H.R. 1

THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

This November, the American people went to the polls and resoundingly rejected the culture of corruption in Washington. They elected an historic Democratic House majority built on candidates who promised to restore our broken democracy, and restore openness, transparency and unity to Congress. **House Democrats are ready to deliver that promise and show Americans that we are For the People on Day One**, with H.R. 1: a bold, transformative set of reforms to strengthen our democracy and return political power to the people. With this legislation, Democrats will make it easier, not harder, to vote; end the dominance of big money in our politics; and ensure public officials work for the public interest.

MAKE IT EASIER, NOT HARDER, TO VOTE

- **Improve Access** – H.R. 1 expands access to the ballot box by taking aim at institutional barriers to voting. Patchwork and cumbersome registration systems, disenfranchisement and limited voting hours are roadblocks to a more participatory democracy. H.R. 1 will create automatic voter registration across the country; ensure that individuals who have completed felony sentences have their full rights restored; expand early voting and simplify absentee voting; and modernize the U.S. voting system.

- **Promote Integrity** – H.R. 1 commits Congress to build the record necessary to restore the Voting Rights Act; prohibits voter roll purges like those seen in Ohio, Georgia and elsewhere; and ends partisan gerrymandering to prevent politicians from picking their voters.

- **Ensure Security** – H.R. 1 ensures that American elections are decided by American voters without interference by enhancing federal support for voting system security, particularly paper ballots; increasing oversight over election vendors; and requiring the development of a national strategy to protect U.S. democratic institutions.

END THE DOMINANCE OF BIG MONEY IN OUR POLITICS

- **Guarantee Disclosure** – H.R. 1 shines a light on dark money in politics by upgrading online political ad disclosure and requiring all organizations involved in political activity to disclose their large donors. H.R. 1 also breaks the so-called 'nesting-doll' sham that allows big-money contributors and special interests to hide the true funding source of their political spending.

- **Empower Citizens** – H.R. 1 gives political power to everyday Americans, creating a multiple-matching system for small donations, thereby allowing the American people to exercise their due influence in our politics. This new, 21st century system of citizen-owned elections will break special interests' stranglehold on Congress and lay the groundwork for an agenda that serves the American people. H.R. 1 also reaffirms that Congress should have the authority to regulate money in politics, pushing back on the wrongheaded *Citizens United* decision by the Supreme Court.

- **Strengthen Oversight** – H.R. 1 ensures that there are cops on the campaign finance beat who will enforce the laws on the books. H.R. 1 tightens rules on super PACs and restructures the Federal Election Commission to break the gridlock and enhance its enforcement mechanisms. It also repeals Mitch McConnell's riders that prevent government agencies from requiring commonsense disclosure of political spending.

ENSURE PUBLIC OFFICIALS WORK FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

- **Fortify Ethics Law** – H.R. 1 breaks the influence economy in Washington and increases accountability by expanding conflict of interest law and divestment requirements; slowing the revolving door; preventing Members of Congress from serving on corporate boards; and requiring presidents to disclose their tax returns.

- **Impose Greater Ethics Enforcement** – H.R. 1 gives teeth to federal ethics oversight by overhauling the Office of Government Ethics; closing loopholes for lobbyists and foreign agents; ensuring watchdogs have sufficient resources to enforce the law; and creating a code of ethics for the Supreme Court.

DIVISION A – VOTING

TITLE I – ELECTION ACCESS

Subtitle A – Voter Registration Modernization

Part 1 – Promoting Internet Registration

Primary: Administration (Derived from Sec. 7 of Automatic Voter Registration Act, H.R. 2876)

- Requires each state to make available online voter registration, correction, cancellation and designation of party affiliation.

Part 2 - Automatic Voter Registration

Primary: Administration (Derived from Automatic Voter Registration Act, H.R. 2876)

- Requires chief state election officials to automatically register to vote any eligible unregistered citizens, while protecting from prosecution ineligible voters mistakenly registered.
- Deems state agencies and federal offices within a state as contributing agencies for the purposes of registration.

