

Holding Power Accountable

Common Cause Urges the House to Pass H.R. 1, the For the People Act; Will Score the Vote in Our Democracy Scorecard

March 1, 2021

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of Common Cause's 1.5 million members and 30 state chapters, we write in strong support of the For the People Act, H.R. 1, and **urge you to vote "yes"** when the House considers the bill later this week. This transformational democracy reform package would help return power to everyday Americans and amplify the voices of everyone, regardless of our age, skin color, or zip code. We strongly urge you to support this pro-voter, anti-corruption legislation, which is the boldest reform since the Watergate era. **We will score the vote on final passage of H.R. 1 in our next [Democracy Scorecard](#) and may score any votes that attempt to weaken the bill.**

The 2020 election underscored the urgent need for big and bold democracy reform. Across the nation and in the midst of a pandemic, Americans experienced new types of voter suppression, often directed at Black and brown voters, that forced many to choose between their health and their right to vote; historic levels of dark money that drowned out the voices of voters; and rampant ethical abuses by big moneyed corporate and special interests.

The For the People Act would address all of these issues by shifting power to everyday Americans through three overarching goals: (1) protecting and strengthening the sacred freedom to vote and be fairly represented, (2) ending the dominance of big money in politics, and (3) implementing anti-corruption, pro-ethics measures to clean up government. Until we strengthen our democracy and break wealthy special interests' stranglehold on the status quo, we likely won't be able to fully address critical issues that directly affect the lives of millions of Americans. Addressing climate change, gun violence, and guaranteed healthcare, for example, will be that much more difficult to achieve without first passing the For the People Act.

The For the People Act has bold provisions, many of which have [passed at the state and local level with strong bipartisan support](#), that would accomplish these goals. To protect and strengthen our freedom to vote, the bill would set uniform standards for election administration, such as automatic and same-day voter registration, no-excuse vote-by-mail for those who want it, and ample in-person early voting opportunities, while also stopping arbitrary voter purges. It would strengthen election security by requiring voter-verified paper ballot voting systems. The bill would vindicate every American's right to know who is influencing their votes and their views by shining a light on dark money in politics and create an alternate system for running for office that relies on the power of grassroots support rather than wealthy donors. Reforms in H.R. 1 would also mean that voters could choose their representatives, rather than incumbents manipulating districts to cherry-pick their voters.

Since 1970, [Common Cause](#) has been working to hold power accountable through lobbying, litigation, and organizing. Our non-partisan, pro-democracy work has helped pass hundreds of reforms at the federal, state, and local levels. We now have 30 state chapters and more than 1.5 million members around the country who are working to strengthen our democracy.



The For the People Act could be the last best chance to fix our broken democracy. If we can't get the For the People Act passed soon, we are putting our democracy at risk for a generation or more. We again **urge you to vote "yes" on the For the People Act** and to then push for swift passage of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act and the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, two bills that have also previously passed the House of Representatives and that would similarly amplify the voices of everyday Americans.

Sincerely,



Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause