

Members of the Virginia General Assembly
1000 Bank St
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

We are running for the Legislature because Virginia stands at a unique, transformative crossroads. However, we face a status quo in which the public's confidence in our government has been severely shaken. In order to govern effectively, we must all acknowledge and fix the corrosive role big money and special interests have played in undermining Virginians' faith in our political system.

We write to you today to put Richmond on notice. We are determined to reform the broken system and spark a restoration of confidence should we be granted the honor of serving our respective districts in the Virginia General Assembly.

We share Virginians' frustration over the role of big money and gerrymandering in our politics. We applaud the leadership of reformers in proposing bold solutions, and we insist with one voice that the time to pass robust democracy reforms is now – in the first year of a new legislature.

Without major reforms to our democracy, we will be unable to retain the public trust or to successfully tackle Virginia's pressing challenges, such as passing common-sense gun safety reforms, reducing the costs of health care and prescription drugs, strengthening our public education system, fighting pollution and climate change, and building an economy that prioritizes working families. Democracy reforms must pass in 2020 to set the stage for ongoing progress on these and other issues.

We are committed to:

- creating contribution limits to decrease the influence of big donors on campaigns and quashing the political influence, real or perceived, that special interests currently have in our government;
- ending the unjust and divisive practice of political gerrymandering that currently allows the undemocratic practice of politicians picking their voters, rather than ensuring that voters fairly choose their representatives;
- prohibiting corporations with business before the General Assembly from making political contributions to elected officials whose votes affect the corporations' bottom line;
- increasing transparency and promoting Virginians' right to know the original sources of all political spending that tries to influence their votes; and
- removing, once and for all, the deliberate barriers that prevent thousands of Virginians from freely and fairly exercising their right to vote.

If Virginians do elect a Democratic majority this November, we must heed their call to create a New Virginia Way that works for everyone – not just for big donors and special interests – and

to restore trust in our government. It is time for Virginia to lead the nation toward a new birth of democracy and freedom.

Signed,

Debra Rodman
(SD-12)

Larry Barnett
(HD-27)

Sheila Bynum-Coleman
(HD-66)

Karen Mallard
(HD-84)

Phil Hernandez
(HD-100)

Missy Cotter Smasal
(SD-08)

Ghazala Hashmi
(SD-10)

Amanda Pohl
(SD-11)

Flo Ketner
(SD-19)

Annette Hyde
(SD-24)

Ronnie Ross
(SD-27)

Qasim Rashid
(SD-28)

Eric Stamps
(HD-14)

Laura Galante
(HD-18)

Jennifer Woofter
(HD-22)

Joshua Cole
(HD-28)

Irina Khanin
(HD-29)

Mavis Taintor
(HD-33)

Dan Helmer
(HD-40)

Morgan Goodman
(HD-55)

Juanita Jo Matkins
(HD-56)

Tim Hickey
(HD-59)

Trudy Berry
(HD-61)

Lindsey Dougherty
(HD-62)

Rodney Willett
(HD-73)

Len Myers
(HD-81)

Nancy Guy
(HD-83)

Alex Askew
(HD-85)

Suhas Subramanyam
(HD-87)

Jess Foster
(HD-88)

Shelly Simonds
(HD-94)

Mark Downey
(HD-96)