

Common Cause “Our Democracy 2020” Congressional Candidate Questionnaire

Common Cause’s Our Democracy 2020 campaign makes sure that voters know candidates’ positions on the democracy issues that matter to all Americans. We are asking every general election candidate for U.S. Congress 16 simple yes-or-no questions about important pro-democracy reforms—and if elected, our 1.3 million members will hold elected officials accountable for their answers. This comprehensive agenda helps policymakers and voters know there are concrete, commonsense steps we can take and proven solutions we can pass to make our government work for everyone.

If elected, you will endorse, prioritize, and support:

1. Passing the For the People Act (HR 1/S 949).
2. Making the voter registration process convenient, fair, and secure for all eligible Americans—including same-day (“Election Day”) and automatic voter registration, as more than one-dozen states already have.
3. Ensuring all eligible Americans can have safe and accessible voting options, such as vote-by-mail, no-excuse absentee voting, and early voting.
4. Restoring the Voting Rights Act to prevent states and localities from passing discriminatory voting laws.
5. Safeguarding elections from cyberattacks by requiring paper ballots for all voters and risk-limiting post-election audits.
6. Restoring voting rights of all persons convicted of wrongdoing after they have served their sentences (although Common Cause supports voting rights for currently incarcerated individuals, at a minimum, you support rights restoration for the previously-incarcerated).
7. Strengthening disclosure requirements for campaign-related and issue ad spending, including for online advertisements, by corporations and outside groups.
8. Creating a voluntary, non-taxpayer funded small donor matching program for congressional elections to amplify the role of small donors and enhance the voices of everyday Americans (Common Cause supports a variety of funding sources for state and local small donor systems).
9. Passing a constitutional amendment to overturn the *Citizens United* decision and other court cases that have empowered the wealthy and corporate entities to unduly influence American elections.
10. Requiring the President and Vice President to be subject to federal conflict-of-interest laws and require presidential candidates to publicly release their full tax returns for at least the three most recent taxable years.
11. Passing reforms to 1) enhance whistleblower protections; 2) protect Inspectors General; and 3) prevent future administrations from further politicizing the executive branch.

12. Requiring Supreme Court justices to be bound by a judicial code of ethics, as all other federal judges are.
13. Creating independent redistricting commissions, as nearly one-dozen states already have, to allow voters to choose their elected officials instead of politicians cherry-picking their voters.
14. Ending the practice of prison gerrymandering by requiring the Census Bureau to count incarcerated individuals as residents of their home community instead of place of incarceration.
15. Restoring the Federal Communications Commission's 2015 net neutrality rules, which preserved and protected the open Internet, as contained in the Save the Internet Act.
16. Passing laws that strengthen investments in digital inclusion programs including affordable, robust broadband services and access to digital literacy training to ensure all communities have access to communication technologies, such as through the [Digital Equity Act](#).

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Comments:

Please return your completed questionnaire to OurDemocracy2020@commoncause.org

Common Cause never endorses or opposes candidates. The sole purpose of this questionnaire is to advance the issues addressed.

