

# Women Will Get It done

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## Introduction

Having ended my involvement in American political campaigns nearly ten years ago and having cut back on my work over the last few years, I found myself with time to do something I had never had or made the time to do – sit around doing nothing except to let my mind wander.

Over time I came up with a number of propositions.

America is in trouble, not from the threat of foreign powers but from the goings on within its borders. And men are in charge.

The congress, by design or otherwise, is only marginally functional. And men are in charge.

Much of the executive branch suffers at least from benign management dysfunction or worse. And men are in charge.

Americans' trust in all three branches of government is dismally low. Only 28% of Americans trust the legislative branch, 43% trust the executive branch, and, at the lowest measurement on record to date, only 61% trust the judicial branch. Trust in the government has eroded amid a struggling economy and an era of intense partisan gridlock. Collectively, Americans' trust in the three branches of the federal government is lower than at any point in the last two decades. And men are in charge.

The two major political parties are more irrelevant than not. And men are in charge.

The role of the central government in Washington is steadily diminishing. While certain functions will always be controlled nationally other issues of daily life from education to voting rights will be centered in regional enclaves, states or even cities.

Something has to change. As I began to think about various needed changes, I came across the following

*There is one ruinously dysfunctional part of the American story, and that's the breakdown of our political system. It's time for an intervention, to take the keys away.*

- David Ignatius, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, *Washington Post*

To date the keys have been in the hands of men. That is what needs to change. Women represent more than half of the electorate it is time that their voices be heard and their authority enhanced.

*I have found in my time in politics that when you have a significant number of women sitting in a decision maker's chair, that it can move the discussion and focus in ways that would not have happened before, and I am hopeful that this is one of those instances*

- U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono (D-Hi) May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 *Washington Post*

A freshman on the Senate Armed Services Committee commenting on efforts to deal with sexual harassment in the armed services

*If the circumstances are such that a female Dalai Lama is more useful, then automatically a female Dalai Lama will come.*

- Dalai Lama, June 2013, Australia

*We have been excluding women...What we need is a revolution led by women. I think women ought to be saying to us men "You have made a mess, just get out of the way and let us in"*

- Bishop Desmond Tutu, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Davos, Switzerland

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Some number of months ago, I began collecting information and ideas. What follows are some facts and reflections. Where this goes from here, I have no present idea. I am interested in your thoughts.