“Let us examine, then, with a sober, a manly...and a Christian spirit; let us neglect all party [loyalty] and advert to facts; let us believe no man to be infallible or impeccable in government any more than in religion.”

JOHN ADAMS

“We electors have an important constitutional power placed in our hands; we have a check upon two branches of the legislature...the power I mean of electing at stated periods [each] branch....It becomes necessary to every [citizen] then, to be in some degree a statesman, and to examine and judge for himself of the tendency of political principles and measures. Let us examine, then, with a sober, a manly...and a Christian spirit; let us neglect all party [loyalty] and advert to facts; let us believe no man to be infallible or impeccable in government any more than in religion; take no man’s word against evidence, nor implicitly adopt the sentiments of others who may be deceived themselves, or may be interested in deceiving us.”


“Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote that he is not making a present or a compliment to please an individual – or at least that he ought not so to do; but that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country.”

SAMUEL ADAMS

“Nothing is more essential to the establishment of manners in a State than that all persons employed in places of power and trust be men of unexceptionable characters. The public cannot be too curious concerning the character of public men.”


“I have one great political idea. . . . That idea is an old one. It is widely and generally assented to; nevertheless, it is very generally trampled upon and disregarded. The best expression of it, I have found in the Bible. It is in substance, “Righteousness exalteth a nation; sin is a reproach to any people” [Proverbs 14:34].”

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

“No more than ever the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption....”

JAMES GARFIELD

“...If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature.... [I]f the next centennial does not find us a great nation...it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces.”


“I consider well the important trust... which God . . . [has] put into your hands. . . . To God and posterity you are accountable for [your rights and your rulers]....”

MATTHEW BURNETT

“...Let not your children have reason to curse you for giving up those rights and prostrating those institutions which your fathers delivered to you....[L]ook well to the characters and qualifications of those you elect and raise to office and places of trust....Think not that your interests will be safe in the hands of the weak and ignorant; or faithfully managed by the impious, the dissolute and the immoral. Think not that men who acknowledge not the providence of God nor regard His laws will be uncorrupt in office, firm in defense of the righteous cause against the oppressor, or resolutely oppose the torrent of iniquity.... Watch over your liberties and privileges – civil and religious – with a careful eye.”

[Matthew Burnett, Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Norwalk, An Election Sermon, Preached at Hartford, on the Day of the Anniversary Election, May 12, 1803 (Hartford: Printed by Hudson & Goodwin, 1803), pp. 27-28.]

“[T]he time has come that Christians must vote for honest men and take consistent ground in politics or the Lord will curse them....”

CHARLES FINNEY

“...This constitutes my politics - the negative and positive of my politics, and the whole of my politics....I feel it my duty to do all in my power to infuse this idea into the public mind, that it may speedily be recognized and practiced upon by our people.”

“A share in the sovereignty of the state, which is exercised by the citizens at large, in voting at elections is one of the most important rights of the subject, and in a republic ought to stand foremost in the estimation of the law.”

ALEXANDER HAMILTON


“Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.”

JOHN JAY


“The Americans are the first people whom Heaven has favored with an opportunity of deliberating upon and choosing the forms of government under which they should live.”

JOHN JAY


“The elective franchise, if guarded as the ark of our safety, will peaceably dissipate all combinations to subvert a Constitution, dictate by the wisdom, and resting on the will of the people.”

THOMAS JEFFERSON


“[S]hould things go wrong at any time, the people will set them to rights by the peaceable exercise of their elective rights.”


“When the righteous rule, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.”

WILLIAM PATERSON

[Supreme Court Justice William Paterson reminding his fellow justices of Proverbs 29:2. United States Oracle (Portsmouth, NH), May 24, 1800.]