choice between one candidate

who favors preserving our democracy and the other candidate who promises to destroy it.

To be clear, President Biden is not perfect — many voters believe he is too old or disagree with his policies. But he firmly stands in the pro-democracy camp.

Former President Trump, on the other hand, has promised to discard the Constitution, to seek retribution against his political opponents, and to blow up American's essential alliances. His candidacy is an existential threat to our democracy.

A third-party candidacy, no matter how well intentioned, is not the answer. History tells us that third party candidates cannot win. Instead, they are likely to be spoilers — and given the nature of the support of the leading candidates that means splitting the pro-democracy vote and throwing the election to the authoritarian Trump. All credible national polling shows that to be the case.

We appreciate that the leaders of No Labels have stated repeatedly that such an outcome would be a disaster for our country and that Donald Trump should be defeated. We take them at their word. We believe that all Americans who cherish democracy must unite behind a single candidate to ensure that Trump, in the words of former Congresswoman Liz Cheney, “never again gets anywhere near the Oval Office.”

“With our democracy” in the words of former federal judge Michael Luttig, “teetering on a knife's edge,” we cannot risk another Trump presidency.

By directing the No Labels leadership to sign that pledge, you will significantly diminish that risk and help save our democracy.

Sincerely,

**Richard A. Gephardt**

Co-founder

Citizens to Save Our Republic

<http://forourrepublic.us>

**Stuart Stevens**

Former chief Republican strategist,

Lincoln Project adviser, and author of

It Was All a Lie

Co-signed by CSOR Members:

Former House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer

Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger

Congressman Brad Schneider

Congressman Don Beyer

Congresswoman Nikema Williams

Congressman Seth Moulton

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell

Congressman Eric Swalwell

PA Representative Michael Schlossberg

Former Congressman and Presidential Candidate Richard Gephardt

Former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel

Former Senator and Presidential Candidate Bill Bradley

Former Senator and Presidential Candidate Gary Hart

Former Senator Tim Wirth

Former Senator John Danforth

Former Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen

Former Senator Mary Landrieu

Former Congressman Tom Downey

Former Congressman Toby Moffett

Former California Insurance Commissioner David Jones

Former Attorney General of Maryland Brian Frosh

Former GA State Senator Jason Carter

Former Congressman Ron Kind

Former Governor Tom Corbett

Former Congressman Martin Frost

Former Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro

Former Congressman David Skaggs

Former Congressman Jim Slattery

Former State Senator Emily Cain

Former Mayor of New Orleans and Chairman, US Conference of Mayors, Marc Morial

Former Governor of Kansas John Carlin

Joe Trippi

Elaine Kamarck

Richard Goodstein

Bill Kristol

Greg Schneiders  
Al From  
Les Francis  
Matt Bennett  
Reed Galen  
Matt Gorman  
Terry Straub  
Howard Gutman  
Sam Brown  
Don Foley  
Bowman Cutter  
Ralph Neas  
Fred DuVal  
Maria Cardona  
Jim Demers  
Philip Diehl  
John Leary  
Jim Copeland