



*Of and For the People:  
A Good Governance & Campaign Finance Reform Agenda*

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The United States of America was founded on the principle that our government is of and for the people. We each have the right to engage in the political process, express our opinions and concerns, and vote for the representatives we want to be our voice in Washington.

However, across the campaign trail, I have been struck by how often people share the view that Congress is not working for them. People feel that their opinion doesn't matter, that their needs do not matter, and that ultimately their vote doesn't matter. If we are to live up to our principle of being a government of and for the people, we must ensure that voters have faith, not just in those whom they send to Washington, but also in our election process and in our Congress.

To do that, we need greater transparency and accountability in Congress. Voters must know that their elected representatives are focused on serving them, not special interests, not themselves, not anyone, but the voters. I believe that it is the responsibility of candidates and Members of Congress to hold themselves to the highest standards of ethical behavior and accountability, and commit to strengthening our system with reforms that will restore trust, and give voters a stronger voice.

If I am elected, the voters can expect me to earn and maintain their trust by committing to do the following:

**Hold regular town halls:** I will hold open and publicized town halls in every county in our district in my first year in Congress. As your representative, I will be your voice in Washington, and I want to ensure I have the opportunity to regularly listen to your thoughts and concerns.

**Release a public schedule:** As a member of Congress, I will release a public schedule of how I am spending my time, and who I am meeting within my Congressional office.

**Support No Budget, No Pay Act:** Members of Congress have an essential duty to pass a federal budget; however, it has been twenty years since they have completed that job on time. This is unacceptable, and as a former federal employee, I have seen the chaos and disruption caused by government shutdowns. In Congress, I will support the bipartisan No Budget, No Pay Act. If Members of Congress aren't doing their job, they should not get paid until they do.

**Stop the abuse of taxpayer-funded mail:** Members of Congress have the right to use taxpayer dollars to communicate with their constituents, but they have the responsibility to use this right ethically. Too many Members of Congress send glossy, promotional mailers at taxpayers' expense. This isn't communication, this is campaigning and it is inappropriate. I commit to using correspondence to inform and engage, not campaign.

**Forgo corporate PAC money:** I have made the choice to forgo corporate PAC donations because it is important to me that (1) voters not perceive that corporate entities might have undue influence on my voting because of a donation, and (2) I want to have strong relationships with employers and corporations that do business in our district because those relationships will allow me to best represent voters and strengthen our local economy. I want to leave no room for doubt that when I am meeting with businesses, it is to best serve the district, not to pursue campaign contributions.

**Require transparency on social media ads:** While some platforms have voluntarily adopted rules to disclose who or what entities finance political ads on their platforms, Congress should pass a law to require digital advertisements meet the same political disclosure requirements as television ads.

**Strengthen disclosure of outside political spending:** Individuals who donate directly to candidates must disclose their contributions, but the same standard is not applied to certain non-profit organizations which can play significant roles in politics. Congress must work to ensure that all political giving is transparent to avoid undue influence on elections by individuals or organizations. Such disclosures would also serve to prevent foreign money from interfering in our elections.

**Support a Constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United:** The 2010 Supreme Court decision opened the floodgates of unlimited money in our elections, without providing additional requirements to disclose that money. A Constitutional amendment would give Congress the ability to pass laws regulating spending in our elections.

**End gerrymandering:** Congressional districts shouldn't be drawn to protect any one politician or party. We need fairly-drawn, non-partisan districts to ensure the health of our representative democracy, and if elected, I will use my voice to advocate for fair districts that are compact, contiguous, and respect our communities.

**Automatic voter registration at age 18:** To be a government *of and for* the people, we should make use of technology and existing resident data to automatically register every eligible voter when they turn 18.

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