STRONGER AMERICA ✯ SECURING OUR DEMOCRACY

✯ STOPPING SECRET MONEY FROM BUYING ELECTIONS BY OVERTURNING CITIZENS UNITED AND PASSING THE DISCLOSE ACT ✯

PROBLEM: The American people deserve a political system that is fair, transparent, and accountable. And yet, the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United in January 2010 opened the floodgates to secret special interest money in American elections, and the surge of this money only continues to grow. Americans also have the right to know who is bankrolling the television ads that are designed to influence their votes.

SOLUTION: Democrats are committed to getting secret money out of American campaigns:

- Democrats will fight to pass the **Democracy for All Constitutional Amendment (H.J.Res. 22),** which would overturn the disastrous Citizens United Supreme Court decision of 2010. The best way to get our democracy back from the special interests is to ensure that the Citizens United decision is reversed. Since the Citizens United decision, there has been an explosion in special interest money in politics, and particularly an explosion in secret special interest money in politics.
- Democrats will also fight to pass the **DISCLOSE Act (H.R. 430).** This bill would significantly increase disclosure of political spending by corporations and outside groups to the Federal Election Commission; require corporations and outside groups to stand by their broadcast ads; require corporations to disclose their expenditures to their shareholders and organizations to disclose their expenditures to their members; and require lobbyists to disclose their campaign expenditures.

✯ LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD SO THE VOICES OF ALL AMERICANS CAN BE HEARD BY PASSING THE BY THE PEOPLE PACKAGE ✯

PROBLEM: The American Democracy is under siege. The wealthy and well-connected are flooding our politics with big-money campaign contributions. Candidates – dependent on these contributions to run competitive campaigns – are caught up in a bad system, required to court big donors. Too often, this also means that public policy suffers.

SOLUTION: Democrats will fight to pass the **By the People Package,** which includes numerous bills that are designed to restore our democracy. One of the key bills in the package is **Government by the People Act (H.R. 20).** To return power and a voice to the people, this bill would provide regular Americans, and the candidates they support, with the tools they need to compete with big money politics – creating a tax credit for small-dollar contributions, and also providing a matching fund. The package also includes the **EMPOWER Act (H.R. 2143),** which modernizes the existing Presidential citizen-owned election system. The package also includes such bills as **Democracy Restoration Act (H.R. 1459), Redistricting Reform Act (H.R. 2173), Automatic Voter Registration Act (H.R. 2694), Automatic Voter Registration Act (Rep. Brady), Shareholder Protection Act (H.R. 446), We the People Act (H.R. 5494), Restoring Integrity to America's Elections Act (H.R. 2931),** and **Supreme Court Ethics Act (H.R. 1943).**

✯ REVITALIZING OUR VOTING LAWS BY PASSING THE VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT AND PROTECTING RIGHTS AT THE BALLOT BOX BY PASSING THE VOTER EMPOWERMENT ACT✯

PROBLEM: In the 2013 *Shelby* decision, the Supreme Court gutted a key part of the Voting Rights Act – the formula by which states with a history of discrimination were required to clear election changes with the Department of Justice. Since then, the right to vote has been under coordinated attack around the country. New voting restrictions have been put in place in 22 states (including such restrictions as reducing early voting), making it harder for millions of Americans to exercise their right to vote.

SOLUTION: Democrats are committed to modernizing the Voting Rights Act by fixing the *Shelby* decision and also to expanding access to the ballot box after recent restrictions on voting:

- Democrats will fight to pass the **Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 2867),** which provides a legislative fix to the Supreme Court's *Shelby* decision. The bill creates a new coverage formula and applies to states with repeated voting rights violations in the last 25 years. The bill is designed to restore the full protections of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- Democrats will also fight to pass the **Voter Empowerment Act (H.R. 12),** which is a comprehensive bill to update and improve our nation's voting systems. This bill will increase access to the ballot box, protect the integrity of our elections, and ensure accountability. The bill includes such provisions as allowing online voter registration; requiring 15 consecutive days of early voting in every state; ensuring the equitable distribution of polling place resources; ensuring access to voting for individuals with disabilities; and ensuring poll worker training and polling place standards.

★ PASSING COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM TO SECURE OUR BORDERS, BRING WORKERS OUT OF THE SHADOWS AND KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER ★

PROBLEM: Our immigration system is broken. There are millions of hard-working immigrants who are making contributions to our country but are living in the shadows. In June 2013, the Senate passed a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill by a strong bipartisan vote of 68 to 32. And yet House Republicans have refused to move forward for the last three years.

SOLUTION: Democrats are committed to finally enacting comprehensive immigration reform. This immigration reform will secure our borders, bring workers out of the shadows, and keep families together. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, comprehensive immigration reform would also reduce the deficit by $900 billion over the next two decades – including $200 billion in the first decade alone. A White House report has also demonstrated how comprehensive immigration reform will create jobs, boost economic growth, increase productivity, and raise wages, among other benefits.