



## House Resolution #1 (H.R.1)

### “FOR THE PEOPLE” ACT

H.R.1 is an omnibus bill to expand Americans’ access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, and strengthen ethics rules for public servants.

# Our Democracy is in Danger!

Without free, fair and secure elections, our **Democracy will Die**

On March 8, 2019, the House of Representatives passed **H.R.1, the “For the People” Act**, as its **number one priority** for the legislative session. Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. John Sarbanes announced the bill’s passage on the steps of Congress on March 11. To date, the Senate has refused to bring H.R.1 to the floor for debate and vote. America needs to pass this crucial Act in order to assure the survival of our constitutional democracy.

<p>The 700-page <b>H.R.1 “For the People” Act 2019</b> is divided into three divisions: Voting, Campaign Finance and Ethics. Each division is further broken down into “titles” (T1 - T10). A brief overview of the resolutions in each title is described on the next few pages.</p>	Division A	T-1 Election Access
	Voting	T-2 Election Integrity
		T-3 Election Security
	Division B	T-4 Campaign Fin. Transparency
	Campaign Finance	T-5 Campaign Fin. Empowerment
		T-6 Campaign Fin. Oversight
	Division C	T-7 Ethics Standards
	Ethics	T-8 Ethical Reforms - Pres. & VP
		T-9 Congressional Ethics Reforms
		T-10 Tax transparency - Pres. & VP

*“A robust democracy reform package that will give everyday people a bigger voice in politics and create a more ethical and accountable government” - Common Cause statement about H.R.1*

## Title I – Election Access

- Provides for online, automatic, and same-day voter registration in all states
- Makes “Election Day” a federal holiday (private business participation)
- Requires voter-verified paper ballots for all federal elections (source of final truth)
- Mandates minimum two weeks of early voting for all federal elections
- Restores felon voting rights on completion of prison and probation time

Other: Pre-registration of minors; prohibition of voter caging; penalties for registration interference; penalties for voter deception practices; voting by mail with verified signature; voting with written sworn statement; poll worker training; and prohibition of election officials from participation in campaigns.

## Title II – Election Integrity

- Restores the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Requires non-partisan commissions for state redistricting\*\*
- Grants statehood to the District of Columbia
- Prohibits purging of voter lists without objective evidence of ineligibility
- Assures Native American’s right to vote is unhindered

Other: Congressional task force to study voting rights of territorial citizens; prevents removal from voter list due to failure to vote; attributes incarcerated individuals to their last place of residence for census purposes.



## Title III – Election Security

- Creates a National Commission on protecting U.S. democratic Institutions
- Develops a national election security strategy, including adoption of paper ballot systems and post-election risk-limiting audits
- Provides federal grants to states for election security
- Requires testing and cybersecurity certification of federal election software and hardware
- Requires U.S. federal voting machines to be manufactured in the United States

Other: Requires Homeland Security to designate election infrastructure; defines electronic poll books as part of voting system; requires Homeland Security to assess and inform states of any election threats; requires testing of voting systems nine months before a Federal election; establishes the “Election Security Bug Bounty Program” to encourage independent assessment of election system security of experts.

\*\*Justice Elena Kagan’s dissenting opinion in *Rucho v. Common Cause* gerrymandering case – Oct. 28, 2019

“For the first time ever, this court refuses to remedy a constitutional violation because it thinks the task beyond judicial capabilities. And not just any constitutional violation. The partisan gerrymanders in these cases deprived citizens of the most fundamental of their constitutional rights; the rights to participate equally in the political process, to join with others to advance political beliefs, and to choose their political representatives.”

