

# TIME

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Special Report

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# 40 UNDER 40

Trust in government has evaporated, Washington has lost its bearings and *career politician* is the slur of choice in more than a few political debates this fall. Amid all the anger why would anyone want to pursue public service? And yet, in an epic election cycle, a new generation of civic leaders is already at work trying to fix a broken system — and restore faith in the process. Meet the rising stars of American politics.

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# Rachel Kleinfeld

CEO, Truman National Security Project

## **Who is your political hero/inspiration?**

Harry Truman, of course. He had a lot of common sense. He spoke plainly and clearly to the American people, but that did not mean he lacked vision. And he showed an enormous amount of creativity in how to keep the world safe.

## **What's your go-to political blog?**

The Economist blogs

## **If you weren't working in politics, what would you be doing?**

Realistically or fun? I would either doing development work in Indonesia or I'd be hosting an interesting and thoughtful radio talk show.

## **What's the most overlooked issue facing America these days?**

Although it's getting some attention, cyber-security needs to be getting a lot more. The level of devastation that a cyber-attack can cause is just withering to contemplate, and we have very little resources devoted to this right now.

## **Where do you see yourself professionally in five years?**

I would love for Truman Democrats to be as loud a voice in foreign policy as any major political movement, so I would say running a major political movement that affects the foreign policy of the nation.



Born and raised in a log cabin in Alaska, Kleinfeld, 34, started workshops for young progressives on national-security issues after watching John Kerry lose to George W. Bush in 2004. Her goal: to prove that Democrats can articulate strong and sensible alternatives to GOP defense policies.