Part 3 – Same Day Voter Registration

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title II, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12)

- Requires states to permit voters to register on the day of a Federal election, including during early voting.

Part 4 – Conditions on Removal on Basis of Interstate Cross-Checks

Primary: Administration (Derived from Voter Roll Integrity Act, H.R. 3091)

- Limits the authority of states to remove registrants from the official list of eligible voters in elections for Federal office in the State on the basis of interstate voter registration cross-checks.

Part 5 – Other Initiatives to Promote Voter Registration

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title I Subtitle C, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12)

- Requires annual state reports on voter registration statistics to be provided to the Election Assistance Commission.

Part 6 – Availability of Help America Vote Act Requirement Payments

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title I Subtitle D, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12)

- Provides HAVA funds for purposes of implementing the voter registration modernization reforms.

Part 7 – Prohibiting Interference with Voter Registration

Primary: Judiciary (Derived from Title I Subtitle E, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12)

- Makes it unlawful to hinder, interfere or prevent an individual from registering to vote.
- Instructs the Election Assistance Commission to develop best practices for states to deter and prevent such violations.

Subtitle B – Access to Voting for Individuals with Disabilities

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title II, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12)

- Requires states to promote access to voter registration and voting for persons with disabilities.
- Funds grants to improve voting for persons with disabilities and creates a pilot program to allow persons with disabilities to register and vote from home.

Subtitle C – Prohibiting Voter Caging

Primary: Judiciary (Derived from Title II, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12 and Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act, H.R. 6607)

- Prohibits the use of returned non-forwardable mail as the basis for removing registered voters from the rolls.
- Prohibits challenges to eligibility from individuals who are not election officials without an oath of good faith factual basis.

Subtitle D – Prohibiting Deceptive Practices and Preventing Voter Intimidation

Primary: Judiciary (Derived from Title IV, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12 and Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act, H.R. 6607)

- Prohibits providing false information about elections to hinder or discourage voting and increases penalties for voter intimidation.
- Prescribes sentencing guidelines for those individuals found guilty of such deceptive practices.

Subtitle E – Democracy Restoration

Primary: Judiciary (Derived from Title V, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12 and Democracy Restoration Act, H.R. 6612)

- Declares the right of citizens to vote in federal elections will not be denied because of a criminal conviction unless a citizen is serving a felony sentence in a correctional facility.
- Requires states and the federal government to notify individuals convicted of state or federal felonies, respectively, of their re-enfranchisement.

Subtitle F – Promoting Accuracy, Integrity, and Security Through Voter-Verified Permanent Paper Ballot

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title VI, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12 & Election Security Act, H.R. 5011)

- Requires states to use individual, durable, voter-verified paper ballots and that said ballots are counted by hand or an optical character recognition device.
- Provides the voter an opportunity to correct ballot should a mistake be made and requires that ballots are not preserved in any manner that makes it possible to associate a voter to the ballot.

Subtitle G – Provisional Ballots

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title VII, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12)

- Requires that provisional ballots from eligible voters at incorrect polling places be counted.

Subtitle H – Early Voting

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title VIII, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12)

- Requires at least 15 consecutive days of early voting for federal elections.
- Requires that early voting locations be near public transportation and open for at least 4 hours per day.

Subtitle I – Voting by Mail

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title VIII, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12)

- Prohibits a state from imposing restrictions on an individual's ability to vote by mail.

Subtitle J – Absent Uniformed Services Voters and Overseas Voters

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title IX, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12)

- Requires states to send absentee ballots at least 45 days before an election and allows civil penalty for failure.

Subtitle K – Poll Worker Recruitment and Training

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title X, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12)

- Requires the Election Assistance Commission to develop model training programs and award grants for training.

Subtitle L – Enhancement of Enforcement

Primary: Judiciary (Derived from Title XI, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12)

- Allows individuals private rights of action and ability to file administrative complaints.

Subtitle M – Federal Election Integrity

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title XII, Voter Empowerment Act, H.R. 12)

- Prohibits state chief election officials from participating in federal campaigns.
- Prohibits using official authorities to affect the results of elections.

