

FIXING CORRUPTION CAN FIX EVERYTHING

represent.us 



PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS COMING...

These are the most turbulent political times in recent memory. But we didn't get here suddenly; the fissures have been growing for decades. From special interest giveaways to rigged elections to a steady dismantling of the public trust, the assault has been ceaseless, the results catastrophic.

IT'S 2017, AND AMERICAN POLITICS HAVE REACHED A BOILING POINT

Our corrupt political system blocks commonsense policy solutions to the issues most critical to our families and future generations: from healthcare and education to foreign policy, the environment, and the federal debt. The laws we live by are no longer determined by civil discourse, the best ideas, or the will of the people, but by whoever has the biggest checkbook.

Perhaps we should have seen it coming. The anti-establishment rise of Bernie Sanders and the election of Donald Trump were not a fluke. They were an indictment: The system is corrupt, and Americans desperately want it fixed.

Fixing our corrupt political system is not just the most pressing political challenge of our time. It is the most pressing challenge, period. It determines the fate of nearly every other issue we care about.

Until we fix it, our Republic will continue to fail us.



IN 2016, SITTING POLITICIANS RAISED \$45,000 EVERY DAY FOR SIX YEARS TO WIN THE MOST EXPENSIVE SENATE RACES.



GERRYMANDERING ENSURES THAT 86% OF HOUSE RACES ARE UNCOMPETITIVE.



THE #1 WORD MILLENNIALS USE TO DESCRIBE AMERICAN POLITICS? CORRUPT.

THE COST OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS HAS INCREASED A THOUSANDFOLD IN 100 YEARS.

\$2.4 billion
in 2016

\$2 million in 1908

1908

1936

1960

1992

2016

Sources: Federal Election Commission, Center for Responsive Politics, Politico, The Washington Post, Profs. Gillens & Page, MTV Research

A SOLUTION 100 YEARS IN THE MAKING

We have a winning strategy to fix our corrupt political system.

Represent.US unites conservatives and progressives to pass anti-corruption laws in cities and states across America. We're transforming how candidates run for office, how Americans vote, and how politicians govern.

"I LOOKED AROUND FOR THE MOST PROMISING PLAN TO FIX POLITICS, AND I FOUND REPRESENT.US."

ADAM MCKAY,
OSCAR-WINNING DIRECTOR
OF *THE BIG SHORT*

We're building a system in which America's best and brightest are free to run for office and win. We're stopping political bribery, ending gerrymandering, and ushering in a new era of transparency and accountability. Our policies poll at nearly 90% among progressives and conservatives. But getting them passed by a Congress that benefits from the status quo is a nonstarter. So we're leveraging the state-and-local political strategy successfully pioneered

over 100 years ago by the movements for women's suffrage and prohibition to win otherwise-unattainable federal reforms.



THE AMERICAN ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT

The American Anti-Corruption Act sets a standard for state and local anti-corruption laws.

Stop political bribery
so special interests can't use job offers and donations to influence politicians.

End secret money
so Americans know who's trying to buy political power.

Fix our broken elections
so the people, not the political establishment, are in control.

"IN OVER 30 YEARS OF POLLING, I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH HIGH LEVELS OF SUPPORT FOR AN INITIATIVE."

— VETERAN POLLSTER PAUL HARSTAD

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

ISSUE	NOW	AFTER
Legislative districts are drawn by	partisan politicians	independent commissions
Who can vote in primaries	voters of a major party	everyone
Politicians can take money from lobbyists	yes	no
Lobbyists can collect and deliver contributions	yes	no
Fundraising during congressional working hours	yes	no
Who's officially a lobbyist	some people	anyone paid to lobby
Voters are allowed to	pick the lesser of two evils	rank their top candidates
Electeds can't become lobbyists for	1 year for House, 2 for Senate	5 years for both
Who discloses political spending	some	everyone, immediately
Bundlers are	secret	disclosed
All Americans can donate their	money, if they can afford it	\$100 credit
Penalty for candidates accepting large donations	none	may not accept \$100 credits
Super PACs can coordinate with candidates	"No. Wink, wink."	"No. Really."
Penalty for lobbyists breaking the rules	slap on wrist	2-year ban
Voter registration is	costly, inefficient, insecure	automatic, unless you opt out

Crafted by Trevor Potter, former chair of the Federal Election Commission, in consultation with Professor Lawrence Lessig and dozens of constitutional lawyers and scholars, the Act ushers in sweeping structural reforms that are constitutional, even in the era of Citizens United.

READ THE FULL PROVISIONS AT:
AnticorruptionAct.org



BUILT TO WIN FROM THE GROUND UP

In November 2014, we proved our plan can work. A bipartisan coalition in Tallahassee, Florida, led by Represent.Us, won America's first Anti-Corruption Act at the ballot by a two-to-one margin. Since then, Represent.Us has been instrumental in more than 70 reform victories, including transformative legislation in San Francisco, CA; Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; Maine; and South Dakota.

In 2018, we'll pass Anti-Corruption Acts in four states and several cities. In 2020, we'll tackle eight states. By 2022, we'll carry the drumbeat to dozens more to push our nation to a tipping point on this critical issue. Plus, as we pursue our own targets, we'll leverage the power of our national grassroots network to help our partners win scores of additional victories.



**VOTER POLLING SHOWS
90% SUPPORT ACROSS PARTY LINES
FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTS**

*Source: Tulchin Research
MFour Market Research
December 2013*

TO COMBAT CYNICISM AND BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THE FIGHT FOR REFORM, WE'RE USING 3 KEY INNOVATIONS:

1

REFRAME THE ISSUE

Most people believe the government is broken and corrupt. Yet instead of meeting them where they are, reformers use obscure political jargon like "campaign finance" and "redistricting." **Represent.Us engages new audiences by using relatable and inspirational language.**

2

BRING CONSERVATIVES AND PROGRESSIVES TOGETHER

Americans self-identify as 36% conservative, 34% moderate, and 25% liberal. For decades, political reform efforts have been driven by liberals – but winning meaningful change requires more than a quarter of the electorate. **Our campaign features visible right-left coalitions** to head off partisan opposition attacks and unite majorities to pass and protect reforms.

3

WIN ACROSS ISSUES

We're ending the era of siloed reform efforts. Campaign finance, ethics, transparency, and election reform are all central to unrigging the system but have never been integrated into a coordinated campaign. **Represent.Us advocates for victories large and small across any and all of these issue areas.**

OUR PATH TO VICTORY: CITY BY CITY, STATE BY STATE

HISTORY HAS PROVEN THAT STATE-LEVEL VICTORIES LEAD TO NATIONAL REFORM. WITH EACH VICTORY, WE:

CLEAN UP LOCAL POLITICS

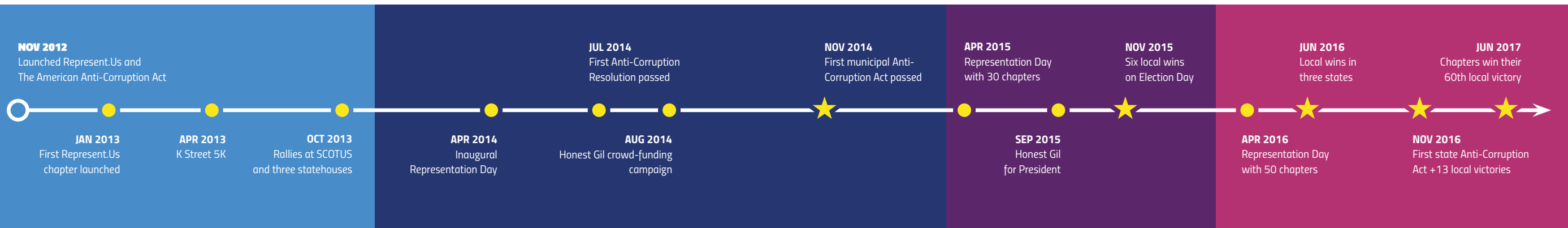
Anti-Corruption Acts **immediately crack down** on corruption by stopping political bribery, increasing transparency, and disrupting establishment politics.

INSPIRE A MOVEMENT

With each victory, we energize the reform movement. We prove to everyday Americans that fixing the political system isn't just possible – it's happening. This newfound hope is drawing millions of Americans to our campaign and **supercharging the movement**.

EMPOWER NEW LEADERSHIP

Anti-Corruption Acts end gerrymandering, increase political competition, and change how elections are funded, making it possible to **elect new local, state, and federal candidates who are accountable to their constituents**, not to special interests. As we seed Congress with champions of reform, we'll create a new anti-corruption majority capable of passing meaningful federal reform.



**"WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER,
WE CAN DO ANYTHING.
I JOINED REPRESENT.US
BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE CAN
WIN THIS FIGHT."**

RON GARAN, FORMER
NASA ASTRONAUT

MASSACHUSETTS CORRUPTION RISK REPORT CARD		D+
SUBJECT	GRADE	
Legislative Accountability	D	
Lobbying Disclosure	F	
Ethics Enforcement Agencies	D	
Independent Redistricting Commission		

ABOUT.US

We're a nonpartisan, nonprofit campaign working to fix American politics. We believe in government that works for you and your family – not just the well connected. We've spent the past five years building the infrastructure, credibility, and momentum to mount serious campaigns for policies that will fundamentally improve American democracy.

We've united over 700,000 members from across the political spectrum. Our social media assets are the largest in the political reform movement. We have thousands of active, committed volunteers in communities across America who have self-organized more than 50 local Represent.U.S. chapters. Even with this rapid growth, our team remains small, nimble, and committed to optimization.

Represent.U.S.' right-left leadership team combines political and brand-building expertise. Our board is comprised of tech entrepreneurs, marketing experts, and renowned business and entertainment leaders. We're funded by more than 48,000 grassroots donors, philanthropists, and charitable foundations.

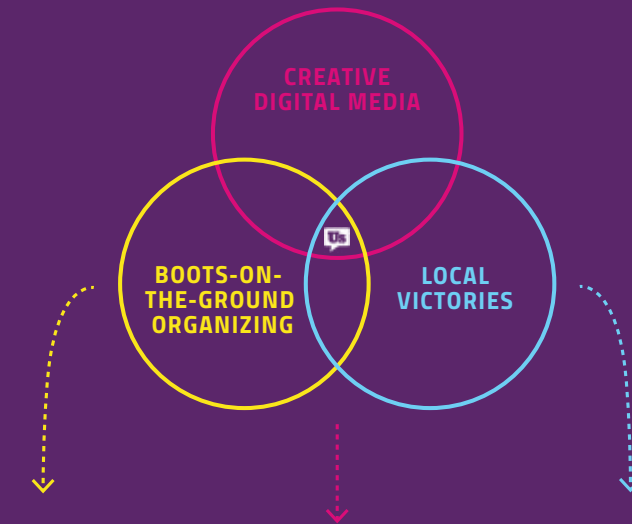
“I BELIEVE FIXING CORRUPTION IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING I CAN DO FOR THE FUTURE OF MY CHILDREN.”

ANGELA YARBOROUGH,
REPRESENT.US VOLUNTEER



A 21ST-CENTURY HYBRID CAMPAIGN MODEL

Winning and protecting state and local initiatives requires a robust grassroots political movement. To build that movement, we need to reach people – millions of them. In an era of email fatigue, shortened attention spans, and deep cynicism about the prospects for reform, breaking through the noise requires a 21st-century, hybrid campaign model: boots-on-the-ground organizing, state and local victories, and creative digital media.



Boots-on-the-Ground Organizing

A political movement doesn't just happen. There's a lot of behind-the-scenes work that has to take place before any long-term change can be won. Across the nation, Represent.U.S. chapters work with other organizations to pass and protect local laws, execute creative direct action, and establish the lasting infrastructure required to power a politically potent movement.

Creative Digital Media

To many, the problems of government corruption can feel abstract and impersonal. Our digital content changes that. Compelling digital media allows us to reach a large, diverse audience and bring to light stories that normally go under-reported. We make it clear that corruption comes at a human cost and encourage others to speak up and get excited about finding real solutions.

Local Victories

Our Acts aren't one-size-fits-all; they're tailored to the unique needs of each community. Our state and local victories don't just clean up local politics; they counter cynicism by showing we can win tangible, powerful reforms that pave the way to national victory.

OUR TIME IS NOW

Imagine a nation where decisions are made for the greater good, not the benefit of the connected few – a nation where talent and a passion for public service count for more than the size of a candidate's war chest. This is the future we believe in, and we have a smart, viable plan to get there.

For the first time in decades, the nation is watching; political corruption is at the forefront of everyone's mind. This is our opportunity to fix our democracy, to give our children a political system that is fairer, more inclusive, and more sustainable.

Your partnership with Represent.Us isn't charity – it's a critical investment in the future of our nation and the key to making progress on every other issue we care about.

For more information, contact
Represent.Us CEO Josh Silver:
jsilver@represent.us
(413) 333-5621



HOW TO GIVE

represent.us 
EDUCATION FUND

501c3

Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Tax ID: 26-3088283

represent.us 

501c4

Contributions are not tax-deductible.

Tax ID: 26-2369596

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Represent.Us Education Fund
PO Box 60008, Florence, MA 01062

WIRE INFORMATION:

Bank Name: Florence Bank
Bank Address: 85 Main Street,
Florence, MA 01062
Routing Number: 211871688
Account Number: 1982102659

STOCK TRANSFER:

LPL Financial
FBO Represent.Us Education Fund
Account number: 59307144
DTC Clearing number: 0075

STREET ADDRESS:

296 Nonotuck St. 3rd Floor,
Florence, MA 01062

WEB ADDRESS:

represent.us/donatec3

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Represent.Us
PO Box 60008, Florence, MA 01062

WIRE INFORMATION:

Bank Name: Florence Bank
Bank Address: 85 Main Street,
Florence, MA 01062
Routing Number: 211871688
Account Number: 1982102675

STREET ADDRESS:

296 Nonotuck St. 3rd Floor,
Florence, MA 01062

WEB ADDRESS:

represent.us/donate

THANK YOU.

The Washington Post  REUTERS

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. 

TIME  USA TODAY

The New York Times

END CORRUPTION. DEFEND THE REPUBLIC.

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