

Meet the Personal Interest

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“Poll after poll finds American voters believing the country is on the wrong track,” Chuck Todd, host of NBC’s *Meet the Press*, told viewers last Sunday. “And if there’s one other thing that Democrats and Republicans have in common these days, it’s that they don’t trust Washington to fix it.”

Is this a smart electorate or what?

Todd compared today’s public mood to October 2001, just after the 9/11 terrorist attack. Back then, solid majorities of both Democrats and Republicans “had trust in that Republican control of government. Twenty

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years later, these numbers have collapsed among both parties. . . . Republicans down to just 9 percent trust in government to do what’s right most or all of the time.

“It’s a Democratic government,” he added. “That’s why the Democratic number’s a little higher here [29%], but this is really troubling.”

And then Mr. Todd even posed the right question: “How



did we get here?”

Calling the public “very cynical” — *shouldn’t you be, if paying attention?* — Todd explained that most Americans don’t believe “that most candidates that run for office . . . do it to serve the community. Only 21% think people run for office in order to worry about the greater good — 19% of Democrats think this, 24% of Republicans.

“A full 65% think most candidates run for office to serve their personal interests, nothing else,” he added. “And this is across the board — 66% of Democrats believe this, 63% of Republicans.”

Todd suggested “this may be bigger than any polarization problem that we have.”

It is bigger. But it’s an easy problem to solve. Just takes two words to bring back public trust in those who represent us, in them not just representing themselves, their personal career interests.

Term limits.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.