Subtitle N – Promoting Voter Access Through Election Administration Improvements

Primary: Administration

Part 1 – Promoting Voter Access

- Makes Election Day a federal employment holiday and encourages private sector employers to do so as well.
- Requires improved information sharing including seven days' notice for polling site changes.
- Makes colleges and universities voter registration agencies.

- Requires the United States Postal Service to carry absentee ballots free of charge.
- Allows states to reimburse the USPS for revenue it would have earned from absentee ballots using Help American Vote Act funding.
- Requires the Election Assistance Commission to reimburse states for establishing absentee ballot tracking programs.
- Creates a voter information hotline.
- Allows voters to submit sworn written statements in lieu of required identification for voting.
- Prohibits states from requiring voters submitting sworn statements to cast provisional ballots.

Part 2 – Improvements in Operation of Election Assistance

- Reauthorizes the Election Assistance Commission.
- Requires states, in consultation with the Election Assistance Commission, to carry out an assessment of whether voting systems are adequate to meet demands of the 2020 election.
- Requires the Election Assistance Commission to submit a report to Congress on a plan to replace outdated voting systems.
- Requires States to work with the Election Assistance Commission to conduct post-election administration surveys.
- Requires NIST to report on its use of Election Assistance Commission funds.
- Requires the Election Assistance Commission to carry out an assessment of the security and effectiveness of its information technology systems.
- Repeals existing contracting exemptions for the Election Assistance Commission.

Part 3 – Miscellaneous Provisions

- Clarifies, that unless specifically provided for, nothing in this title may be construed to impact existing voting law.

Subtitle O – Severability Clause

- Clarifies that if any provision of this Title or amendment made by this Title is held unconstitutional, the remainder of the Title shall not be affect by the holding.

TITLE II – ELECTION INTEGRITY

Subtitle A – Findings Reaffirming Commitment of Congress to Restore the Voting Rights Act

Primary: Judiciary

- Declares that Congress finds that the *Shelby County* decision ushered in a new era of voter suppression and that Congress should build a record of voter suppression since *Shelby*.
- Declares that, per the Supreme Court's ruling in *Shelby*, Congress should restore the protections of the Voting Rights Act by updating the formula for determining which jurisdictions are subject to federal preclearance.

Subtitle B – Findings Relating to Native American Voting Rights

Primary: Judiciary

- Declares Congress' intent to protect and promote Native Americans' exercise of their constitutionally guaranteed right to vote, including voter registration and equal access to all voting mechanisms.

Subtitle C – Findings Relating to District of Columbia Statehood

Primary: Oversight and Reform

- Declares Congress' perspective that District of Columbia residents deserve full congressional voting rights and self-government, which only statehood can provide.

Subtitle D – Findings Relating to Territorial Voting Rights

Primary: Judiciary & Natural Resources

- Declares Congress' view that the right to vote is one of the most powerful instruments that residents of the territories of the United States have to ensure their voices are heard.

Subtitle E – Redistricting Reform

Primary: Judiciary (Derived from Redistricting Reform Act, H.R. 1102)

- Requires states to adopt independent redistricting commissions for purposes of drawing Congressional districts.

Subtitle F – Saving Voters from Voter Purging

Primary: Administration (Derived from Save Voters Act, H.R. 6122)

- Responds to the *Husted* decision by clarifying that failure to vote is not grounds for removing registered voters from the rolls.

Subtitle G – Severability Clause

- Clarifies that if any provision of this Title or amendment made by this Title is held unconstitutional, the remainder of the Title shall not be affect by the holding.

TITLE III – ELECTION SECURITY

Subtitle A – Financial Support for Election Infrastructure

Primary: Administration/Homeland Security (Derived from Title I, Election Security Act, H.R. 5011)

- Establishes standards for election vendors based on cybersecurity and company ownership.
- Allows the Election Assistance Commission to issue grants to states for improving and maintaining election systems.
- Allows the Election Assistance Commission to issue grants to states for paper ballot systems.
- Allows the Election Assistance Commission to issue grants to states for risk-limiting audits after elections.
- Allows the Election Assistance Commission to issue grants for election infrastructure innovation.

