



ROLLOUT PACKET

H.R. 1, THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

The 2020 election underscored the need for comprehensive, structural democracy reform. Americans across the country were forced to overcome rampant voter suppression, gerrymandering and a torrent of special-interest dark money just to exercise their vote and their voice in our democracy.

It shouldn't have to be this way.

That's why House Democrats are committed to advancing H.R. 1, the For the People Act – a transformational anti-corruption and clean elections reform package – in the 117th Congress.

We will clean up corruption in Washington, empower the American people and restore faith and integrity to our government. H.R. 1 will get us there.



H.R. 1 TALKING POINTS

- **H.R. 1 IS TRANSFORMATIONAL:** The For the People Act is the most comprehensive anti-corruption and clean elections reform package in a generation. Its highlights include:
 - **Expanding automatic voter registration and same day registration.**
 - **Strengthening vote by mail, early voting and ballot access.**
 - **Combating voter intimidation and voter suppression.**
 - **Protecting elections from foreign interference.**
 - **Fixing partisan gerrymandering.**
 - **Promoting digital ad transparency.**
 - **Forcing disclosure of dark money.**
 - **Reining in lobbyist influence.**
 - **Enforcing ethics and conflict of interest rules for all government officials.**
 - **Empowering small donors with matching funds paid for by lawbreakers, not taxpayers.**
- **H.R. 1 IS UNIFYING:** Key provisions of H.R. 1 are widely supported by the American people – including majorities of Democrats, Independents and Republicans. After one of the most divisive elections in American history, H.R. 1 can rally the public around the integrity of the franchise and the imperative to put the public interest ahead of special interests. This empowering and transformational effort can unify both the country and our party. In the 116th Congress, every single Democrat on Capitol Hill, from AOC to Joe Manchin, cosponsored H.R. 1 or its companion in the Senate.
- **H.R. 1 ENJOYS BROAD GRASSROOTS SUPPORT:** More than 170 groups from the civil rights, labor, environmental, faith, consumer protection and gun safety communities have joined together to support H.R. 1 and the larger democracy reform movement. These groups know that we cannot make any progress on the issues that Americans care deeply about unless we change the status quo in Washington and end the era of big money in our politics. (See [here](#) for endorsement letters. Updated regularly.)
- **H.R. 1 CAN HELP DEMS WIN:** Because of its appeal in deep blue districts as well as in swing districts where Trump added more voters in 2020, H.R. 1 unifies Democrats in ways that few other issues can. When we unrig the rules of our democracy, the best ideas and candidates will win the day in 2022 and beyond.

H.R. 1 SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January XX, 2021

CONTACT

[NAME] | (###) ###-####

[REP.] Joins House Democrats in Introducing Transformational Anti- Corruption and Clean Elections Reform Package

*H.R. 1, the For the People Act, Will Clean Up
Corruption in Washington, Protect and Expand
the Right to Vote and Restore Ethics and Integrity
to Government*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – [REP.] today joined House Democrats in introducing H.R. 1, the For the People Act, a sweeping anti-corruption package to clean up Washington, protect and expand voting rights, restore integrity to government and put the needs and priorities of the American people ahead of special interests.

H.R. 1 delivers on Democrats' steadfast promise to clean up corruption and end the chaos in Washington. It offers the most transformational and comprehensive suite of anti-corruption reforms in a generation.

"The American people are tired of the chaos, corruption and inaction that plagues our democracy," **said [REP]**. "They want leaders who will follow through on big promises and do what the voters – not the donors – say."

[REP.] continued: "H.R. 1 will protect the right to vote, ensure the integrity of our elections, crack down on lobbyists and Washington insiders, hold elected officials accountable and end the era of big money in our politics. This historic reform effort will clean up decades of dysfunction in Washington, return power back to the American people and put us on an inspired path toward a more equitable, just and prosperous future."

Key provisions of the For the People Act include:

- Expanding automatic voter registration and same-day registration;
- Strengthening vote by mail, early voting and ballot access;

- Combating voter intimidation and voter suppression;
- Protecting elections from foreign interference;
- Fixing partisan gerrymandering;
- Promoting digital ad transparency;
- Forcing disclosure of dark money;
- Reining in lobbyists and Washington insiders;
- Empowering small donors against special interests and Super PACs; and
- Enforcing ethics and conflict of interest rules for all government officials.

