

# The People's Elections Act

*A Bill to Democratize Campaign Finance, End Gatekeeping, and Ensure Free & Fair Elections in the United States*

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## TITLE I — Democracy Vouchers & Public Financing

### **Voucher Allocation**

Every U.S. citizen age 18+ earning under \$75,000 annually shall receive \$25 per level of government (local, state, federal) each election cycle. Vouchers may be assigned to any ballot-qualified candidate.

### **Progressive Boost**

Citizens earning under \$35,000 annually shall receive double vouchers (\$50 per level of government).

### **Candidate Eligibility and Spending Cap**

Candidates who accept vouchers shall be bound by a total spending ceiling set annually by the Federal Election Commission, indexed to inflation. Acceptance of voucher funds constitutes voluntary agreement to the ceiling.

### **Outside Spending and Coordination**

Coordination, fundraising, or donor solicitation by a voucher candidate on behalf of an outside group is prohibited.

### **Penalties**

Any candidate or treasurer who conceals, launders, or misreports voucher funds shall face a minimum of 5 years in prison, fines equal to triple the concealed amount, and permanent disqualification from federal office.

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## **TITLE II — Ballot Access Reform**

### **National Federal Standard**

Any federal candidate who gathers signatures from .01% of registered voters in their jurisdiction qualifies for ballot placement in all states.

### **Geographic Distribution Requirement**

Presidential candidates must secure signatures from at least 10 states. House and Senate candidates must gather signatures across 25% of counties in their jurisdiction.

### **Digital Petition Access**

All states shall provide a secure online petition system verified through voter rolls.

### **Penalties**

Any state election authority that willfully blocks qualified candidates from ballot access shall forfeit federal election funding and face civil liability. Officials found guilty of deliberate obstruction shall face removal from office and up to 5 years in prison.

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## **TITLE III — Debate Access**

### **Federal Debate Commission**

Establish an independent, publicly funded debate commission separate from the DNC/RNC.

### **Eligibility**

Candidates qualify for debates if they meet one of the following:

- .01% petition threshold
- \$1M in small-dollar donations
- Verified online engagement equivalent to 1% of registered voters

### **Debate Mandates**

The Commission shall produce at least one publicly funded debate per race including all ballot-qualified candidates. Broadcasters licensed on the public airwaves must carry these debates as a condition of license.

### **Penalties**

Any broadcaster refusing to air required debates shall lose FCC license. Any Commission member colluding with parties or corporations shall face felony bribery charges and lifetime ban from public service.

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## **TITLE IV — Voting Systems Upgrade**

### **STAR Voting Standard**

All federal elections shall adopt STAR Voting (Score Then Automatic Runoff) within 5 years.

### **Proportional Representation Pilots**

At least five volunteer states shall implement proportional representation pilots within 3 years.

### **Binding Consideration**

Congress must hold a vote on nationwide proportional representation within 10 years.

### **Penalties**

Any state failing to implement STAR Voting by deadline shall forfeit federal election funds.

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## **TITLE V — Transparency & Oversight**

### **Real-Time Disclosure**

All donations and expenditures must be reported within 48 hours.

### **Beneficial Ownership Rule**

All political spenders must disclose ultimate beneficial owners.

### **Dark Money Ban**

Nonprofits engaged in political activity must disclose donors above \$200 or lose tax-exempt status.

### **Independent Public Auditor**

The Public Auditor for Elections shall have authority to freeze campaign accounts pending review of violations.

### **Penalties**

Failure to disclose donors shall result in immediate freezing of campaign funds. Willful concealment constitutes perjury punishable by 10 years in prison and permanent disqualification from office.

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## **TITLE VI — Accessibility & Inclusion**

### **Universal Voting Access**

Federal Election Day is a national holiday. All states required to provide no-excuse mail-in voting and at least 15 days of early voting.

### **Polling Access Standards**

No voter shall wait more than 30 minutes to cast a ballot.

### **Multi-Language Mandate**

Ballots must be provided in the top 10 languages of each jurisdiction.