Subtitle B – Security Measures

Primary: Homeland Security (Derived from Title II, Election Security Act, H.R. 5011)

- Requires the Department of Homeland Security to maintain the designation of election infrastructure as critical.
- Requires the Department of Homeland Security to assess threats to election systems at least 180 days before an election and inform states of threats to election systems.

Subtitle C – Enhancing Protection for United States Democratic Institutions

Primary: Homeland Security (Derived from Title III, Election Security Act, H.R. 5011)

- Requires the President to produce a national strategy for protecting U.S. democratic institutions.
- Creates National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions to counter threats.

Subtitle D – Promoting Cybersecurity Through Improvements in Election Administration

Primary: Homeland Security (Derived from Election Security Act, H.R. 5011)

- Requires the testing of voting systems nine months before the date of each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office.
- Defines electronic poll books as part of voting systems and requires pre-election reports on voting system usage.

Subtitle E – Preventing Election Hacking

Primary: Administration (Derived from Prevent Election Hacking Act, H.R. 6188)

- Establishes the 'Election Security Bug Bounty Program' to encourage independent assessments of election systems by technical experts.

Subtitle F– Miscellaneous Provisions

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title IV, Election Security Act, H.R. 5011)

- Requires analysis of whether sufficient funds are provided for implementation of the bill.

Subtitle G – Severability Clause

- Clarifies that if any provision of this Title or amendment made by this Title is held unconstitutional, the remainder of the Title shall not be affect by the holding.

DIVISION B – CAMPAIGN FINANCE

TITLE IV – CAMPAIGN FINANCE TRANSPARENCY

Subtitle A – Findings Relating to Illicit Money Undermining Our Democracy

Primary: Financial Services

- Expresses Congress' intent to curb the use of shell companies and other illicit activities that allow foreign money to enter and undermine our democracy.

Subtitle B – DISCLOSE Act

Part 1 – Foreign Money Ban

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title I, DISCLOSE Act, H.R. 6239)

- Bans contributions and expenditures from corporations with significant foreign ownership or control.
- Clarifies the application of the foreign money ban regarding separate segregated funds.

Part 2 – Dark Money Disclosure

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title II, DISCLOSE Act, H.R. 6239)

- Requires super PACs, 501(c)4 groups and other organizations spending money in elections to disclose donors who contribute more than $10,000.
- Shuts down the use of transfers between organizations to cloak the identity of the source contributor.

Part 3 – Other Administrative Reforms

Primary: Administration

- Sets forth and clarifies rules governing court challenges to campaign finance law.

Subtitle C – Honest Ads

Primary: Administration (Derived from Honest Ads Act, H.R. 4077)

- Requires large digital platforms to maintain a public database of political ad purchase requests of more than $500.
- Directs digital platforms to implement measures to prevent foreign nationals from directly or indirectly purchasing political ads.

Subtitle D – Stand By Every Ad

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title III, DISCLOSE Act, H.R. 6239)

- Expands "stand by your ad" disclosure requirements to leaders of corporations, unions and other organizations purchasing political ads.

Subtitle E – Secret Money Transparency

Primary: Ways and Means

- Repeals existing prohibition on the IRS from promulgating rules to bring clarity to rules governing 501(c) political activity.

Subtitle F – Shareholder Right-to-Know

Primary: Financial Services

- Repeals existing prohibition on the Securities and Exchange Commission from finalizing rules to afford shareholders the opportunity to know about the political spending of publicly traded companies.

Subtitle G – Disclosure of Political Spending by Government Contractors

Primary: Oversight and Reform

- Repeals existing prohibition on the Executive Branch from promulgating rules to require government contractors to disclose all of their political spending.

