How to Build a Strong Team
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Welcome to the Citizen Uprising! Whether you are new to grassroots organizing or a seasoned veteran, you are taking part in a rich American tradition of joining your fellow citizens to advocate for the country you deserve and the values you believe in.

In order to pass a 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution, American Promise is working alongside citizen leaders as they push for ratification at the state and local level. In some states this means advocating for a legislative resolution. In other states this means pursuing a ballot initiative to go directly to voters. For the 18 states who have already passed 28th Amendment resolutions, the next goal is to continue to raise awareness of this issue and keep the pressure on elected officials.

The necessary work on the ground may look different in each state but the need for teamwork is always the same. The success of this movement rests on the ability of citizens to work together to advocate for change and we want to make sure our citizen leaders have what they need to build effective teams across the country.

This manual provides tips and practices for citizens looking to build a successful team in their community. While every team will be unique in shape and structure, our hope is that these ideas help you start and share the core principles of good teamwork.

We know you may have some great ideas on what has worked for your team and we would love to hear ideas or suggestions. Share your story with us or provide feedback by emailing us at uprising@americanpromise.net
Setting The Right Team Culture

Teamwork and grassroots organizing is about building relationships. Successful relationships of any kind are built on a sense of shared values and priorities and we think you’ll find this is even more important as you work with other citizen leaders and volunteers. While there is no one roadmap to this kind of great culture, we wanted to share this list of practices and values that successful leaders share when building effective teams:

**STAY OPEN**
Focus on what unites us all. When talking to new audiences, give them the benefit of the doubt and really listen to where they are coming from. You’ll be pleasantly surprised at how many people share common ground.

**INCLUDE EVERYONE**
As a cross-partisan movement, activists coming to our cause are naturally going to have different ideologies and experiences. Find a way to include everyone’s perspective and contributions. If a broad range of people come to together it will be irrefutable how widely this issue resonates with the American people. Unity is an asset, and division will only hurt us.

**KEEP MOVING**
Do your best to stay focused on the ultimate and keep the group moving. It’s ok to figure out things as you go along. One of the greatest pitfalls of grassroots groups is losing momentum and getting too mired in intricate detail on strategy. Don’t miss the forest for the trees.

**BE YOURSELF**
Be authentic in communicating your values and perspectives, and the relationships you build will reflect it.

**EMPOWER OTHERS**
All the great efforts in our history, from the civil rights movement to women’s suffrage, have required the commitment of 1,000’s of activists who were empowered by each other. Great leaders always empower others which creates an inclusive environment that keeps their fellow activists engaged and motivated.

**BE CREATIVE**
What will capture the attention of your community, the media, and your elected officials? Creativity and originality will offer new and powerful ways to communicate the issue at hand. Think outside the box and stand out. It makes the work more fun!
Recruiting Your Team

The most effective teams bring a diverse set of experiences, talents, stories, and interests to our mission. This is an important idea to keep in mind as you begin to gather the family members, friends, and neighbors who will share the work with you.

There are a number of ways to ask people in your network to join your effort. A few examples to help get you started:

- **Meet a couple of friends for coffee and let them know why this is important to you and what role they can play in helping.**
- **Host a gathering at your house and provide a presentation to the group about the team you are building and what you are trying to accomplish.**
- **Post on social media and ask for follow up conversations with anyone interested in learning more.**
- **Email your network to let them know what you are trying to build and how they can help.**
- **Encourage early team members to recruit from their personal networks as well. This can increase the size and diversity of your group.**

Regardless of how you talk to people about your efforts to build a team, it’s important to explain why overturning Citizens United is important to you, your community, and how they can directly help.

