

FIGHT FOR REFORM



NORTH CAROLINA

2020 REFORM AGENDA

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“Our democracy is broken and our elections are rigged to favor wealthy political donors and corporate special interests. When I’m elected, I’ll fight tirelessly to stop the surge of big money in our elections, protect the right to vote, and ensure that our government works for the people.”

This Reform Agenda details a wide range of options for building a unique anti-corruption and reform platform for your campaign. It covers both policy solutions that you should consider for your time in office, and proactive campaign steps that you can take today to show voters that you’re serious about fixing our broken system. Not all of these solutions will fit with every candidate, and that’s okay -- this is a menu from which to pick and choose. We’re always happy to discuss any of these options in more detail.

The Reform Agenda is organized into four policy areas in need of reform: money in politics; voting rights; redistricting; and other broad changes to how Raleigh works. Each section presents a menu of voluntary actions and policy solutions that candidates can take to demonstrate to voters that they’re committed to making real change. And, of course, we encourage you to join reform leaders from across the country in making a commitment to introduce or co-sponsor a sweeping democracy reform bill as your first act in office.

STOP BIG MONEY IN POLITICS

■ Run a Reform Campaign

- Refuse campaign contributions from corporations and their PACs
- Refuse campaign contributions from individuals and corporations that have existing state contracts or are applying for state contracts
- Refuse special interest money (including from industry associations, corporations, lobbyists, or individuals working in the sector) from certain industries that are not aligned with campaign values -- examples that other candidates have chosen include: No Fossil Fuel Money, No NRA Money, No Pharma Money, and No Lobbyist Money even out of session
- Propose a “People’s Pledge” where all major candidates in an election agree to a total rejection of unlimited independent expenditures
- Publicly refuse support from an outside spending group that exists for the sole purpose of supporting your campaign (such as a single-candidate Super PAC or dark money group)
- Make campaign fundraisers open to the press
- Voluntarily disclose all contributions of \$1,000 or more within 48 hours

■ The Policy Solutions

- Ban corporate PAC donations to political campaigns
- Require political groups with secret donors to disclose donors and expenditures over a certain threshold
- Forbid shell companies from spending money in our elections
- Create a voluntary system of small-dollar matching funds, tax credits, and/or “democracy dollar” vouchers for qualified candidates
- Pass a resolution through the Legislature that records North Carolina’s support for overturning *Citizens United*
- Apply the same disclosure rules to online ads as to TV, radio, and satellite ads
- Prohibit registered lobbyists who are lobbying for a foreign government from making campaign contributions
- Ban donations from public service corporations and their connected PACs to political campaigns
- Restrict coordination between candidates and outside spending groups
- Require campaigns and outside groups to disclose contributions of \$1,000 or more within 48 hours

PROTECT EVERY NORTH CAROLINIAN’S RIGHT TO VOTE

■ Run a Reform Campaign

- Actively encourage new voter participation and educate voters on their rights
- Be prepared to work with and support the party’s voter protection programs on Election Day
- Add voter registration information to campaign materials, including guidance on voting during the COVID-19 pandemic

■ The Policy Solutions

- Prohibit voter purges that remove eligible voters from the voter rolls
- Create comprehensive online voter registration
- Require employers to give employees paid time off to vote
- Declare Election Day a state holiday
- Strengthen election security by increasing funding for more reliable and secure voting systems and election results auditing
- Establish vote centers which allow voters to cast their ballots at any location in the jurisdiction regardless of their precinct
- Increase correctional officer training standards to ensure all discharged inmates are adequately educated about their voting rights and registered to vote upon release
- Create a program to educate eligible inmates about their right to vote via absentee ballot
- Guarantee voting rights for all North Carolinians, including those currently incarcerated
- Stop voter intimidation by increasing penalties for deceptive practices
- Align municipal elections schedules to November even years to increase voter participation
- Establish an Accessible Online Voter's Guide on the State Board of Elections website that would provide basic information about candidates for statewide, legislative and judicial elections
- Establish automatic voter registration
- Support North Carolina's adoption of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC)

DRAW FAIR MAPS

■ Run a Reform Campaign

- Promote a fair, accurate, and complete census process
- Pledge to support a fair, independent, and nonpartisan redistricting process throughout the 2021 redistricting process
- Sign the National Democratic Redistricting Committee's pledge to end partisan gerrymandering

■ The Policy Solutions

- Amend the State Constitution to create an independent redistricting commission to draw congressional and legislative district maps
- Prohibit prison-based gerrymandering in the state legislature and local governments
- Establish rules that make the process of drawing legislative and congressional districts fair and transparent
- Forbid the use of political data from the redistricting process
- Reform any existing redistricting commission laws to separate elected officials from the member selection process
- Establish a commission that removes legislators, their staff members, and political staff members from drawing or approving district maps
- Establish public notice and public input requirements at all points of the redistricting process

CHANGE RALEIGH

■ Run a Reform Campaign

- Pledge to never become a lobbyist after leaving office
- Pledge to hold monthly town halls
- Pledge to not fundraise during the legislative session

■ The Policy Solutions

- Require public service corporations to file annual reports about their spending to influence elections, government actions, and public policy
- Restrict Members of the Legislature from receiving contributions from industries regulated by committees on which the Member sits
- Ban former elected officials and government staffers from lobbying their former colleagues
- Ban candidates and elected officials from spending campaign cash for personal uses
- Ban candidate fundraising during the legislative session
- Prohibit banks and big corporations from giving special bonuses to employees who leave to work in government
- Require publicly available recordings of every committee and subcommittee meeting
- Require executive branch nominees to disclose all potential conflicts of interest connected to political fundraising

- Remove conflict of interest from our courts by adopting an objective recusal procedure so the judges who take campaign contributions from someone cannot preside over their case
- Prohibit judges from personally soliciting campaign contributions
- Require attorneys and parties to disclose campaign contributions

RUN AS A REFORM FIRST CANDIDATE

- Pledge to start your time in office by introducing a bill to clean up corruption and unrig the system so we can get things done for the people.