The Purple Principle is a non-partisan podcast for independent-minded Americans concerned about polarization in U.S. politics, society and daily life. We have some questions about partisanship. How did we get so partisan? How do we get less partisan? And can independent-minded Americans play a role bridging the partisan divide?
THE PURPLE PRINCIPLE

Podcasts to Inform Your Vote

An educated citizenry is vital for the Republic’s survival. These podcasts offer a good place to start.

THE WEEK

Podcasts of the Week: making sense of US politics

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Podcast Reports: One Of The Best Podcasts Of The Year: The Purple Principle

Princeton Alumni Weekly: Listen to the Podcasts Recommended by Princeton Alumni

STITCHER

Follow The 2020 Election Collection

MORE PRESS

- Podcast Reports: One Of The Best Podcasts Of The Year: The Purple Principle
- Princeton Alumni Weekly: Listen to the Podcasts Recommended by Princeton Alumni

“*The Purple Principle*” makes the case that party-unaffiliated Americans have a role to play in bridging political divisions” – *NEW YORK TIMES*, 10/4/20
HYPER-PARTISANSHIP

- According to voteview.com, the gap between the two major parties in the U.S. Congress is at its widest point in 100 years...
- According to Pew Research, American voters are significantly more polarized today than a quarter-century ago...
- At the same period, the number of less partisan independent or unaffiliated voters has continued to rise...
- But if independents are restricted from closed primaries, or tuning out to politics, is the U.S. today caught in a vicious cycle of polarization?

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT TO HEAR

- A wide variety of angles and viewpoints, from professional mediators to stand-up comedians, journalists and authors
- Conversations with experts in media, psychology, economics and politics
- Interviews with elected representatives, both current and retired
- Personal stories from average folks dealing with hyper-partisanship in the media, at their workplace and in their social and family life
Partisanship from All Angles: Priming with Purple
Promotional Episode

How does a nation become more partisan? What are the risks of continued polarization? And can independent-minded Americans help bridge the divide? Our promo episode is a fast moving 360 degree tour of partisanship featuring excerpts from a wide range of guests, including former PA Congressman Jason Altmire, stand-up comedian Myq Kaplan, Neuropsychologist Abigail Marsh, Computer Scientist Robert Elliot Smith, and Unite America founder Charles Wheelan, among others.

“Every single force that is going on is pushing us apart.”
– CHARLES WHEELAN
Founder, Unite America
By most measures, the US has over 40 million independent or unaffiliated voters representing a third or more of the electorate. Yet despite large and growing numbers, independents are often missing from the national conversation.

Independents have no cable channel or national newspaper. You rarely encounter independent viewpoints on major networks or opinion pages. And there’s a surprising lack of scholarship on independents as well.

Who are America’s prominent, politically-engaged political independents? We’ll meet four in Episode 3: Laura Sibilia, a three-term independent legislator in the Vermont Assembly; John Opdycke, President of Open Primaries; Thom Reilly, Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education; and Jacqueline Salit, President of Independentvoting.org.
Comedy & Partisanship:
The Transcendent Laugh

Ok, Comedians, make America laugh with surprising, original jokes that offend absolutely no one and work equally well in our very blue, very red and very antagonized parts of the country...

To the Purple Principle team, that seemed a near-impossible challenge in today's partisan environment.

With Episode 8, The Purple Principle begins a series of related discussions with comedians starting with Myq Kaplan, who has performed on Conan, The Tonight Show, The Late Show and put out 7 solo comedy albums, including his latest, AKA.

Can stand-up comedy survive the triple threat of polarization, political correctness and cancel culture? Myq Kaplan asserts that comedy is up to the challenge and deftly destroys our carefully constructed hypotheses. Tune in to learn, laugh and appreciate the art of comedy in a challenging age.

"So I guess it’s hard to say if it is more polarized. Perhaps part of it is that we know more; we have so much more data; we have more people talking."

GUESTS

MYQ KAPLAN
Comedian

LISTEN NOW
Let’s say, for the sake of Episode 9: The Brain on Partisan Politics, that identical twins are separated at birth and raised in different families, politically speaking: one deep blue, the other deep red. They’re bound to have different political leanings as adults, correct?

Actually, probably not, according to Dr. Jay Van Bavel, NYU Neural Scientist and our featured guest in Episode 9, The Brain on Partisan Politics. Genetics account for nearly half of our political inclinations.

Then what about the independent brain, you indie listeners out there are asking? We’ll get to that as well. To learn where your gray matter concentrates, tune into Episode 9, The Brain on Partisan Politics, with featured guest Dr. Jay Van Bavel, Associate Professor of Psychology and Neural Science at NYU.