### **Equal Candidate Resources**

Every ballot-qualified candidate shall receive free mailing, equal TV/radio ad blocks, and guaranteed placement in voter guides.

### **Penalties**

Counties failing to maintain access standards shall forfeit federal election funding until corrected. Officials who deliberately restrict access shall face civil rights felony charges and up to 10 years in prison.

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## **TITLE VII — Shared Infrastructure**

### **Public Data Trust**

Establish a nonpartisan voter data trust accessible to all ballot-qualified candidates.

### **Cybersecurity Safeguards**

Annual independent audits required.

### **Penalties**

Any official or contractor who compromises voter data integrity shall face felony cybercrime charges with up to 15 years in prison.

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## **TITLE VIII — Anti-Suppression Protections**

- Restore federal preclearance for election law changes under a new formula
- Ban mass voter purges without 60-day notice and cure opportunities
- Ban partisan voter challenges and coordinated challenge campaigns
- Guarantee Sunday voting and no-excuse mail ballots
- Minimum 14 days of early voting with weekend and evening options

### **Penalties**

Officials who engage in unlawful suppression shall face civil rights felony charges with minimum 10 years in prison and permanent disqualification from public office.

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## **TITLE IX — Fair Maps And Redistricting**

- Independent redistricting commissions required in every state
- Maps must meet fairness thresholds using measurable standards
- Three-judge federal panels review disputes within 30 days

### **Penalties**

Any map drawer or official submitting willfully gerrymandered maps shall face criminal contempt of Congress, removal from office, and up to 5 years in prison.

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## **TITLE X — Expansion Of The House**

- Repeal the 1929 cap and expand the House to ~585 seats
- Two-cycle phase-in with independent commission-drawn districts
- Federal grants fund new district offices and staff

### **Penalties**

Any state refusing to implement new districts shall forfeit federal election funding until compliance.

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## **TITLE XI — Anti-Corruption And Lobbying Reform**

### **Zero Tolerance Revolving Door Ban**

Former Members of Congress, Cabinet officials, and senior federal staff may never engage in compensated lobbying or shadow lobbying.

### **Exceptions**

Nonprofit advocacy with zero corporate/PAC money, academic, journalistic, or educational roles.

### **Penalties**

Violation constitutes a felony punishable by 10 years in prison. Offenders are permanently barred from federal contracts or advisory roles. Firms employing banned lobbyists face fines equal to 500% of lobbying spend and 10-year federal contract bans.

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## **TITLE XII — Election Worker Safety**

- Threatening, doxxing, stalking, or harassing election workers is a federal felony
- DOJ and Marshals Service shall provide rapid response protection

### **Penalties**

Individual violators face a minimum 10 years in prison. Coordinated intimidation campaigns shall be prosecuted under federal RICO statutes.

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## **TITLE XIII — Automatic And Same-Day Registration**

- Automatic voter registration at 18 with opt-out
- Same-day registration at all early voting and Election Day sites
- Modern online platforms with multi-language access

### **Penalties**

Any state refusing to implement automatic and same-day registration shall forfeit federal election funding until compliance.

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## TITLE XIV — Full Representation For DC And The Territories

- DC admitted as a state with two senators and one representative
- Territories hold binding self-determination votes within 3 years
- Congress must act within 1 year; if not, status change takes effect automatically

### Penalties

Failure of Congress to act on self-determination votes within the timeframe results in automatic enforcement under federal law.

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## TITLE XV — Administration, Funding, And Metrics

- Establish an Elections Standards Board for technical oversight
- GAO and Inspectors General must audit each Title on fixed timelines
- Public dashboards must report election fairness metrics in real time

### Penalties

Federal agencies or contractors who fail to comply with auditing and reporting shall forfeit budgets and contracts until compliance, with senior officials facing personal liability.

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### Plain English Summary

This bill doesn't just patch holes. It tears down the old rigged machinery and builds elections where billionaires can't buy outcomes, politicians can't draw their own maps, lobbyists can't sell access, and no voter gets silenced. Every vote counts, every voice is heard, and power flows back to the people. **Permanently.**