SWING VOTE SAM

The Case for Independent Americans
on one page

The whole case, in the order you'll need it.

They tell you you're throwing your vote away. Here's every reason you're not. The full story, with Sam, is at swingvotesam.com.



1 They tell you you're wrong

- **45%** of Americans call themselves independent (2025).[1]
- **16%** approved of Congress, September 2026.[2]

2 The machine

- **81%** of House seats safe before anyone votes.[3]
- **7% decided 87%** of House seats, in 2024 primaries.[4]
- **16.5M** independents shut out of closed primaries in 16 states.[5]
- **~94%** of House races won by the biggest spender (2022).[6]
- **87%** favor term limits. It has never passed.[7]
- **~900,000** signatures for an independent to reach every ballot.[8]

3 The surrender

- **1942** the last formal declaration of war.[9]
- **1996** the last on-time budget.[10]
- **51** national emergencies in effect, the oldest from 1979.[11]

4 The fulcrum

- **218 of 435** runs the House. Ten independent seats could tip every close vote (an argument, not a statistic).[12]
- **15 ballots** to elect a Speaker in 2023.[13]

5 Take it with you

- **49** jurisdictions, about 14 million voters, use ranked choice.[14]
- **19** states ban it (March 2026).[15]

6 The whole case

- **10 of 435** seats. That's the whole ask.[12]

Ten seats in 435. That's the whole ask. None of this is left or right: do the arithmetic yourself, and it comes out the same every time. So show up, and bring a friend.

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