For tips on effective ways to talk about the effort to pass a 28th Amendment, download our “Spread The Word” toolkit by clicking here or visiting our website at americanpromise.net/take_action#toolkit.
Building Team Roles

Successful teams are built on interdependent leadership where individual members can work together toward shared goals. Each person can take the lead on part of the team’s activity. Great teams recognize and put to good use the unique talents of the individuals who make up the team. Here are a few key indicators of a healthy team:

- Your team is steady with well understood boundaries.
- You can name all of the people on it and when you meet.
- There is clarity in mission, tactics, and goals.
- Your team works independently, with each member owning a task or tactic.
- Work is divided as evenly as possible.
- Teammates communicate when they need assistance and help is on its way.
- There are clear rules and understanding of how to communicate.

One of the best ways to ensure interdependency and division of work is to assign leadership roles. These don’t have to be permanent (they can rotate as needed) but they help provide a sense of purpose and ownership and facilitate clear lanes of responsibility. Before assigning roles, be sure to sit down each team member and get a sense for skills, interests, and experience. Then you can have a better idea of how to share the work, and how to best make use of everyone’s individual talents and passions.
Here are a few sample roles you might incorporate into your team.

**MEDIA COORDINATOR**
Responsible for building relationships with reporters and media outreach efforts.

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**
Responsible for bringing new people into the team and making sure they are part of the group and have something to work on immediately.

**SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR**
Responsible for keeping social media accounts live and updated and reminding everyone to post, tweet, and share.

**EVENT COORDINATOR**
Responsible for developing ideas for actions and events along with identifying the roles needed for success.

**OUTREACH COORDINATOR**
Responsible for building alliances with other community groups, attending community meetings, and finding ways for your team to grow in size and awareness.

**NATIONAL LIAISON**
Responsible for communicating with American Promise to provide feedback and report on progress, events, and needs.
Host Great Meetings

Great teams find a variety of ways to communicate but meeting together in person can be an indispensable tool to develop strategies and organize for success. The key is to host meaningful and successful meetings, which require planning, structure, and leadership. Here are a few tips to incorporate into your meetings to help your team make the most of your time together.

Have a facilitator
A facilitator doesn’t talk the whole time; on the contrary, he or she is responsible for guiding the conversation. The facilitator ensures the meeting’s agenda and goals are met, makes sure everyone has the chance to participate, and adapts the agenda to the group’s needs. A great facilitator must be an active listener and be ready and willing to think on the spot. Sometimes it’s critical to let the group stay on an agenda item for longer if it seems important, or to move the group along if heading toward a dead end. Facilitation is a very important practice; try letting different people have a chance, and give each other feedback on what’s working and how the team can improve.

Respect each other’s time; have a timekeeper
People are busy and want to make sure their time is well spent. That’s why having an agenda and committing to wrap up the meeting on time is an important part in building trust amongst your group. If people know the time will be respected, and they can show up for an effective meeting, they will be more likely to keep coming. One of the best ways to do this is to have a timekeeper to keep things moving.

Have stated objectives and an agenda
Often the most important work happens before a meeting. Before getting people together, make sure you know what you need to accomplish in that meeting and what questions and or exercises will help you accomplish those objectives. You may want to sit down with other leaders in the group ahead of time or email them for input into the meeting’s agenda.
Make time for introductions
Face-to-face meetings are important for building relationships, so make sure you create time in the agenda for everyone to at least state their name, how they’re doing that week, or something else you might want to ask them to share. This is the building block to making people feel that they are heard and they’re an important part of the group. If people show up to a meeting and are never given the opportunity to speak, it’s likely they likely won’t come back.

Assign someone to take notes
Make sure someone takes notes every meeting. After the meeting, make sure the notes are shared with everyone, regardless of if they attended. Communication is key to a great team.

Include everyone
It is critical to make sure everyone in the room is participating and actively listening. Make sure there are parts of the agenda that require participation, such as intros, an ice breaker, or questions requiring feedback from each member. Make sure all voices are respected and listened to.

Get visual
It can be very helpful to have a whiteboard or large pieces of paper to write important ideas on, to help follow the agenda, or drive concepts under discussion. Have large pieces of paper and markers on hand for good brainstorming. This is a chance to involve another team member to have a role in the process.