Subtitle H – Disclosure Requirements for Presidential Inaugural Committees

Primary: Administration (Derived from Presidential Inaugural Committee Oversight Act, H.R. 5008 and Inaugural Fund Integrity Act, H.R. 7399)

- Requires Presidential Inauguration Committees to disclose their expenditures, limits aggregate contributions and restricts funds being used on purposes unrelated to the inauguration.

Subtitle I – Severability Clause

- Clarifies that if any provision of this Title or amendment made by this Title is held unconstitutional, the remainder of the Title shall not be affect by the holding.

TITLE V – CAMPAIGN FINANCE EMPOWERMENT

Subtitle A – Findings Relating to *Citizens United* Decision

Primary: Administration, Judiciary

- Expresses that Congress finds that the *Citizens United* decision is detrimental to democracy and that the Constitution should be amended to clarify Congress' and the States' authority to regulate campaign contributions and expenditures.

Subtitle B – Congressional Elections

Primary: Administration (Derived from Title I, Government By the People Act, H.R. 20)

- Creates small dollar incentives to expand the universe of low-dollar contributors.
- Establishes a publicly financed 6-1 matching system on small-dollar donations up to $200 for House candidates who demonstrate broad-based support and reject high-dollar contributions.

Subtitle C – Presidential Elections

Primary: Administration (Derived from Titles I and II, Empower Act, H.R. 3954)

- Establishes a publicly financed 6-1 matching system on the first $200 of a contribution to the presidential campaign of a participating candidate.

Subtitle D – Personal Use Services as Authorized Campaign Expenditures

Primary: Administration

- Expands authorized campaign expenditures to include child care, elder service care, payments of rent or mortgage, professional development and media training, and payments of health insurance costs in an effort to make it easier for candidate of modest means to run and win office.

Subtitle E – Severability Clause

- Clarifies that if any provision of this Title or amendment made by this Title is held unconstitutional, the remainder of the Title shall not be affect by the holding.

TITLE VI – CAMPAIGN FINANCE OVERSIGHT

Subtitle A – Restoring Integrity to America's Elections

Primary: Administration (Derived from Restoring Integrity to America's Elections Act, H.R. 2034)

- Restructures the Federal Election Commission to have five commissioners, in order to break gridlock.
- Makes permanent FEC's civil penalty authority.

Subtitle B – Stopping Super PAC-Candidate Coordination

Primary: Administration (Derived from Stop Super PAC-Candidate Coordination Act, H.R. 3952)

- Defines prohibited coordination between campaigns and super PACs.
- Creates "coordinated spender" category to ensure single-candidate super PACs do not operate as arms of campaigns.

Subtitle C – Severability Clause

- Clarifies that if any provision of this Title or amendment made by this Title is held unconstitutional, the remainder of the Title shall not be affect by the holding.

DIVISION C – ETHICS

TITLE VII – ETHICS STANDARDS

Subtitle A – Supreme Court Ethics

Primary: Judiciary (Derived from Supreme Court Ethics Act, H.R. 1960)

- Requires the development of a code of ethics for Supreme Court justices.

Subtitle B – Foreign Agents Registration

Primary: Judiciary

- Increases resources for FARA office, creates FARA investigation and enforcement unit in Department of Justice and provides authority to impose civil penalties.
- Requires Foreign Agents to disclose transactions involving things of financial value conferred on officeholders.

Subtitle C – Lobbying Disclosure Reform

Primary: Judiciary (Derived from Sec.2(b), CLEAN Politics Act, H.R. 6533)

- Clarifies that counseling in support of lobbying contacts is considered lobbying under the Lobbying Disclosure Act and therefore triggers registration.

Subtitle D – Recusal of Presidential Appointees

Primary: Judiciary (Derived from Sec. 3, Presidential Conflicts of Interest Act, H.R. 371)

- Requires all Presidential appointees to recuse themselves from any matter in which a party is the President, the President's spouse, or an entity in which the President or President's spouse has a substantial interest.

Subtitle E – Severability Clause

- Clarifies that if any provision of this Title or amendment made by this Title is held unconstitutional, the remainder of the Title shall not be affect by the holding.