For more information about H.R. 1 see [here](#).

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H.R. 1 FACT SHEET

CLEAN AND FAIR ELECTIONS

- **Improve Access** – H.R. 1 expands access to the ballot box by taking aim at institutional barriers to voting, including cumbersome voter registration systems, disenfranchisement and limited voting hours. H.R. 1 will create automatic voter registration across the country, ensure that individuals who have completed felony sentences have their full voting rights restored, expand early voting and enhance absentee voting, simplify voting by mail, reduce long lines and wait times for voters and modernize America’s voting system.
- **Promote Integrity** – H.R. 1 commits Congress to build the record necessary to restore the Voting Rights Act, as embodied by the House-passed H.R. 4. It also commits Congress to deliver full congressional voting rights and self-government for the residents of the District of Columbia, which only statehood can provide, 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 with paper ballots and also by increasing oversight of election system vendors and by 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 strengthens the political power of hardworking Americans by creating a multiple matching system for small donations. This innovative, 21st-century system of citizen-owned elections will break the stranglehold of special interests on Congress and lay the groundwork for an agenda that meets the needs of the American people. The voluntary multiple matching system will be completely paid for by a new surcharge on corporate law breakers and wealthy tax cheats. That way, the individuals and corporations who break the public trust – like Wells Fargo, which created fake bank accounts for unwitting customers, or Volkswagen, which lied about harmful carbon emissions from its vehicles, or Facebook, which violates Americans’ privacy, or Purdue Pharma, which fueled the opioid crisis – bear the cost of building a more just and equitable democracy. H.R. 1 also reaffirms Congress’ authority to regulate money in politics, pushing back on the Supreme Court’s wrong-headed *Citizens United* decision.
- **Strengthen Oversight** – H.R. 1 ensures that there are cops on the campaign finance beat that 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 SERVANTS 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.

H.R. 1 SAMPLE SOCIAL

GRAPHICS

- To the American people: @HouseDemocrats hear you.

We know that you're tired of the chaos, corruption and inaction that plagues our country. That's why we made our first priority #HR1 – the most comprehensive anti-corruption and clean elections effort in a generation. #ForThePeople

- #HR 1 will:

🗳️ Protect the right to vote.

🛡️ Ensure the integrity of our elections.

👤 Crack down on lobbyists and Washington insiders.

⚖️ Hold elected officials accountable.

💰 End the era of big money in our politics.

- #HR1 is historic.

It will clean up decades of corruption and dysfunction in Washington. It will return power back to the American people. And it will put us on an inspired path toward a more equitable, just and prosperous future.

- It's time to rescue our democracy. @HouseDemocrats' just introduced #HR1 – the most ambitious anti-corruption and clean elections reforms in a generation. We will fight tirelessly to return power back to the American people!
- Today, I joined @HouseDemocrats in proudly introducing #HR1 to put an end to protect and expand the right to vote, expose “dark money” in our politics, empower hardworking Americans, multiply the power of small donors and stop wealthy special interests from buying votes and influence.

- Today, I joined @HouseDemocrats to introducing #HR1 to protect the sacred right to vote. H.R. 1 will help speed up the lines at the ballot box, repair shoddy voting machines, end cynical voter suppression schemes and halt voter roll purges.

Importantly, this bill will lay the groundwork to restore the Voting Rights Act, establish automatic national voter registration and end partisan gerrymandering.

- Today, I joined @HouseDemocrats to introduce #HR1 to make sure that politicians serve the public interest, not the special interests. We will create new ethical standards across all three branches of government, crack down on lobbyists and Washington insiders and put an end to corruption in Washington.
- When we end the cycle of corruption and special-interest influence in Washington, our government will work #ForThePeople and deliver real results for hardworking American families.

By cleaning up Washington, we can: [INSERT ANY EXAMPLE BELOW]

- Raise wages and create millions of good-paying jobs.
- Lower prescription drug prices and improve access to high-quality health care.
- Strengthen our infrastructure and modernize American roads, highways, bridges, buildings, harbors and airports.
- Expand opportunity and prosperity with new pathways to high-quality education.
- Deliver justice and equality to marginalized communities of color and end LGBTQ discrimination.
- Reforming our broken immigration system and pass the Dream Act.
- Establish universal high-speed internet and protect #NetNeutrality.