



DECLARATION FOR
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

A DEMOCRACY FOR AND BY THE PEOPLE

America is at a crossroads. We have reached an unprecedented moment in our country's long journey toward a fully inclusive democracy. For the past decade, we've seen a shift away from government representation for the people to representation for the billionaires and corporate interests.

Voter suppression laws have systematically put up barriers for eligible voters to make their voices heard, while extreme partisan and racial gerrymandering has silenced the voices of entire communities. Billionaires and corporate interests continue to spend exorbitant sums in our political system to ensure their priorities are incentivized in the halls of power, which often are at odds with the American people.

Now, this administration is pushing the limits of executive power to the brink, normalizing rampant corruption, disregarding the rule of law and attacking the pillars of civil society itself.

From this decimated government and broken political system, we have the opportunity to build a government that truly is of, by, and for the people. **This is our Declaration for American Democracy:**

A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, AND FOR THE PEOPLE

A true democracy is one in which the people choose the representatives who make the critical policy decisions that guide the direction of our country and communities. A democracy requires that its cornerstones, from a free press to our right to protest to access to justice, to our right to free speech, remain intact. It requires that our basic human and civil rights be protected under the law, where no concentration of power is allowed to threaten the people's rights.

ENSURE OUR FREEDOM TO VOTE

A Democracy for the People must ensure every eligible voter can participate in our elections without barriers, confusion, or intimidation. Our electoral system must be designed to ensure all voices are heard. We must eliminate discriminatory voter suppression policies, realize fair representation through enfranchisement and fair districting, and enact national standards for our elections to ensure every eligible voter can easily cast their ballot and trust that their vote will be accurately counted.

PROTECT AGAINST GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION

A Democracy for the People serves all of us, rather than the self-interests of those who govern. This requires government transparency and binding rules for Congress, the President, and the courts to root out conflicts of interest. In addition to oversight, we must have enforcement mechanisms to hold individuals accountable – regardless of who they are or what position they hold. Our democracy requires comprehensive safeguards that prevent self-dealing and

ensure no one in power, whether a President, judge, or Member of Congress, can use public office to advance their own personal or financial interests.

EMPOWER THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

A Democracy for the People responds to the needs of people and their communities. The voices of the people should not be drowned out by billionaires or corporate interests who use their wealth to buy access, curry favor, and shape policy and elections. We must root out the corrosive influence of big money in politics and address the various ways special interests work to influence Members of Congress and government officials – whether through campaign cash or funding pet projects. A true democracy amplifies community voices and makes it possible for everyday people to run for office.

MAINTAIN CHECKS, BALANCES, AND THE RULE OF LAW

A Democracy For the People depends on a system of checks and balances. We must add safeguards and accountability mechanisms to prevent government overreach and to reinforce the powers allocated to each branch of government by our Constitution. We must stop abuse of power from the executive branch and ensure other branches have sufficient means to hold an administration accountable. This includes putting protections in place to ensure nonpartisan civil servants can do their jobs as mandated by Congress without purges or politicization, and preventing the weaponization of independent government agencies. The courts must pursue equal justice under the law, not partisan political agendas. Whether a president, a judge, a member of Congress, a CEO, or anyone else, no one is above the law.