

PARTISAN WARFARE AND VOTING IN 2020 AMERICA

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Speaker Biographies



Mary Kate CARY

Former George H.W. Bush Speechwriter and Senior Fellow for Presidential Studies, Miller Center, University of Virginia, Washington, DC, USA @mkcary

Mary Kate Cary is a senior fellow at the University of Virginia's Miller Center and an adjunct professor in UVA's Department of Politics, teaching political speechwriting. Ms. Cary served as a White House speechwriter for President George H.W. Bush from 1989 to early 1992. She then went on to become spokesman for then-U.S. Attorney General William Barr until the end of the first Bush Administration. After leaving office, Ms. Cary became deputy director of communications at the Republican National Committee in 1994, serving under chairman Haley Barbour. For over two decades, she has continued to write speeches for a variety of national business and political leaders. From 2009 to 2017, Ms. Cary was a contributing editor at *U.S. News & World Report*, writing a biweekly column on politics. Her columns often appeared on *Real Clear Politics* and she is a regular political analyst on National Public Radio. In 2017, she co-founded and hosted the political podcast "Bipodisan." Since 2004, Ms. Cary has been an advisory board member of the George and Barbara Bush Foundation, and she was part of CNN's international coverage of President Bush's state funeral in 2018. In 2014, she was the executive producer of "41ON41," a documentary in which 41 extraordinary storytellers shared their best stories about President Bush 41. The film premiered internationally on CNN. Ms. Cary holds a BA in international relations from the University of Virginia.



David LITT

Former Barack Obama Speechwriter and Author, Democracy in One Book or Less, Washington, DC, USA @davidlitt

David Litt is a former senior presidential speechwriter and special assistant to President Barack Obama. He also authored the 2020 book, *Democracy in One Book or Less: How It Works, Why It Doesn't, and Why Fixing It Is Easier Than You Think*. This thought-provoking book traces how American democracy has changed over time, where it went awry, and why there is an urgent need to fix politics before it's too late. Mr. Litt worked at the White House from 2011 to 2016. In addition to writing remarks for President Obama on a wide range of domestic policy issues, he also served as the lead joke writer for several White House Correspondents' Dinner monologues. Mr. Litt's *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *Thanks, Obama: My Hopey Changey White House Years*, was published in 2017. He served as the head writer/producer for *Funny Or Die D.C.* through the 2018 midterm elections, and in addition to his new book, is currently developing a TV show based on his life in Washington.