# We Can Still Trust Government

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A lot has been written about political trust as of late. In fact, a poll released by the Pew Research Center in 2021 found that just 24% of Americans said that they trusted the government to do the right thing most of the time or always. Indeed, it seems as though political scandals, corruption, and mismanagement of numerous crises have become commonplace over the past several decades, occurring under both parties.

This is more myth than reality, however and we should not forget that government often does a much better job than people give it credit for. This ranges from the effective administration of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security to the guarantee of clean air and water. We often take these things for granted, but we should really be thankful and give government some much-deserved credit. Furthermore, the vast majority of government officials and politicians are honest, decent, hard-working people whose reputations are sullied by a small minority of corrupt, scandal-plagued individuals.

Although it is not often reflected in the mass media, using words such as honest, decent, and hard-working to describe most politicians and public servants is not as ridiculous as it sounds. I may be criticized for saying so, but I can confidently say that these words accurately describe my time working in the federal government, a government that we can still trust.

- *Paul Martin is a former career civil servant who worked for the federal government for over 30 years, in both Democratic and Republican administrations.*