

H.R. 1

The “For the People Act”

H.R. 1—the For the People Act—is a once-in-generation package of reforms to strengthen American democracy and ensure that it works for the people. The legislation passed the House of Representatives in March by a vote of 234 to 193, with all the Democrats present voting in favor of H.R. 1 and all Republicans opposed.

H.R. 1 will make elections fairer and freer; end the dominance of big money in our politics; and ensure that public servants put the public’s interest ahead of special interests.

Here are some of its key provisions:

H.R. 1 Ensures Fair Elections:

- **Improves Access** – H.R. 1 expands access to the ballot box by taking aim at institutional barriers to voting, including confusing and cumbersome registration systems, limited voting hours, other major roadblocks to a more participatory democracy. H.R. 1 will create automatic voter registration across the country that will bring up to 50 million eligible new voters on to the rolls; 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.
- **Promotes Integrity** – H.R. 1 commits Congress to build the legislative record necessary to restore the Voting Rights Act to curb discrimination in voting; prohibits voter roll purges like those seen in Ohio, Georgia, and elsewhere; and ends partisan gerrymandering to prevent politicians from picking their voters.
- **Ensures Security** – H.R. 1 ensures that American elections are decided by American voters without foreign 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.

H.R. 1 Ends the Dominance of Big Money in Our Politics:

- **Guarantees Disclosure and Transparency** – H.R. 1 shines a light on dark money in politics by updating 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 spenders and special interests to hide the true funding source of their political spending.
- **Empowers Citizens** – H.R. 1 gives political power to everyday Americans, creating a matching system for small donations – paid for by wealthy tax dodgers and corporate lawbreakers – thereby allowing the American people to exercise their influence in politics. This new 21st century system of citizen-owned elections will break special

interests' grip 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 wrong-headed *Citizens United* decision by the Supreme Court.

- **Strengthens Oversight** – H.R. 1 ensures that our campaign finance laws are enforced. H.R. 1 tightens rules on super PACs so that they cannot operate as arms of candidate campaigns. It also restructures the Federal Election Commission to break the gridlock and enhance its enforcement mechanisms. It also repeals special interest protections that block government agencies from requiring commonsense disclosure of political spending.

H.R. 1 Ensures Public Officials Work for the Public Interest

- **Fortifies 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.
- **Imposes 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.

Read H.R. 1 – The “For the People Act”

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1/text/eh>

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