## Title IV – Campaign \$ Transparency

- Bans shell companies and other illicit activities that allow foreign money to enter and undermine democracy
- Bans contributions from corporations with significant foreign control
- Shuts down the use of transfers between organizations used to cloak the identity of the source donor
- Clarifies rules regarding the governance of court challenges to campaign finance law
- Requires super-PACs, 501(4) groups and other groups to disclose donors who contribute more than \$10,000
- Requires large digital platforms to maintain a public database of political ad purchase requests of more than \$500
- Directs digital platforms to implement measures to prevent foreign nationals from directly or indirectly purchasing political ads
- Expands “stand-by-your ad” disclosure requirements to leaders of corporations, unions and other organizations purchasing political ads
- Repeals existing prohibition on the IRS from promulgating rules to bring clarity to rules governing 501(c)3 political activity
- Repeals existing prohibition on the SEC from finalizing rules to afford shareholders the opportunity to know about the political spending of publicly traded companies



**Dark Money:** *Funds raised for purposes of influencing elections by nonprofit organizations that are not required to disclose the identities of their donors*

- Repeals existing prohibition on the executive branch from promulgating rules to require government contractors to disclose all of their political spending
- Requires Presidential Inauguration Committees to disclose their expenditures, limits aggregate contributions, and restricts funds being used on purposes unrelated to the inauguration

## Title V - Campaign \$ Empowerment

- Citizens United decision: Expresses the need for Congress to amend the constitution to clarify federal and state authority to regulate campaign contributions and expenditures
- Establishes a publicly financed 6:1 matching system on the first \$200 for House candidates who demonstrate broad support and reject high-dollar donors
- Establishes a 6:1 matching system on the first \$200 of a presidential campaign
- Authorizes personal service expenditures for campaigns (childcare, elder care, rent, etc.)

## Title VI - Campaign Finance Oversight

- Restructures the Federal Election Commission to have five members (break deadlocks)
- Makes permanent the FEC’s civil penalty authority
- Stops super PAC-candidate coordination

## Title VII - Ethics Standards

- Requires the development of a code of ethics for Supreme Court judges
- Increases resources for Foreign Agent Registration Act (FARA) and creates an investigative unit with civil penalty powers
- Requires foreign agents to disclose financial transactions conferred to officeholders
- Clarifies that counseling in support of lobbying contacts is considered lobbying
- Requires all presidential appointees to recuse themselves from a matter in which the President or his/her spouse is a party

## Title VIII - Ethical Reforms for President and Vice President

- Requires Pres. and VP to file a new financial disclosure statement within 30 days of taking office
- Prohibits Pres. and VP from contracting with the U.S. government
- Requires disclosure of certain types of contributions to senior officials

- Requires President-elect to form an ethics plan for members of the transition
- Codifies the Obama-era executive ethics pledge

## Title IX - Ethics Reforms for Congress

- Requires members of Congress to reimburse the Treasury for any taxpayer funds used to settle member discrimination cases
- Prohibits members of Congress from sitting on boards of not-for-profit entities
- Requires the online linking of Federal Election Commission reports and Lobbying Disclosure Act reports
- Requires all reports from federal agencies mandated by Congress be published online in searchable and downloadable databases

## Title X - President and Vice President Tax Transparency

- Requires sitting Presidents and Vice Presidents, as well as candidates for President and Vice President, to release their tax returns



### WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PASS H.R.1 "FOR THE PEOPLE" ACT

- Share this pamphlet with friends and neighbors
- Support the proposals in online conversations
- Ask your Senator to support the bill
- Give financially to candidates who support H.R.1
- Vote for candidates who support the proposed resolutions

This information brought to you by Dale Anderson, M.D. and the Longboat Key Democratic Club. For questions/comments contact Howard Veit at [howardrv@gmail.com](mailto:howardrv@gmail.com), Becky van der Bogert at [vanderbogert@gmail.com](mailto:vanderbogert@gmail.com), or Dale Anderson at [dale.p.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:dale.p.anderson@gmail.com).

