



Action Sheet for April 2018

Our Action: Our action this month is focused on building cross-partisan support on the issue of money in politics. **We will write letters to the editor that highlight the cross-partisan support at the state and local level on the need for a 28th Amendment.** 8 out of 10 Americans, of all political backgrounds, agree that money plays too big of a roll in our political system. The 28th Amendment is the vehicle to achieve this vision and growing cross-partisan support is critical to our success.

Lawrence Lessig, Harvard law professor and member of the American Promise advisory council, said, *“We did a poll we found 96% of Americans believe it important to reduce the influence of money in politics. 91% don’t think it’s possible. That’s the politics of resignation. But the politics of resignation gives you a perfect strategy for winning...how do we thaw that resignation.”* **Your letter to the editor is a key step toward thawing that resignation that is often tied to divisive partisanship.**

Use the newly released [Government of Citizens, Not Money report](#), co-authored by John Pudner of Take Back Our Republic, Steve Lipscomb of Fix it America and Jeff Clements of American Promise, to inform and shape your letter to the editor and make it as powerful as possible.

Over 200 Republican lawmakers at all levels of government are in favor of a constitutional amendment to curb the undue influence of money, but many still feel this is a partisan issue. **There is wide cross-partisan support, and our job is to translate that support into political power. It’s already happening.** Nineteen states have formally called for some form of 28th Amendment by significant cross-partisan majorities. 800 cities and towns across the nation have done the same. At the same time, Congressional resolutions are gaining momentum with hundreds of co-sponsors in the House and Senate.”

Laser Talk:

- In our politics, big donors are well-represented; most Americans are not.
- A 28th Amendment will keep corporate, union, special interest and foreign money out of our elections, and return our government to the people.
- No one party has ever won a constitutional amendment alone. If we’re serious about winning a 28th Amendment, we’ll need cross-partisan support.
- There are more than 160 co-sponsors in Congress supporting resolutions overturning Citizens United, but only one is a Republican. A new report titled “Government of Citizens Not Money” shows that hundreds of Republican lawmakers around the country, both local office holders and state legislators, have either voted for 28th Amendment resolutions or voiced their support.

- We are committed to bring local and state-level Republican support to the federal level. We are united in our determination to return government to the people and restrain the power and corruption of big money in politics.

Write a letter to the editor:

1. Find the local newspaper you will write to and learn what is required for letters to the editor, Google the following: “(Name of the paper) letters to the editor submission criteria.” Note the number of words they allow and how a letter is submitted (Do you submit it on the newspaper’s website or do they provide an e-mail address to use).
2. If you are writing a letter to a larger newspaper, find an article or editorial that provides a good angle for the 28th amendment and the Candidate Pledge your letter (e.g. I read with interest the article on the Senate health care proposal and saw how the avalanche of money in our political system excludes the voices of citizens from the health care debate). If you are writing a smaller local paper, you don’t have to reference an article, just write it in a way that makes it clear why local readers would be interested in and care about this issue. (e.g. With Earth Day approaching and widespread public support for clean air and water initiatives, one might wonder what the barriers to real action are.)
3. Next, read a few letters to the editor in the newspaper you are writing to to see how they are started and the general tone.
4. Write your letter using the guidelines the newspaper has provided. Share what values or experiences move you to work to have a government run by people not money. Let readers know about the “Government of Citizens, Not Money” report and that hundreds of Republicans at the state and local level support a 28th amendment overturning Citizens United and that that support must find its way up to our Republican Members of Congress. Refer to the laser talk for other ideas.
5. If your letter is published, be sure to let us know via email at azorc@americanpromise.net or wambuig@americanpromise.net
6. Celebrate! You’re on the path to let the public know about the growing Republican support at the state and local level for a 28th amendment!