



Dear CANDIDATE,

As former elected officials, we write today to urge you to speak publicly about specific solutions that you would support to solve the governing crisis spawned by the dominance of money in American politics. We, the undersigned, are members of the ReFormers Caucus, a bipartisan group of more than 100 former members of Congress and governors who are committed to restoring trust in our democratic institutions by reducing the power of money in politics. By virtue of our experiences in office, we have a unique perspective on the price we all pay under the current political system, and the escalating crisis in governance we now face.

Americans from across the political spectrum are [extremely concerned with the growing dominance of money in politics](#), which has ballooned into a crisis that threatens the ability of government to function at any level. This fact is borne out in scores of public opinion polls:

- 84 percent of Americans think money has too much power in our system (New York Times/CBS News);
- A third of the country consider the wealthy's influence over electoral outcomes a top concern (Wall Street Journal/NBC News);
- A recent Chapman University study found that more Americans fear corruption of government officials than anything else, including bioterrorism and economic collapse;
- 85 percent support fundamentally changing or completely rebuilding our current campaign finance system (New York Times/CBS News).

Main Street Americans, and voters specifically, know the amount of money in politics is a problem and are looking to their leaders to propose solutions. This is an issue that has tremendous support among Americans of all political persuasions, including those who support your campaign. Beyond decrying the problem of influence-peddling in Washington, we urge you to show that you're listening to their concerns by proposing specific policies that address this issue, such as:

- Disclosure and Transparency—Create immediate disclosure of political giving and spending and end “dark money.”
- Effective Enforcement—Depoliticize the Federal Election Commission and empower it to enforce the law.
- Lobbying and Money—Break the connection between lobbying and campaign contributions and reduce conflicts of interest.
- Innovation in the States—Support state and local efforts to pass laws that improve civic participation and strengthen the role of small political donors.



- The Courts—Forge a new jurisprudence that reasserts the authority of Congress to pass laws that define and regulate the role of money in federal elections and pass a constitutional amendment to ensure for future generations that voters, not just major donors, matter most in politics.

We have included the [Blueprints for Democracy report](#), detailing specific constitutional solutions to this grave issue and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your advisers to talk about actionable, bipartisan solutions that would fit your campaign. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Issue One's Gabriela Schneider at gab@issueone.org or 202.518.0749.

We urge you to listen to your supporters and to millions of Americans who are outraged by the excessive power of money in politics by articulating your vision for reform and providing substantive policy proposals that you will pursue from the Oval Office. We would be only too happy to support your effort to do so.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Members of the ReFormers Caucus:

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