

Common Sense Governance

The Bipartisan Governance and Anti-Corruption Act seeks to cultivate a culture of cooperation, transparency, and efficiency within our government. By addressing the influence of corporate interests, fostering bipartisanship, and promoting accountability, this proposal aims to reestablish a functional government that prioritizes the needs and interests of all citizens.

I. Strengthening Bipartisanship and Collaboration:

A. Bipartisan Advisory Councils:

1. Establish bipartisan advisory councils on critical issues, comprising representatives from both major political parties, to foster dialogue, compromise, and bipartisan solutions.
2. Establish guidelines on party influence in primaries to require fair-open primary elections free of nepotism through a required 1-to-1 contribution by the party for every candidate in a primary polling within 10 points of the top polling candidate.

B. Joint Committee on Bipartisanship:

1. Form a standing Joint Committee on Bipartisanship, responsible for identifying common ground, promoting cross-party collaboration, and addressing major policy challenges.
2. Research open primaries to allow for less-partisan and more community leaders to win elections, helping to eliminate inherent corruption within our system.

II. Curtailing Corporate Influence and Corruption:

A. Campaign Finance Reform:

1. Implement campaign finance reforms to limit the influence of corporate money in elections, promoting small-dollar donations and public funding options to level the playing field for candidates.
2. Super PAC contributions to the same laws applicable to campaign contributions, including reporting requirements.

B. Transparency in Lobbying:

1. Enforce stricter regulations on lobbying activities, including mandatory disclosure of lobbying activities and expenditures, and impose penalties for violations to ensure transparency and accountability.
2. Create a 4-term ban, equal to the length of their term, on lobbying by any official, family-member of an official, or staff to prevent corruption and promote proper governance.

III. Fostering Media Integrity and Diversity:

A. Media Accountability Standards:

1. Develop and enforce media accountability standards, promoting fair and unbiased reporting to reduce divisive narratives that fuel partisan divides.

B. Diversifying Media Ownership:

1. Encourage diversity in media ownership to ensure a multiplicity of voices and perspectives, reducing the risk of media manipulation and promoting a more informed citizenry.

IV. Promoting Civic Education and Engagement:

A. Enhancing Civics Education:

1. Integrate comprehensive civics education into school curricula, educating students on the importance of civic engagement, critical thinking, and informed decision-making.

B. Encouraging Volunteering and Community Involvement:

1. Establish incentives for citizens to engage in volunteerism and community involvement, fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility among diverse segments of society.

The Bipartisan Governance and Anti-Corruption Act is a crucial step toward reclaiming our democracy from divisive influences and building a government that serves all citizens. By prioritizing bipartisanship, reducing corporate influence, promoting transparency, and encouraging civic education and engagement, we can reestablish a functional government that puts the needs of the people first. Together, let's work towards a united and efficient government that truly represents the diverse voices and aspirations of our nation.