# The Republican Position on Critical National Issues Runs Counter to the Will of the Majority of Americans

*We now have a President and Party in power who don't believe in the fundamental principles of a liberal constitutional democracy and are hostile and dismissive towards the will of the great majority of Americans*

Major National Issue	Americans polled	Current Republican position	Survey Source
<input type="checkbox"/> Gov't Sponsored Healthcare	54% - F	Kill Obamacare	Kaiser F.F., 5/18
<input type="checkbox"/> Gun Regulation / Restriction	68% - F	No restrictions	Politico 2/18
<input type="checkbox"/> Abortion Rights	58% - F	Repeal Roe v. Wade	PEW res. 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> Same-Sex Marriage	67% - F	Oppose / Repeal	USA Today 5/18
<input type="checkbox"/> Move to Renewable Energy	70% - F	Block transition	Manslanky and Partners Poll 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> Net Neutrality	83% - F	Overtured by GOP	Program of Public Consultation, University of Md.
<input type="checkbox"/> Campaign Funding Reform	87% - F	Block reforms	NYTs/ABC '18
<input type="checkbox"/> Support for DACA citizen path	87% - F	Blocking action	ABC Poll '18
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Funding of Priv Schools	52-61% - A	Defund public schools	PDK Annual Poll on Amer. public Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Higher Taxation of the Rich	73% - F	Tax breaks for rich	Reuter's poll '17
<input type="checkbox"/> Addressing Global Warming	61-80% - F	Science denial	ABC/Langer '16

F - For, A - Against

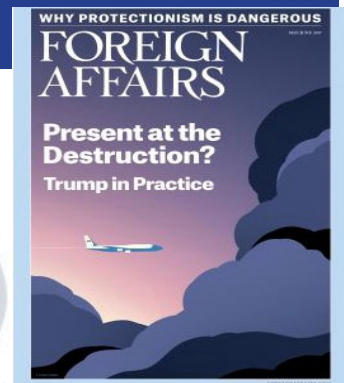
## OPPRESSION OF THE SUPER-MAJORITY

**“We are told that America is divided and polarized as never before. Yet when it comes to many important areas of policy, that simply isn't true.”**

**Tim Wu - Opinion NYT: 5 March 2019**

# The Modern Authoritarian's Playbook

"Is America Still Safe for Democracy" Foreign Affairs - May/June 2017



Authors:  
Steve Levitsky  
Robert Mickey  
Lucan Ahmad Way

## 3 Tactics of an Aspiring Autocrat & a Supportive Regime



### 1. Politicize State Institutions

- Courts
- Justice Department
- Military/CIA
- Agencies

### 2. Neutralize Key Parts of Civil Society

- Free Press/Journalists
- Universities/Experts
- Watchdog Organizations
- Right to Protest/Assemble

### 3. Rewrite the Rules of the Political Game

- Voting Rules
- Congressional Rules
- Campaign Financing
- Citizen Initiatives

## STRONGMAN TACTICS to CRIPPLE a DEMOCRACY

1. **Politicize State Institutions** – Our democracy relies on certain crucial independent bodies to oversee the integrity of our constitutional system. These include the Justice Department, the Federal Judges and Courts, the IRS, the Ethics oversight structures and other agencies. The autocrat's tactic of placing partisans in these roles is to position them to protect the presidency and his/her potential corrupt leaders, and to use the power of these positions to attack or intimidate political opponents.

2. **Neutralize Key Parts of Civil Society** – Autocrats attack entities that have traditionally played a role in speaking up to power and exposing nefarious activities of the leaders and party in control of the government. These entities include the free press, government watchdog organizations (such as the ACLU), universities, business leaders opposing the president, and groups organized to protest the decisions of a regime. Trump's relentless attacks on journalists and the press are an example of deploying this tactic.

3. **Rewrite the Rules of the Political Game** – Authoritarians change how politics operates to benefit the party in power allowing them to take actions that are not supported by the great majority of Americans without fear of political (election) punishment. Voter suppression tactics at the state level, the Senate refusal to appoint an Obama justice, and the failure to act in good faith in the impeachment trial of Donald Trump are just a few examples.

## THE ANTI-DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY