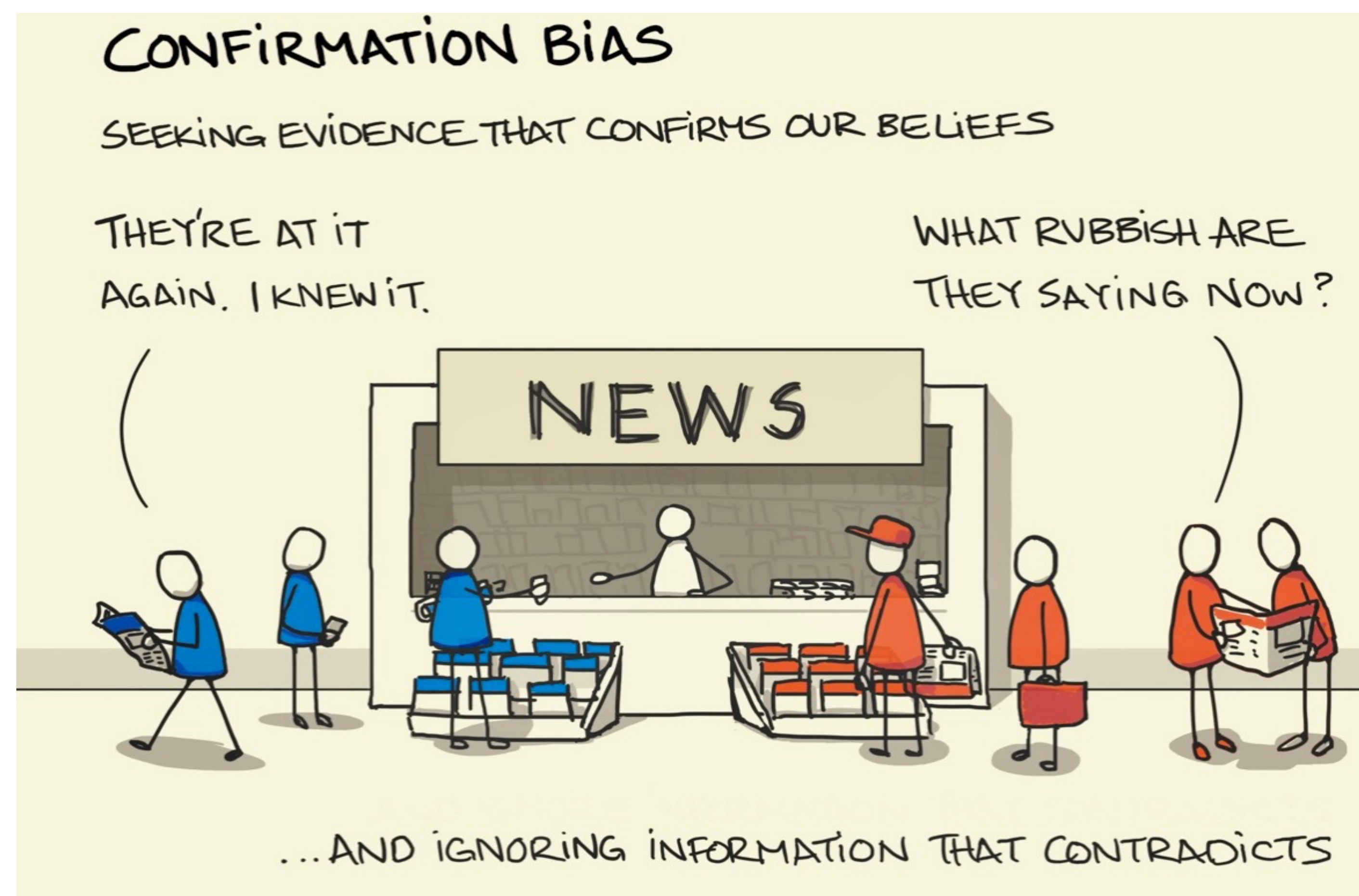


# Confirmation Biases Relationship to Social Media and Public Opinion; is There Hope for American Democracy?

By Nicole Losurdo

Public Opinion;



**Confirmation bias** explains that people desire to seek, perceive, prioritize, and remember information that validates or reinforces one's prior attitudes or beliefs, which is the foundation of the growing partisanship. This bias has brewed a growing hatred between political parties as they claim the ideas of the elites in each party.

## What's myside bias?

Mercier and Sperber both prefer "myside bias," which is the idea that people in the study could spot the weakness in others' arguments but are blind to their own.