Break into small groups
Depending on the size of your group it can be helpful to build time in for discussion in smaller groups. This creates more opportunity for all members to be involved and nurtures new ideas and collaboration. When you do this, provide good questions for the small groups and factor in time for each group to report back on their discussion.

Make sure everyone has a job and action item coming out of the meeting
Before you close, make sure everything discussed in the meeting has a next step and member, who will be responsible, associated with it. The note taker should be responsible for keeping a running list of action items that can be discussed and delegated at the end. Make sure everyone goes home with something to do, even if it’s small, so everyone feels like an integral part of the effort.

**Make time for fun and team building**

Having fun is serious business! Build in time to socialize - bring some coffee and snacks, use icebreakers for new members, or just chat. This is about building the relationships and culture that will be the foundation of your group. You’ll be surprised by the ideas that get flowing in those informal times!

**Meet when you need to**

Don’t just meet every week if you don’t have anything to talk about. Of course it’s important to keep momentum and meet regularly, but having frequent meetings that aren’t always effective will feel like a drag to people. So make sure you are meeting when you have something to get done!
Get Organized Online

As your team gets going you’ll want to make sure everyone is signed up and active on AP Connect. AP Connect houses numerous resources, materials and supports an active secure forum for discussions and ideas among the movements most active participants. To become a member, you must either commit to at least 5 hours of work a month or contribute at least $5 a month. Most of our members do both!

It is important to establish an effective way for your team to communicate with one another in between meetings and events. There are a variety of ways to do this. You can set up a community in the AP Connect portal, start an email listserv, or establish a Facebook Group to stay in touch, answer questions, and plan next steps.

You may also consider taking advantage of additional online sites like MeetUp Everywhere, which is a great platform for organizing local groups. It’s an easy way to get on the map, and for others interested in this issue to find your group and get involved. There are also great tools for getting in touch with all of your members, setting up events, tracking sign-ups, and coordinating with other local groups in your area. Be sure someone is responsible for keeping the list updated and getting new members signed up.

It is also helpful to have a sign-up sheet at every meeting to get new members email addresses so you can follow up with them and add them to your platforms for communication. Make sure someone is responsible for updating the group email list at least weekly with what is happening, when the next meeting is, and any other important announcements.
Create Powerful Alliances

Building alliances with other groups in your community is an effective way to create awareness of the work your team is doing and strengthen the impact of your group. Alliances are strongest when they are mutually beneficial, so think about how you and your team can support other groups as you reach out, such as attending their events or performing community service with them.

You never know who might be supportive of the movement, so consider community organizations, faith organizations, arts groups, civic associations, the Rotary Club, and anyone else who is active in your area. Those groups may be your advocates and they are already accustomed to action.

Ask your allies to get involved as you plan your next action, and work with them to organize together. Another way to work with other groups would be to ask them to endorse the campaign or even sign your petition. You could then present that list of endorsements to elected officials or other thought leaders.
There are a variety of ways your team can contribute to a successful state or local campaign but hosting events is particularly effective in educating your community, building your local movement, and influencing decision-makers. The location, size, and type of event may vary but all events will always require your team to communicate, plan, and work together. Every event is unique but here are some guidelines to get started:

GATHER YOUR TEAM

Your whole team will need to be involved to host a great event. So call a meeting, invite every member, and get ready to brainstorm. Spend time getting on the same page about your vision and goals for the event. Make sure all voices are heard and remember that often the best ideas come from the quietest person in the room. Here are some key questions for the group to answer:

1. What are your goals for the event?
2. How many people do you want to attend?
3. Who is in the audience?
4. Who do you want to make sure is in the audience?
5. When is the best date/time to hold the event to get the best attendance?
6. What should happen at the event?
7. What should the agenda be in order to facilitate an educational, exciting, and impactful event?
MAKE A PLAN

Now that you’ve got a vision, it’s time to put it into action! Either at your meeting, or as a follow-up, spend time mapping out the steps that need to happen to be successful.

