

# Zephyr Teachout Quotes

*Thinking, People, Government, Believe, Way, New York, Political, Integrity, Art,  
Needs, Fun, Levels, Hard Work, Law, Character, Mistake, Dirty, Country,  
Creative, Dream*

People think that the politician is just part of a system, and whether they're lying or not doesn't matter.

~Zephyr Teachout

People respond to political characters in archetypal ways. A fun game is to think of a politician and ask, "Which god is that? Are they like Aries? Are they like Athena?"

~Zephyr Teachout

Oftentimes people get it wrong when they say we need to educate voters first and then give them power. I tend to favor giving them power first.

~Zephyr Teachout

One of the most dangerous things about Fox News isn't that it's right wing but that it's nihilistic. It takes away the capacity to believe in politics.

~Zephyr Teachout

There's a tendency, especially among academics, to see politics as deeply dirty and deeply egotistical.

~Zephyr Teachout

There is a long American tradition of suspicion of concentrated economic power because of its tendency to corrupt government and turn it from a democracy into a plutocracy.

~Zephyr Teachout

My current goal is to change the way we think about antitrust and anti-monopoly.

~Zephyr Teachout

I think the reason you see so many people dropping out of politics is because there's an anti-poetic strain in modern political discourse.

~Zephyr Teachout

New York City is one of the most vulnerable cities in the world to climate change, so I see Keystone as the central threat to New York.

~Zephyr Teachout

Creativity is essential to any kind of joyful living. Sometimes I act, sometimes I draw, I paint, I write poems. I can't imagine living without it.

~Zephyr Teachout

What I see increasingly is that companies are playing political roles. We should actually have our research and our laws map that.

~Zephyr Teachout

Because jurors have an extraordinary amount of power over the situation and of the people and the story in front of them, they tend to pay pretty intense attention to what's happening.

~Zephyr Teachout

Public education is so important - resisting privatization and charterization, high-stakes testing, and defunding. It's important for New York, but it's also important for the country.

~Zephyr Teachout

I tend to think that knowledge is preceded by power instead of the other way around.

~Zephyr Teachout

I tend to be a kind of left federalist. There's a value to more power of certain kinds being positioned at a more local level.

~Zephyr Teachout

I think that most people have deeply creative sensibilities.

~Zephyr Teachout

If you think art is a competitive forum, then you're going to stop doing it if you're not good. But if it's not competitive, it's something that you'll keep doing.

~Zephyr Teachout

Having more candidates come with a creative and artistic sensibility would actually bring more people out to vote.

~Zephyr Teachout

I feel much more comfortable in politics than I did in book writing. Book writing is so hard. Politics felt easy compared to that.

~Zephyr Teachout

A lot of politics plays at the level of myth, and if you understand that, then you feel like you have access to the secret language of politics.

~Zephyr Teachout

If those people in power never made any mistakes, we'd be done for as a democracy. But people keep making mistakes. History is a series of mistakes.

~Zephyr Teachout

I'm not from the arts, I'm a law professor. But I think we need more poetry in politics.

~Zephyr Teachout

This is what's so hard about our current politics: things poll well, but people don't believe that politicians are telling the truth.

~Zephyr Teachout

I think about people and events in terms of archetypes a lot.

~Zephyr Teachout

Integrity is hard work. I do think the Internet makes it harder because of the temptations of performance. You can perform and have integrity, but it's easier just to perform.

~Zephyr Teachout

As a school board member, I might have particular views about the ways we might increase the economics curriculum in a local high school, but I'm not sure I should mandate that for the entire country.

~Zephyr Teachout

History is a series of mistakes. Now the task is to plan for those mistakes so those of us who are populists can actually take over the reins of power when the right mistakes are made.

~Zephyr Teachout

You can't just provide power, you also need public education.

~Zephyr Teachout

What happens in New York affects national policy in very significant ways.

~Zephyr Teachout

It's a lot harder to push forward things, like energy policy. There's a big dream out there about wind and solar power.

~Zephyr Teachout

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