## My Side Biases Relationship to Growing Partisanship;

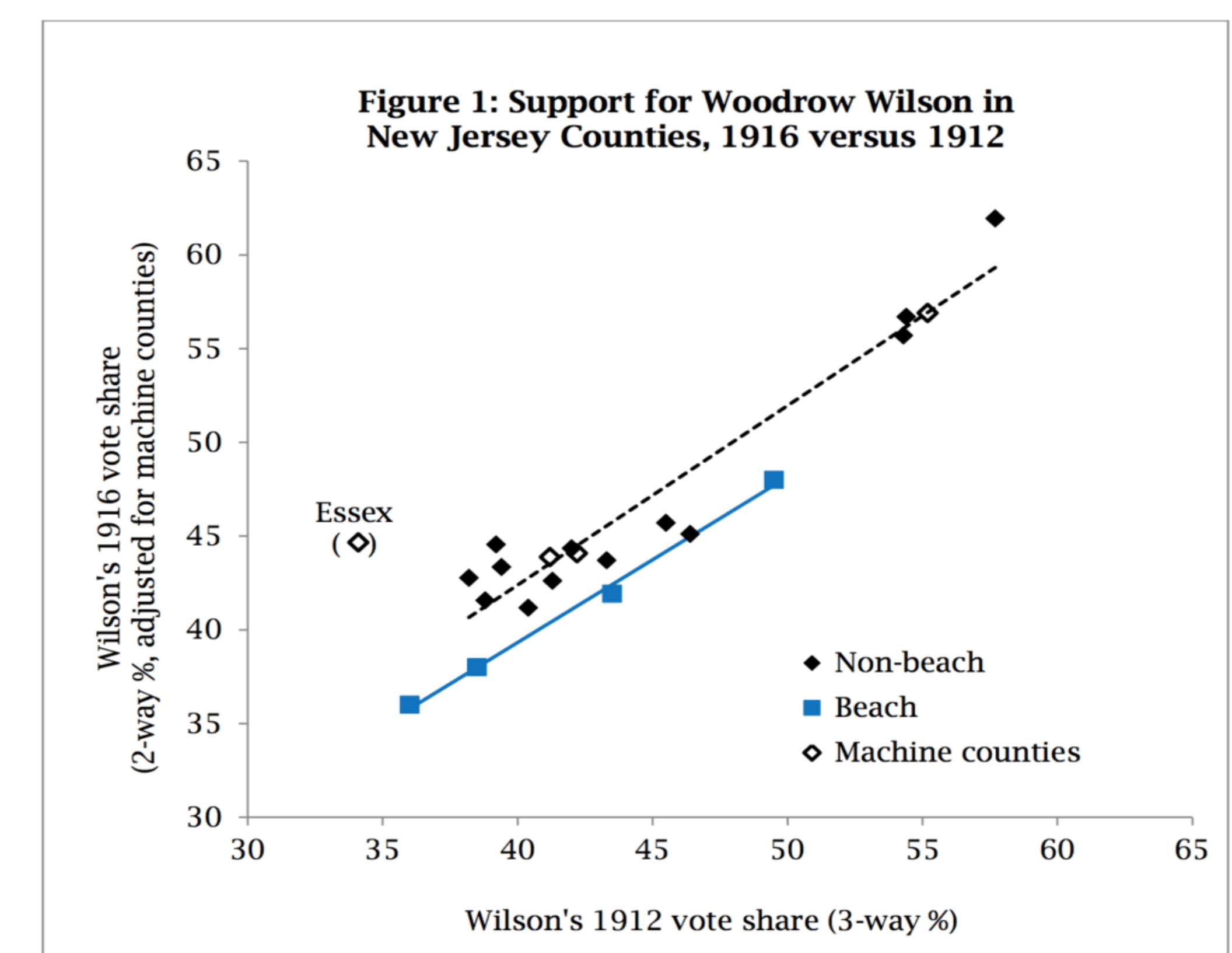
- Each side of the political spectrum can see the flaws of the opposing side but is unable to see their own parties' flaws.
- I don't believe that the parties are unwilling to see their side, but they cannot see them because they are so blinded by the belief that they are undeniably correct.
- This is because an individual affiliated with a specific party is so invested and devoted to their beliefs or rather the ideas that have been instilled in them by their party. It concerns the party system and democracy that there seems to be little free choice.

## The Ultimate Question(s);

- Where do we go from here?
- How do we fix this?
- Is there a system worth saving?
  - I'm not quite sure the right answers to these questions, but I do know that for the system to function correctly, there needs to be a way to give a free choice back to the citizens. It may not be apparent to citizens actively participating in politics that this is happening, which seems to be the issue at hand. I'm not sure where we go from here, but I know that the system won't function much longer the way it is today.

Christopher Achen and Larry Bartels have argued that voters' retrospections are blind in bad times, and that incumbents will see the damage at the polls if they can't offer any plausible cultural construction to justify their frustrations. A young swimmer was attacked by a shark and died. Five days later, a swimmer at Spring Lake beach was attacked by a shark and died. They have traced the electoral impact of a clearly random event (a series of shark attacks in New Jersey in 1916) and say they show that voters in the communities affected have significantly punished the incumbent president (Woodrow Wilson) at the polls. In this situation public opinion is heavily impacted by the perception that the Federal government could've done more; this impacts the incumbent based on emotion rather than factual information.

Beach county	-3.2 (1.0)
Machine county	-5.7 (1.1)
Wilson 1912 vote (three-way fraction)	0.95 (0.06)
Intercept	4.5 (2.8)
Standard error of regression	1.7
Adjusted $R^2$	.94
N	20



## Social Media;

Democracy is supposed to be built on a foundation of free choice, but the relationship that partisanship, confirmation bias, and my-side bias, social media, have with public opinion and partisanship is conflicting and have made it seem impossible that this system could function in the way it's intended. The idea of free choice has been taken away; individuals have deep-rooted beliefs that party elites take advantage of that have eliminated this choice.



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**We are up BIG, but they are trying to STEAL the Election. We will never let them do it. Votes cannot be cast after the Polls are closed!**

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