



This election may end with both of the parties in splinters, leaving American politics more up in the air than it has been in living memory.

ALTOONA, WI - Someone will be elected. But it's possible no one will win.

In a presidential election featuring the [two most unpopular major party nominees ever](#), it looks increasingly likely that Hillary Clinton will become our next president. It's just as likely that winning the White House will actually hurt the Democrats' overall standing with the public.

Some hate Hillary. Some can't stand Bill. Some don't care for political dynasties and resent another Clinton presidency. Some despise Democrats in general. Some are turned off by how the Democratic establishment treated Bernie Sanders' candidacy as an unwelcome intrusion and stacked the deck to assure Hillary got the party's nomination. Some are just exasperated by the choice they were given, between two intensely disliked celebrities. Some are in an anti-establishment mood and see Hillary as the living embodiment of the political establishment. All will hold it against the Democrats for not showing any respect for these kinds of feelings.

There is a very real possibility either or both of the parties could splinter.

Today's Republican Party has become an uneasy alliance of wealthy capitalists, the religious right and working-class whites. What these three factions want the party to be is very different, and keeping any of them satisfied without granting them their every wish is growing more challenging by the day. Lose any of them and the party's governing majority across the country starts to crumble.

In cobbling together this fragile coalition of strangers, Republican leaders and right-wing media

Blue Jean Nation "An election without winners?"

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personalities created a monster that has gone on a rampage and is tearing their party limb from limb. Both Wall Street and Main Street Republicans have to be hoping and praying for Trump to lose. It will be hard enough to stitch the mangled body back together if Trump goes down to defeat. If Trump wins, it's his party. That would be the death of it.

The Democratic Party has lost much of its blue-collar following and is now left with a composite of highly educated professionals, racial minorities and progressive populists. The party's leadership clearly has [cast its lot with the professional class](#), as evidenced by the favored status of corporate Democrats like the Clintons within the party, and has actively sought to [snuff out populist impulses](#)

. The teens and twenty-somethings of the millennial generation — the party's future — were outraged by what party insiders did to sabotage the Sanders campaign. Sanders [won far more votes](#)

from millennials than Clinton and Trump combined, and these young voters will not soon forget how the skids were greased for Clinton. Minority voters are [taken for granted](#)

, but young black millennials in particular appear to be [increasingly questioning](#)

their elders' loyalty to the Democrats. All of this leaves the Democratic Party vulnerable to upheaval or even disintegration as well.

All of this leaves American politics more up in the air than it has been in living memory.

— *Mike McCabe*

Mike McCabe is the founder and president of Blue Jean Nation and author of *Blue Jeans in High Places: The Coming Makeover of American Politics*. Mike wants to hear from you.

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