

**OP-ED: “A Viable Future for America.”** By Root Routledge, Candidate for U.S. Congress, Colorado District 3. [638 words]

**Dear Editor:** Please publish along with my accompanying Press Release and two images no later than this upcoming weekend, ideally in your weekend edition Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>; before the March 6<sup>th</sup> Democratic Caucuses. Thanks for your consideration.

**Contact:** [RootRoutledge@RootForCitizenCongressman.org](mailto:RootRoutledge@RootForCitizenCongressman.org)

**Phone:** 970-403-2007

**Web:** [www.RootForCitizenCongressman.org](http://www.RootForCitizenCongressman.org)

**Facebook:** [Root For Citizen Congressman](https://www.facebook.com/RootForCitizenCongressman)

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There are lots of experienced politicians, legislators and lawyers in Congress; but apparently not many problem solvers. The wash list of contentious issues and media-grabbing antics of the day is endless; but we seem to get nowhere. We spin our wheels on interests and personalities; while there's no focus on strategic issues that affect the very viability of our country's future.

As a non-traditional “citizen candidate” for Colorado's Congressional District 3 my focus is on “strategic gateway issues” and the values behind them that bind us together as a country. As an “Independent Progressive Democrat” I promote the freedom and wellbeing of all.

What it means to be a progressive in a democracy is you have a government of, by and for the people. “Of” means the same people, inside and out. “By” means the same life experiences on both sides. “For” means you have to take care of the people. We've lost all of that. We need to be working for the common good; or as the Preamble to our Constitution says, we strive for a more perfect union to, among other things, promote the general welfare of our people. Not the rich more than the poor.

At the beginning of our country, citizens cared about other citizens and worked through their government to provide public resources for everybody; for both private life and private enterprise, because people were engaged in some sort of business to make a living. There was a sense of common goals focused on making life better for people and their posterity; and a sense of a common shared burden of responsibility to each other that bound us all together as a country. You can't have a private business or a private life without public resources and the means to pay for them. This is what the common good is all about. It is the opposite of oligarch billionaire corporate control of America for their own good.

Right now we're all losing. The rich cannot continue to do well when others are not. “*We The People*” means equal political rights; and we are seeking that. It means equal opportunity and equal justice under the law. We cannot ignore the common good; our country is too important to us, our children, and our very posterity. Morality is at the center of all of this. It is about first principles; and a conviction about the ideals that undergird our nation. It's about who we are as Americans.

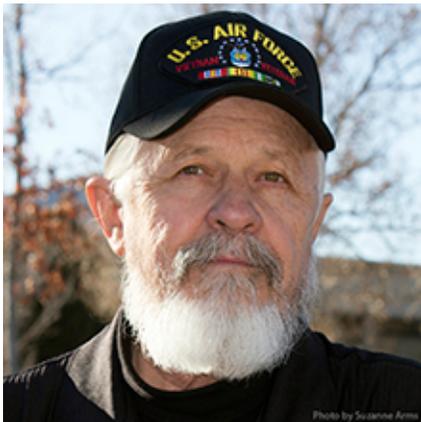
If we don't address these strategic viability problems first, we will not have much of a country or planet from which we can address everything else. The gateway issues I'm focused on are defined by their strategic threats and measures of outcome: Healthy Democracy, Healthy Population, Healthy Environment, and Healthy Economy. The essence of my platform is encapsulated in my July 4<sup>th</sup> parade

poster, which you can find on my website: [www.RootForCitizenCongressman.org](http://www.RootForCitizenCongressman.org). These four crucial elements are undergirded by my downloadable pdf book, “*Strategic Vision for a Viable American Future*,” which is the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of my eNewspaper, [www.TheUnheardHerald.com](http://www.TheUnheardHerald.com).

Please participate in our democratic process by turning out at your March 6<sup>th</sup> Caucuses. Right there, decide to run as a delegate to your County Assemblies, and then to your Congressional District and State Assemblies. Lots of you may have already supported, contributed, even committed to early-starter candidates. But no one is pledged or bound; you can change your minds any time after the caucuses. If you like my values and my vision, I’m asking you to support my candidacy for Congress.

Democracy is fragile. It requires all of us to protect and nurture it. We need to get our country back; we need to make it healthy. We're in a national crisis. All of this affects Colorado and our Congressional Third District. That's why I'm running for Congress.

Images:



**PROGRESSIVE AMERICANS**

**STRATEGIC VISION**  
**for a Viable American Future**

(Gateway issues first—then *We The People* can take care of the rest)

- **Healthy Democracy**
  - » Fix our democracy first
  - » Election justice & integrity
  - » Money out of politics (corruptn)
  - » DemocracyNow.org (indp/trust)
- **Healthy Environment**
  - » Price on carbon → *Energy Choice*  
(Carbon Fee & Dividend)
  - » Distributed clean energy  
(Local Renewable/Energy Indep)
- **Healthy Population**
  - » Comprehensive universal H/C  
(full MEDICARE: all in—no one out)
  - » Progressive financing  
(de-concentrates elite capital—1%)  
(addresses inequality—the 99%)
- **Healthy Economy**
  - » Public Projects → *Public Bank*  
(dump Wall Street *phantom* wealth)
  - » Infrastructure/Commons/Edcn
  - » Strong local economy → *Jobs*
  - » Living wage → *Real* wealth

Poster links → [www.TheUnheardHerald.com](http://www.TheUnheardHerald.com) OR Root For Bernie