

**Are We Still in This Together?**  
**The Death of Parties, the Rise of Tribalism in American Politics**  
**and What It Portends for Our Future**  
**Wednesdays at 4:15 p.m.**

Study group led by **Scott Jennings**, founding Partner of RunSwitch Public Relations, former Special Assistant to President George W. Bush, campaign advisor to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, CNN Political Commentator, and columnist for the Louisville *Courier-Journal* and CNN.com

**February 14, 2018 – Dude, Where’s My Party?**

Do our parties effectively represent the will of (most of) the people? Some researchers (Morris Fiorina) believe the parties have been pulled to the polls and the moderate views that most Americans hold are left behind. One of the ways that our parties might “die” is not by ceasing to exist, but by existing in such a way that there is considerable fluidity in voter loyalty and few distinguishable issues that are represented in alignment with the interest of most voters. Join Scott Jennings for a discussion of this important topic.

**February 21, 2018 – Can a Third-Party Rise in 2020?**

Third party candidacies, the fantasy of many a political operative, may be closer to reality in 2020 than we know. How would a third-party candidacy be organized for success? Do current election laws allow a third-party candidate to have a chance? Is Trump, despite his Republican affiliation, effectively a third-party president? Join Scott Jennings and **veteran political pollster Neil Newhouse** for a war room-style, interactive discussion in plotting a third-party candidacy

**February 28, 2018 – America’s Urban/Rural Divide: Are We Still in This Together?**

Look at the 2016 map of presidential election results: Hillary Clinton’s support was confined to urban areas, government centers, and college towns...and Trump won everything else. Was this a last gasp for rural America, or does it portend something for our future? Scott Jennings invites **Dave Wasserman of the Cook Political Report and Harvard Professor Ryan Enos, author of the new book “The Space Between Us,”** to discuss what citizens in “fly-over country” are thinking in the age of Trump. What impact will Trump-era political conditions have on the midterms, which are historically bad for the party in power?

**March 7, 2018 – The History of Political Parties and Their Role in American Politics: Is the Two-Party System as We’ve Known It Dead?**

George Washington warned us: “[political parties] may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have

lifted them to unjust dominion." Scott Jennings has invited **former RNC Chief of Staff Mike Shields and former DNC Chief Executive Officer Amy Dacey** to explore the weakness in the two-party system.

### **March 21, 2018 – Tribalism's Sirens: Cable TV's Role in Modern Politics.**

Americans go to their respective corners for news and information. So who decides which voices are heard on cable TV? Join CNN Political Commentator Scott Jennings and **Rebecca Kutler, Vice-President of Content Development and Contributors for CNN**, to discuss America's fragmented political discourse. Hear directly from someone behind the scenes who enormously impacts our national conversation.

### **March 28, 2018 – A Conversation with U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell**

Republicans have a favorable map as they defend their slim 51-49 advantage in the U.S. Senate. Given the implications for the Trump agenda, what is the Senate landscape in 2018? Join Scott Jennings and **U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)** for a discussion on the midterm battle for the U.S. Senate, McConnell's observations on today's politics, and an autographed copy of *The Long Game*, McConnell's autobiography.

### **April 4, 2018 – What News Do We Trust?**

Some have called 2016 "the Facebook election," and now the company is under the microscope for its role in spreading "fake news" and its responsibilities as a distributor of political information. At the same time, distrust in the traditional news media has hit an all-time high. Join Scott Jennings to explore the rapidly changing information distribution environment, including a new Rand Corporation study called *Truth Decay: An Initial Exploration of the Diminishing Role of Facts and Analysis in American Public Life*.

### **April 11, 2018 – State and Local Political Landscape in 2018**

While the battle for the U.S. Congress will dominate national political coverage, there are thousands of gubernatorial, state legislative, mayoral and other local offices on the ballot. How are these races being run in the age of Trump? What is the impact on state and local races on redistricting, an often forgotten but important piece of American politics?