

And the answer is!

Politics Schmopolitics

This is ConnectTheDots...

Connect
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A lot of people are turned off by politics. Honestly, who can blame them?

Politics is loud, and petty. It rewards the biggest mouth, the sharpest elbow, the grandest piece of performative outrage. When people say "I don't really follow politics," the instinct is understandable. It sounds, frankly, kind of mentally healthy.

But here's the problem: politics is not policy. **POLITICS** is how power gets won, **POLICY** is **what power does once it has the keys**. Policy is whether your kid's school has enough teachers. Policy is whether the prescription you need costs \$12 or \$1,200, whether your water is drinkable, your bridge is inspected, your town has a hospital, or your local library stays open. **You can ignore politics. But "policy" is a set of choices, and will never ignore you.** It's the reason your town has sidewalks and others don't. Opting out has a cost.

That distinction gets lost when everything gets labeled "political." We hear that word and think of scandals and slogans. Fundraising emails that act like civilization will collapse unless you send \$7 before midnight. It's exhausting - identity as a team sport, grievance as entertainment.

Corporations are paying attention. **Lobbyists** are paying attention. **Real estate developers, insurance companies, private equity firms,** and **think tanks** with names like "*Americans for Balanced Common-Sense Freedom Solutions*" are absolutely paying attention. They understand that one sentence in a bill can be worth millions of dollars. That a loophole can become a business model. That one tax rule can move wealth upward for generations.

If politics gets repulsive enough, regular people turn away - and that leaves the field to the those who know *exactly* which boring meeting to attend while everyone else is avoiding the circus. Zoning. School budgets. Which developer gets a variance. Which families get priced out and then blamed for not keeping up. You don't have to love politics to care about policy. You only have to ask: who benefits? Who pays? Who wrote the bill, and who was left out of the room?

The rules are being written either way - when we're tired, when we're distracted, decent people decide the whole thing is maddening and "Schmolitics" may seem beneath us. **The consequences of tuning out are not.**

*That, my friends, is the bigger picture. **Let's keep connecting the dots...***

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