“What we find is the independent brain is pretty much just in the middle. So when we measure conservatives and liberals, unfortunately the way we end up talking about it as if those are two different groups, liberals are a cluster over here and conservatives are a cluster over there. But in reality, it’s actually a continuum and people fall all along the continuum.”
Declaration of Independents, Alaska Style:
Ballot Question Two Takes on Political Partisanship

The great state of Alaska is different in many ways – vast size, low population, and great distance from “the lower 48”. Politics in Alaska is different as well: a remarkable 57% of Alaskans are registered as either non-partisan or unaffiliated voters.

Proponents of Alaska Ballot Measure 2 would like to preserve the state’s non-partisan political culture. This measure would create an open unified primary system, top four ranked choice voting, and greater campaign finance transparency.

Episode 13 features Campaign Manager of Alaskans for Better Elections Shea Siegert on the challenges and rewards of Ballot Measure 2. Join The Purple Principle as we take an audio tour through our nation’s most independent-minded state, meeting notable Alaskans along the way, and learning that electoral change never comes easy.
**Ep 14**

The Second Coming Turns 100: A Discussion of W.B. Yeats’ Classic Poem of Polarization

How does a century-old poem written in Ireland in the aftermath of World War I still resonate in our own partisan era? That is the central question The Purple Principle asks in Episode 14 as the classic poem, “The Second Coming,” by William Butler Yeats, turns one hundred years young.

Our special guest is another great Irish poet, Paul Muldoon, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and Professor of Poetry at Princeton University. Muldoon speaks about the poem’s insight and longevity, the influences at work on W.B. Yeats, and the impact he still exerts on poetry today.

The center cannot hold. The best lack all conviction... the worst are full of passionate intensity... Tune in to learn more about the relevance and endurance of “The Second Coming” with renowned Irish poet, Paul Muldoon.
THE PURPLE PRINCIPLE

ROBERT PEASE
Creator, Executive Producer & Host

Prior to founding Fluent Knowledge and the Purple Principle podcast, Robert previously worked as a journalist, executive recruiter and non-profit administrator and lived in Japan, Singapore and China for many years. Robert is a lifelong political independent who has voted (at the Presidential level) for candidates as diverse as John Anderson, Ross Perot, John McCain, and John Kasich, as well as Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. Robert was educated at Princeton and Brandeis University, is a former Fulbright Scholar, and has graduate degrees in Political Science and Economics.

RYAN ADAIR ROONEY
Composer & Musician

All original music on The Purple Principle is composed and created by Ryan Adair Rooney, an accomplished guitarist, engineer, sound designer and visual artist. Ryan has toured nationally and internationally with dozens of bands. He has released five solo records and composed scores for films as well as podcasts. Ryan is currently remotely working as a composer and musician from his home in West Texas.

MEET OUR TEAM

ALISON BYRNE
Producer

Alison is an award-winning producer who fell in love with podcasting during long commutes in Los Angeles. She produced and edited episodes of “Mobituaries” with Mo Rocca, the CBS show that debuted at #1 on Apple Podcasts. Alison’s also produced “With Good Reason,” a national weekly radio show from Virginia Humanities, along with documentary films and reality TV for HBO, PBS, HGTV and Discovery. She has an MFA in Integrated Media Arts from Hunter College and is a graduate of the Transom Story Workshop.

EMILY CROCETTI
Co-Host & Reporter

Emily is a graduate of Dartmouth College, where she majored in Neuroscience and Philosophy and was a media producer for Dartmouth’s Media Production Group. Emily is passionate about the inner workings of the human mind and how it functions in socio-political landscapes. As a registered political independent, in the age of technology, she is interested in producing meaningful media content, which challenges people to consider different perspectives in hopes of inspiring change.

KEVIN A. KLINE
Senior Sound Engineer

Kevin earned a master’s degree in Mass Communication from Emerson College in Boston, where the foundation of his understanding of audio production was laid. He then spent 21 years as a Commercial Production Director for radio stations in Boston. Kevin has recently shifted from the radio world into podcasting, pausing along the way to complete a course in Audio Mastering Techniques through Berklee.

RYAN ADAIR ROONEY
Composer & Musician

All original music on The Purple Principle is composed and created by Ryan Adair Rooney, an accomplished guitarist, engineer, sound designer and visual artist. Ryan has toured nationally and internationally with dozens of bands. He has released five solo records and composed scores for films as well as podcasts. Ryan is currently remotely working as a composer and musician from his home in West Texas.
A FEW HELPFUL

PODCAST DETAILS

WEBSITE
purpleprinciple.com

EMAIL
info@purpleprinciple.com

DOWNLOAD / SUBSCRIBE
Apple Podcast
Spotify
Pandora
Stitcher

SOCIAL MEDIA

CREATOR AND PRODUCER
Robert Pease
The Purple Principle, A Fluent Knowledge Media Podcast
rpease@purpleprinciple.com | 978.621.1650