

## Support for S.1, the *For the People Act*

“The *For The People Act* is important legislation that brings us another step closer to ensuring that every eligible Georgia voter can participate in our democracy. When we prioritize legislation that centers people and brings their concerns to the table, we have a better chance of getting it right. This comprehensive bill makes long-needed, pro-democracy reforms that would strengthen our democracy, and help ensure that our government remains by and for the people,” **said Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock.**

“There is an effort underway in more than 40 states to restrict the right to vote, including by limiting mail-in ballots and early voting opportunities. We should be making it easier for people to vote, not harder. That is why it’s so important for the Senate to pass the *For The People Act*. This critical legislation will also help fix our broken campaign finance system and enhance ethics and transparency requirements for government officials. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance these crucial reforms,” **said Senator Durbin.**

“The *For the People Act* is a strong first step toward rooting out corruption in Washington, protecting the fundamental right to vote, and shoring up our democratic institutions. I will be fighting to get this bill passed and will continue fighting for more reforms to strengthen our democracy and restore faith in government,” **said Senator Warren.**

“After Americans voted in record-numbers in 2020, it’s crucial that Congress moves forward on legislation to empower the American people, expand voting rights, and restore transparency to government. I’m proud to join Senators Merkley and Klobuchar, and my colleagues to re-introduce the *For The People Act* to help restore our democracy, tackle dark money in politics, and make it easier for eligible Americans to exercise their sacred right to vote,” **said Senator Ben Ray Luján.**

“Secret special interest influence is a rot in our democracy. Big corporations and wealthy donors have spent decades building an influence operation to control our government. Now, that operation denies Americans the franchise, lets lobbyists set the agenda, and drowns our politics in anonymous dark money. It’s time to pass the *For The People Act* and return power over American democracy where it belongs -- into the hands of Americans,” **said Senator Sheldon Whitehouse.**

“After years of attacks on our democratic institutions, now is the time to act boldly to make our democracy more inclusive and more accessible by making it easier for Americans to exercise their right to vote, getting big money out of our politics, and ensuring elected officials act with the integrity their offices demand,” **said Senator Booker.** “The *For the People Act* is an urgent and critically needed step to help make our democratic ideals a reality.”

“As our country grapples with an unprecedented public health and economic crisis, it is urgent that Congress acts to end the culture of corruption that puts special interests ahead of the

American people,” **said Senator Gillibrand.** “The *For the People Act* will root out corruption, increase transparency and accountability in government and protect and strengthen Americans’ sacred right to vote. Given the attacks on our democracy and the challenges many Americans continue to face in order to exercise their right to vote, I am particularly proud that this legislation includes key voting rights provisions from the Voter Empowerment Act, a bill that I worked on with my friend, the late Congressman John Lewis. The *For the People Act* would restore American’s faith in government and I urge all my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support it.”

“I am proud to join with Senator Merkley to co-sponsor the *For the People Act*, which would create clean and fair elections, end big money control of politics, and strengthen our ethics laws for federal employees. Among many important measures, this bill includes my legislation to crack down on the use of deceptive practices and voter intimidation efforts that are deliberately designed to suppress minorities’ voting rights. We have seen a sustained pattern and practice of foreign governments and political campaigns trying to sow division and create fear in communities of color about exercising their sacred right to vote, and these tactics should be illegal,” **said Senator Cardin.** “This measure also includes my Democracy Restoration Act (DRA), which would strengthen American communities by restoring voting rights to individuals when they have returned home after being released from incarceration. Voting is a fundamental right of citizenship, however, the United States is one of the few Western democracies that allows the permanent denial of voting rights for individuals with felony convictions. It’s simply wrong that state disenfranchisement laws deny citizens participation in our democracy.”

“The *For the People Act* is the most consequential reform proposal in a generation. It includes common-sense ideas that are broadly supported by the American people, from creating automatic and same-day voter registration to expanding options for early voting and vote by mail. We know these reforms work because they’ve worked in Colorado, where we have the second-highest turnout in America with 76 percent of eligible voters casting their ballots in the last election,” **said Senator Bennet.** “I am especially pleased this bill reflects my proposals to ban partisan gerrymandering, close loopholes for lobbyists, and make it easier for college students to vote. By passing the *For the People Act*, we can fulfill our responsibility to hand our kids and grandkids a democracy in stronger shape than we found it.”

