

# **Why elect Independent Marianne Williamson to Congress?**



**Ten good reasons.**

# 1. Marianne Williamson is on a mission to get the money out of our politics.

“Getting the money out of politics is the great moral challenge of our generation.” – Marianne Williamson

A solid drift in the direction of the financial dominance of our politics – aided and abetted by our own Supreme Court – now threatens to overpower our democracy. Contrary to recent Supreme Court rulings, money is not speech and corporations are not people. The citizens of a democracy have the right to organize around ideas and not just money. Yet, money dangerously controls not only our politics but even our discussion of political issues.

Democracy itself is at risk today, fiercely assaulted by combined forces of money and power. This assault is our single largest challenge – the issue underlying all other issues.

As a member of Congress, Marianne Williamson will join the effort for a Constitutional Amendment to override the Citizens United and McCutcheon rulings, making way for public financing of our political campaigns. This issue is the cornerstone of any serious effort to reclaim our democracy,

## 2. Marianne Williamson will champion women's rights.



“Over the past decade we have witnessed the systematic dismantling of our reproductive rights, before our very eyes. We must remain vigilant.”

–Marianne Williamson

As a woman who has been in the forefront of women's rights and issues for decades, Marianne Williamson has sat with and stood beside countless women in crisis, authored best-selling books addressing women's issues and causes, lectured thousands of times to women about women, and founded “Sister Giant”, a national project to encourage women to run for political office. No person's commitment and devotion to the rights and well-being of women is stronger or better documented than those of Marianne Williamson.

As a member of congress Marianne Williamson will continue her life-long advocacy for women, including equal pay for equal work, mitigating sexual harassment in the military and with other progressive members of congress, ensure that we remain vigilant in protecting the reproductive rights of all women.

### 3. Marianne Williamson is committed to reclaiming democracy.



**“We can have democracy in this country, or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can’t have both.” – Louis D. Brandeis, Supreme Court Justice from 1916 to 1939**

When discussing our economy, politicians always talk about jobs. But why are there so few jobs to begin with? Beginning in the 1980s the American government, instead of working to broaden the economic franchise of the majority of Americans, began instead to broaden the economic franchise of a very small minority of Americans, mostly at the expense of the majority. This minority -- called in today’s nomenclature The 1% , has become the recipient of extraordinary government largess. From huge corporate subsidies, to tax breaks for the very wealthy, to deregulation of even the most fundamental economic protections, American social and economic policy has acted like a vacuum cleaner taking the majority of our nation’s economic resources and sucking them into the hands of a very few.

This trend has amounted to an economic assault on America’s middle lower classes of our country over the last few decades, causing, huge amounts of unnecessary suffering and driving many middle class citizens into poverty. “It is time to reclaim the U.S. economy for the decency and righteousness at the heart of a true democracy” says Marianne. “ In an age when our government has become for all intents and purposes but a handmaiden to a new corporate order – surrendering to those whom President Franklin Roosevelt called ‘economic loyalists’- it is left to the people ourselves to reclaim economic fairness. The only way we will reclaim the U.S. economy for the benefit of the many as opposed to the benefit of the few is if we the people reclaim democracy itself.”

#### 4. Marianne Williamson wants every American to have access to the highest quality education.



“He who opens a school door, closes a prison.” –Victor Hugo

In America, we spend more money on prisons than we do on our students. Marianne Williamson wants to provide universal access to pre-school for all children, as children who attend kindergarten without having attended pre-school are already behind on day one -- and if not caught up in their reading skills are then on a fifty per cent probability track to incarceration. In addition, she wants to lower interest rates on college loans (which have now exceeded credit card debt in the U.S.) “We could do this in exchange for public service after graduation” says Marianne. “Education is the ultimate investment for the future. The end result will be a stronger, more stable, better educated nation with less incarceration, less unemployment, and a fairer distribution of wealth.”

## 5. Marianne Williamson will be a passionate voice for the eradication of child poverty.



More than 16 million American children live below the federal poverty level. Of the 35 wealthiest countries in the world, only Romania has a higher child poverty rate. Millions of children in the United States still go to bed hungry. And the longer a child lives in poverty, the more difficult it is for him or her to climb out of it later. Nearly half of people aged 35 who grew up in poverty remain in poverty.

In our current system of legalized corruption and bribery, financial leverage determines political influence. So where does that leave those who have no financial leverage – such as our children? With their needs too often unmet, of course. From the lack of environmental safety standards in America's public to lack of universal access to preschool to food insecurity among our young, Williamson will be a champion of America's children.