Key things to consider for the plan include:

- **Name the event and create the event program**
- **Event location and permits**
- **Logistics like food, bathrooms, transportation, sound equipment, stage etc.**
- **Outreach - how do you spread the word and get people to your event?**
- **Messaging (signs, banners, visuals)**
- **Local media and social media**

DELEGATE ROLES

Once you have your list of tasks from the plan you’ve made, think about the roles that different people can take on and make sure everyone has a job to do. Some roles might include the Logistics Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Media liaison, Social Media Coordinator, Photographer, Videographer, Program Coordinator, Outreach Coordinator, Speaker liaison, and Arts Coordinator. Make sure everyone knows what they need to do in their role!
HOW TO SPREAD THE WORD

This is probably the most important part of your event. Sending just one email won’t attract the audience you’re hoping for. Everyone on the team should reach out personally to friends and family in person or by phone or email. Remember to tell them why this is important to you, and convey why this event is important right now. To give your guest list a boost, try a combination of these methods:

**EMAIL:** Announce your event by email to your entire address list, and ask everyone you know to forward it on. Do targeted outreach to leaders of allied groups and asked them to forward it to their members. Send out follow up email reminders closer to the date.

**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARDS:** Post flyers about the event on community bulletin boards, at your library, coffee shop, and anywhere people get information. Be sure to always ask for permission. Most managers will allow you to put things up as long as you discuss it first.

**EVENT CANVASS:** Get your team out to popular community events, like a concert or sports event, to hand out flyers with your event information.

**PHONE CALLS:** The phone is still a great method to get people out to your event. Host a call night with your whole group to make it more fun!

**PRE-MEDIA:** Ask local bloggers to post about the event, and local newspapers to include it in their event calendars.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Create an event on Facebook, and have your group members invite their friends. Post the event on other local group pages, tweet about it, and keep the updates going all the way through the day of the event.
INVITE SPECIAL GUESTS
Depending on the event, you may want to invite your members of Congress, respected community leaders, academics who focus on politics, or anyone else who may have an important contribution to the cause. Be sure to invite these people early and have someone who can do dedicated follow up to make sure they know when to arrive, whether or not you would like them to say anything, and that they are thanked for their participation.

MAKE A PROGRAM
As the date of your event gets closer, start making a detailed program. Gather your team to decide how you want the event to run. It’s generally best to keep things short and sweet. People want to hear good speeches and ideas, but also like the chance to ask questions and mingle. Map out the speakers’ time, and make sure they know how long they’re speaking. Designate someone in your group to introduce people or moderate questions. Choose someone else to be the timekeeper and help politely cut people off if necessary. Map things out as best you can, but always be prepared to be flexible.

GET CREATIVE
Think visually! Get your team together to make homemade signs, stencils, banners and other visual aids to make your message clear.

INVITE THE MEDIA
As the event gets closer, you may want to reach out to local media. Start building relationships with reporters and invite them to interview someone or attend and cover your event.

SHARE THE STORY ONLINE
Be sure to designate one or two people to taking photos and posting them along with relevant updates to Facebook, Twitter, and your site. Posting updates in real time builds a buzz and interest in your event. It’s also good to publish a recap of the event as soon as it’s over, to share what happened and inspire others. Don’t forget to send it to American Promise as well!

FOLLOW UP AND CELEBRATE
Get together with your team and celebrate your hard work. Be sure to thank everyone who helped out with the event and take time to relax. Then start thinking about your next action.
Highlight Your Team’s Work

Great teams are always building excitement and growing their presence. An important part of this is raising awareness in your community about your goals, events, and successes. The best way to do this today is leveraging both social and traditional media.