“As big corporations continue to flood U.S. elections with dark money and Republicans in states around the country attempt to erect barriers to voting, we must act urgently to put our democracy firmly back in the hands of the American people. This legislation will do just that. I’ve been proud to work alongside my colleagues to author elements of this package and to ensure that this sweeping bill will strengthen our democracy and reduce the power of big-money special interests. The *For the People Act* is crucial to guaranteeing that America has free and fair elections, and the Senate must get it done,” **said Senator Van Hollen.**

“As California’s former chief elections officer, I was proud to help strengthen election security and boost voter turnout by implementing the critical reforms contained in the *For the People*

Act. They are proven, they are secure, and they should be available to all voters,” **said Senator Padilla.** “Instead, we continue to witness an assault on American democracy based on lies and conspiracy theories. It has been two decades since Congress last took significant action to improve voter access and election administration--we cannot wait any longer. The fate of our democracy rests on our ability to protect voting rights for all citizens.”

**Statement of Lisa Gilbert, Executive Vice President of Public Citizen:**

“The introduction of the *For the People Act* as S.1 is a clear signal from the Senate that fixing the systemic problems of our democracy caused by long-term corruption is an absolute priority. Their push joins the House Speaker’s similar top billing when they introduced the legislation H.R. 1.

“It makes sense that both chambers have clearly expressed the importance of this bill. At a moment where we face an acute crisis of confidence in our democracy, the legislation includes provisions to make voting access easier, improve election security, limit secret political spending, deal with gerrymandering, create a small donor-focused public financing system to allow more candidates to run, install new ethics rules for the administration and Congress and much more. We applaud the Senate for moving quickly to take action at a critical juncture.”

**Statement of Fred Wertheimer, President of Democracy 21:**

“Democracy 21 applauds Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senator Jeff Merkley and Senator Amy Klobuchar for the critical national leadership they are providing to fix our broken political system and repair our democracy.

“The voting rights and campaign finance issues starkly demonstrated in the 2020 elections and the gross ethics abuses of the Trump presidency have only affirmed just how essential it is to enact S. 1, the *For the People Act*, the legislative effort they are leading in the Senate. S. 1 provides effective solutions to address voter suppression and discrimination, influence-seeking political money, extreme partisan gerrymandering, government ethics abuses and election security problems. Congress should move swiftly to enact the *For the People Act* in order to have these necessary reforms in effect for the 2022 congressional elections.”

**Statement of Karen Hobert Flynn, President of Common Cause:**

“All Americans deserve to have their voices heard and votes counted, regardless of the size of their wallets or the color of their skin. However, for far too long, special interests, the ultra-wealthy, and corporate lobbyists have had a megaphone, and vote suppressors continued attempts to silence the voices of largely Black and Brown communities leave many Americans feeling voiceless. The transformative *For the People Act* would significantly shift the balance of power and put ‘we the people’ in charge of our democracy. We commend Majority Leader Schumer, Senator Merkley, and Senator Klobuchar for championing the *For the People Act* and designating it as S. 1. We look forward to overcoming Senator McConnell’s continued blockade and getting the *For the People Act* across the finish line to President Biden’s desk.”

**Statement of Mara Rudman, executive vice president for policy at the Center for American Progress:**

“In recent weeks, our democracy has been challenged in unprecedented ways, including through lies designed to overturn a presidential election and an attempted insurrection as Congress tallied electoral votes. We now must fortify our democracy and enact the sweeping pro-voter/anti-corruption reforms in the *For the People Act*. We applaud Senate Majority Leader Schumer, along with Senators Merkley and Klobuchar, for their leadership on this transformative legislation, as we fight to ensure that all Americans—including historically marginalized communities—have their voices equally heard in our system of representation.”

**Statement of Tiffany Muller, President of End Citizens United // Let America Vote Action**

**Fund:** “Senate Democrats are leading the fight to strengthen our democracy and restore the American people’s faith in government. The violent and deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol underscores the urgent need to pass the For the People Act (S. 1/H.R. 1) to repair our democracy and move forward together as a country. Majority Leader Schumer, Senator Merkley, and Senate Rules Chair Klobuchar have been at the forefront of the fight to pass this transformational anti-corruption, voting rights and ethics reform bill. On behalf of our more than four million members, we applaud them for their bold leadership and commitment to making our democracy work for all Americans.”

**Statement of Michael Waldman, President of the Brennan Center for Justice:**

“S. 1 would be the most significant democracy reform in over half a century. It is the next great civil rights bill. Majority Leader Schumer, Senator Merkley, and Chairwoman Klobuchar deserve real credit for their efforts championing this legislation. It is urgently needed. Today lawmakers in states across the country are seeking to restrict the vote, the most significant cutback since the Jim Crow era. This bill stops that voter suppression wave, cold. Redistricting will start soon and will likely be marked by extreme gerrymandering. This bill guarantees fair representation. It takes automatic voter registration and makes it the law of the land. And it includes small donor public financing, the most important response to *Citizens United*. It is, as President Biden called it, a ‘landmark.’ We are committed to seeing it reach the president’s desk.”