

Background: The For the People Act

What's Wrong With American Politics?

American democracy is broken. Public faith is at an all-time low in U.S. elections, in the integrity of our campaign finance system, and in the basic concept of “government of the people, by the people, for the people,” as President Abraham Lincoln once said.

What is the For The People Act?

The For the People Act (S. 1) is legislation in the U.S. Congress that would put in place common-sense reforms to strengthen American democracy. The bill would enact **safer and more reliable voting** standards, end the **influence of dark money** in American elections, and restore **ethics and accountability** within government. In short, the legislation would ensure that the government works for the people – not for politicians, special interests, and their donors.

Elections & Voting Reforms in S.1

- End partisan gerrymandering by both Democrats and Republicans, establishing *independent* redistricting commissions that have been adopted in states like Arizona, Idaho, and Michigan.
- Establish safe, common-sense voting protections, such as early voting and absentee voting, that help vulnerable populations – including veterans, seniors, and Native populations – participate in the democratic process.
- Modernize the voter registration process and eliminate voter purging, so that (for example) if you do not vote in a certain election, you will not be de-registered as a voter in your state.
- Help states update voting equipment and properly administer elections, to ensure that elections are safe, secure, and protected.

Campaign Finance Reforms in S.1

- Ban on dark money in politics by requiring political groups to disclose their largest donors, and improve transparency by disclosing where online ad spending is coming from.
- Elevate the voices of everyday voters, hardworking families, and Main Street small businesses by improving the process for small-dollar donations, and limiting the power of special interest spenders in places like Hollywood and Wall Street.
- Empower the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to hold violators of American campaign laws accountable.

Ethics and Anti-Corruption Reforms in S.1

- Close loopholes that allow foreign governments and agents to secretly influence U.S. politics.
- “Drain the swamp” by reducing the power of career lobbyists in Washington.
- Slow down the revolving door between those who are lobbyists and those writing our laws in public service.
- Establish stricter conflict-of-interest rules for Members of Congress and the White House.