As a board member and activist for the poverty fighting organization RESULTS, Marianne Williamson has the experience, know how, passion and vision to lead the Congressional effort to change the current picture. She puts the needs of children before the desires of Wall Street.



## 6. Marianne Williamson will a passionate voice against the scourge of mass incarceration.

“The U.S. has 5% of the world’s population, but 25% of the world’s prisoners. What’s wrong with this? Everything!”

–Marianne Williamson



We are in the midst of a crisis created by lobbyist led polices and more than three decades of bi-partisan support: an ever-growing Prison Industrial Complex. With 2.4 million people in prison today, the United States has the highest mass incarceration rate in the world. Five hundred thousand are non-violent drug offenders, and an African-American man in the United States today has a one in three lifetime probability of incarceration. All of this makes the issue of mass incarceration a screaming moral emergency calling for national attention.

500,000 of our incarcerated prisoners are non-violent drug offenders (the War on Drugs has done more to hurt than to help this country; Williamson thinks we should treat drugs as a public health rather than a criminal justice issue); and a large part of our prison population is mentally ill. Williamson believes we need an entire overhaul of the U.S. prison system. For while no one doubts that there are criminals who belong behind bars, America’s incarceration rate is about something much deeper than catching criminals; it’s about social and economic policies that increase the probability that desperate people will display desperate behavior; law enforcement and prison guards lobbying for bigger budgets; a for-profit prison system that targets children; corporate exploiters of cheap prison labor; and Wall Street financiers for whom a larger prison population means larger financial dividends. As an expert on the subject, with decades of activism and advocacy for reform, Marianne Williamson will be force in Congress to address and help mitigate rampant mass incarceration in America.

## 7. The NSA is watching you.

### Marianne Williamson wants to dismantle the NSA.

“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.” –Abraham Lincoln



Over the past decade we have seen the greatest shrinking of our civil liberties in our nation's history: government surveillance of US citizens by the NSA through the use of drone aircraft; and the monitoring of our e mails, texts, social media, and telephone calls, all in the name of national security.

Members of Congress, from both sides of the aisle, seem amazingly unconcerned; Marianne is not. She repeatedly points out that drone technology has the capacity to monitor everything from our sex lives to our log-in details to who just entered the room, and would work assiduously to provide greater Congressional oversight of drones. When she gets to Congress, Marianne Williamson will be a powerful force holding our government accountable for unlawful and unwarranted spying on its own people.



## 8. Our food supply is being corrupted with GMOs. Marianne Williamson wants it stopped.



On April 9th Republican Representative Mike Pompeo from Kansas introduced in Congress the “Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act.” This bill, which has bi-partisan support, would ban states from any mandatory labeling of GMO foods. This is a sinister example of placing short-term gain for the corporate sector before the health and well-being – not to mention the will -- of the American people.

As a passionate advocate for a safe food supply who has co-lectured with and received the endorsement of leading food expert John Robbins, Williamson is a passionate and knowledgeable opponent of genetically modified organisms. Marianne Williamson isn’t afraid to stand up to big biotech agribusiness, to warn of the dangers of GMOs and share the information with her colleagues.

## 9. The most progressive Democrats in Congress want Marianne Williamson with them in Washington.



Rep. Alan Grayson, Democrat, Florida



Rep. Keith Ellison, Democrat, Minnesota

“I think several of the candidates have significant strengths. In my opinion, however, only Marianne has the possibility of making a dramatic difference if she wins the seat. I can picture Marianne becoming a national progressive leader in the vein of Elizabeth Warren or Dennis Kucinich.”

–Rep. Alan Grayson, (Democrat-Florida)

Marianne Williamson is a progressive leader who offers to inject a spirit of love, generosity and inclusion into politics as usual. And do we ever need it! Not only does she challenge conventional politics, she invites them to bring mindfulness and love into the profane world of politics where problems like campaign finance, stagnant wages, and climate change need solving. Her candidacy is reminding us of how true and meaningful change really happens.”

-Rep. Keith Ellison, Co-chair of the Progressive Caucus (Democrat, MN)

## 10. Why she's running.



I am running for Congress because I believe America has gone off the democratic rails. We are currently in the process of dismantling the most basic social contract between the American people and our government, a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" has transitioned before our eyes into a government "of a few of the people, by a few of the people, and for a few of the people.

That's the bad news, but there is good news as well: we can change this! Anything is possible in America -- and with elections, we have the opportunity to prove it. Abolitionists rose to the occasion and handled the problem in their midst; Suffragettes rose to the occasion and handled the problem in their midst; Civil Rights activists rose to the occasion and handled the problem in their midst. Williamson encourages us, in our time, to do the same.

We can. And we will.