



TURNING CYNICISM INTO CONFIDENCE: ADVANCING INTEGRITY IN OUR DEMOCRACY

National Education Association Auditorium | Washington DC | November 7, 2017

AGENDA

- 9:30 – 10:00 **Registration**
- 10:00-10:25 **Welcome: Overview of Conference Goals**
Karen Hobert Flynn, President, Common Cause
Becky Pringle, Vice President, National Education Association
- 10:30 – 12:00 **Opening Plenary Session**
Abuse of Power: Applying the Lessons of Watergate to the Trump Era
Abuses of presidential power during the Nixon Administration tested the strength of our democracy. Now, we're in the midst of another stress test. What happened during Watergate, why was the response so important, and what lessons can we draw from it today?
- Speakers:**
Richard Ben-Veniste
Former prosecutor in the Watergate Special Prosecution Task Force; Partner, Mayer Brown LLP
- David Cole**
Legal Director
American Civil Liberties Union
- The Hon. Elizabeth Holtzman**
Member of House Judiciary Committee during Nixon impeachment;
Counsel, Herrick Feinstein LLP
- Moderator - Karen Hobert Flynn**
President, Common Cause

12:00 – 12:30

Lunch

12:30 – 1:45

Keynote - Yascha Mounk - Lecturer on Government at Harvard University; Senior Fellow in the Political Reform Program at New America; Columnist at Slate; Host of The Good Fight podcast.

1:45 – 2:00

Break

2:00 – 3:15

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION 1: Ethics in the Trump Era

Watchdogging conflicts of interest, both domestic and foreign. Session also will explore reforms we might need to strengthen ethics laws.

Speakers:

Norm Eisen

Senior Fellow
Governance Studies, Brookings

Meredith McGehee

Chief of Policy, Programs and Strategy
Issue One

Omar Ashmawy

Staff Director & Chief Counsel
Office of Congressional Ethics

Annie Linskey

Chief National Correspondent
Boston Globe

Moderator - Chris Gates

Senior Advisor, Common Cause

SESSION 2: Money in Politics

This panel will explore money-in-politics reform efforts at the city, state and federal levels, including the recently-introduced federal Honest Ads Act, disclosure and small donor funding reforms in cities and states, and efforts to bring more transparency and accountability to corporate spending in politics.

Speakers:

Wendy Fields

Executive Director
Democracy Initiative

Bruce Freed

President and Co-Founder
Center for Political Accountability

Lindsey Kerr
Democratic Chief Counsel
Senate Rules Committee, United States Senate

Moderator - Paul S. Ryan
Vice President of Policy & Litigation
Common Cause

3:15 – 3:30

Break

3:30 – 4:45

Plenary

Election Security: *Foreign actors organized cyber-attacks on U.S. election infrastructure in 2016. Given this new threat paradigm, how can we boost the resilience of our election infrastructure and prepare for 2018 and 2020 elections?*

Speakers:

Tom Hicks

Vice-Chair

U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Marian Schneider

President

Verified Voting

John Marion

Executive Director

Common Cause Rhode Island

Max Bergmann

Senior Fellow

Center for American Progress

Moderator - Susannah Goodman

Director of Voting Integrity, Common Cause

4:45 – 5:00

Conference Wrap-Up

5:00

Reception in Atrium