TITLE VIII – ETHICS REFORMS FOR THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND FEDERAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Subtitle A – Executive Branch Conflict of Interest

Primary: Oversight and Reform (Derived from Financial Services Conflict of Interest Act, H.R. 859)

- Prohibits incentive payments from corporations to individuals entering government service.
- Prohibits federal procurement officers from accepting any compensation from a contractor to which the officer awarded a contract for two years after leaving government service.
- Prohibits a senior federal official from inappropriately using his or her position after leaving government service by restricting the employee from attempting to influence employees in the official's former agency for two years after the official's service ends.

Subtitle B – Presidential Conflicts of Interest

Primary: Oversight and Reform (Derived from Presidential Conflicts of Interest Act, H.R. 371 and Conflicts from Political Fundraising Act, H.R. 2493)

- States the Sense of Congress that the President and the Vice President should conduct themselves as if they were bound by the federal conflict of interest law.
- Requires the President and the Vice President to file a new financial disclosure report within 30 days of taking office.
- Treats the President and Vice President the same as Members of Congress by prohibiting them from contracting with the United States Government.

Subtitle C – White House Ethics Transparency

Primary: Oversight and Reform

- Mandates that Executive Branch ethics waivers be disclosed to the Office of Government Ethics and the public.

Subtitle D – Executive Branch Ethics Enforcement

Primary: Oversight and Reform (Derived from Executive Branch Comprehensive Enforcement Act, H.R. 5902)

- Reauthorizes the Office of Government Ethics.
- Enhances the Office of Government Ethics' enforcement mechanisms.

Subtitle E – Conflicts from Political Fundraising

Primary: Oversight and Reform (Derived from Conflicts from Political Fundraising Act, H.R. 2493)

- Require individuals nominated or appointed to Senate-confirmed positions and certain other senior government officials to disclose contributions by, solicited by or made on behalf of an individual. Also requires disclosure of certain types of gifts to these individuals or their families.
- Requires the Office of Government Ethics to issue rules on addressing conflicts of interest identified in these disclosures.

Subtitle F – Transition Team Ethics

Primary: Oversight and Reform (Derived from Transition Team Ethics Improvement Act, H.R. 4826)

- Requires Presidents-elect to develop ethics plans that apply to members of the transition.

Subtitle G – Ethics Pledge for Senior Executive Branch Employees

Primary: Oversight and Reform (Derived from Ethics in Public Service Act, H.R. 6732)

- Codifies the Obama-era Executive Branch ethics pledge.

Subtitle H – Severability Clause

- Clarifies that if any provision of this Title or amendment made by this Title is held unconstitutional, the remainder of the Title shall not be affect by the holding.

TITLE IX – CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS REFORM

Subtitle A – Requiring Members of Congress to Reimburse Treasury for Amounts Paid as Settlements and Awards Under Congressional Accountability Act

Primary: Administration

- Prohibits Members of Congress from using taxpayer funds to settle any case of employment discrimination acts by the Members.

Subtitle B – Conflicts of Interest

Primary: Administration

- Prohibits Members from serving on boards of for-profit entities.
- Codifies rules prohibiting Members and staff from using official position to further their financial interests or the financial interests of their immediate families.

Subtitle C – Campaign Finance and Lobbying Disclosure

Primary: Administration

- Requires the online linking of Federal Election Commission reports and Lobbying Disclosure Act reports.

Subtitle D – Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports

Primary: Oversight and Reform (Derived from Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act, H.R. 4631)

- Requires that all reports from federal agencies mandated by Congress be published online in a searchable and downloadable database.

Subtitle E – Severability Clause

- Clarifies that if any provision of this Title or amendment made by this Title is held unconstitutional, the remainder of the Title shall not be affect by the holding.

TITLE X – PRESIDENTIAL TAX TRANSPARENCY

Subtitle A – Presidential Conflicts of Interest

Primary: Ways & Means (Derived from Presidential Conflicts of Interest Act, H.R. 371)

- Requires sitting Presidents and Vice Presidents, as well as candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency, to release their tax returns.