Social media is an extremely useful tool for the modern organizer. It allows you to educate your friends, peers, and like-minded people in your community about the issues you care about, update your networks about campaign news, and connect to new people who might wish to join your movement. We’ve assembled a few quick tips help your team make the most of social media.

SET UP YOUR ACCOUNTS
Get someone in your group to take charge of setting up a Twitter and Facebook account for your Citizen Uprising team. You can find downloadable logos and graphics in AP Connect if you would like to use that as your profile photo.

GET EVERYONE ON BOARD
Make sure everyone in your group understands how social media is an important part of your strategy. Consider bringing it up at a meeting and encourage people to post regarding articles they’re reading, live news from events, or their experience with the campaign, and make sure they are linking to the American Promise website each time they do. Every time a person updates the social media accounts it can reach tens or hundreds of family members and friends – potential new supporters of the campaign.

CULTIVATE YOUR NETWORK ONLINE
Just like in real life, organizing online is all about building relationships. Spend time reaching out to other local organizations, pages, and people and asking them personally to like your page or post about your work on their page. Offer your help and they’ll be more likely to be willing to help.
START A CONVERSATION
Don’t just repost articles. Offer your own analysis, or pose a question. When you have more people talking about the issue, and reaching their own networks in the process – mission accomplished!

USE MULTIMEDIA
Social media experts believe that people more often view shared photographs and videos rather than text articles. Keep that in mind and try to share more articles with simple graphics and photos that help identify the key points you are trying to make.
Work With The Traditional Media

As your team grows and starts to build progress, it is helpful to try and create some buzz around your work. One of the best ways to do this is to work with your local media outlets. Any coverage will help get your message out to a broader audience, keep pressure on elected officials, and help recruit new members to the team. Here are some strategies for working with local media:

Build relationships with the press
With a little research you can often find out which reporters are writing about economic or community news where you live. Just Google your city town or region along with words like politics election or campaign finance and see who is writing or broadcasting the stories. Call the general number for the outlet and ask for that reporter. When you talk with the reporter give them a short description of your group or story and tell them you’ll keep in touch. Try asking for a meeting to give them a more personal description of your team’s work and goals.

Stay on message
It is important to develop and practice a few sentences that succinctly explain your message to the media. It is easy to get distracted by a question and begin talking about something else that you may know a lot about. Developing talking points keeps you on subject which is especially important when talking to a reporter.

Develop spokespeople
Staying on message, and telling a powerful story isn’t always easy, which is why it could be helpful to designate a few people in your group as spokespeople who feel confident taking on that role. Think about which teammate has a really powerful personal story regarding the 28th Amendment and who would be articulate in front of a camera or speaking to a reporter. Work to develop their story, and practice sticking to their main talking points.
HOW TO GET COVERED
Even if you develop solid relationships with the media you still need to give them accomplishments or exciting events to report on. Here are a few tips to follow:

Plan something creative
The most important way to ensure getting covered is to be newsworthy. Think about what would make your campaign unique and interesting to cover, something like a March To Ratify that might catch the media's attention. If you set up a great event and campaign, getting reporters to cover your work may not be as tough!

Create a press list
Create a list of the most important media outlets in your area, including local newspapers, local TV personalities, radio voices, and local bloggers.

Send out a press advisory
Before your event you want to distribute a media advisory, which is different from a press release. It’s basically an invitation to the press to attend your event. It includes the 5 “W’s” – who, what, where, when, and why – and highlights the most exciting elements of your event and why they should cover it.

Make pitch calls
Once you send your advisories, wait a day or so and follow up on the phone. When you call the news outlet, ask for the person to whom you sent your advisory. Give them a short prepared pitch about your event and ask them if they received the advisory. Don't be afraid to ask them directly if they can attend. If not, could they send someone else? Be persistent, but not too pushy.

Send a press release
A press release is different from a media advisory as it tells the entire story of your event in the past tense. It is essentially what you would write if you got to prepare the news article you would most want to see published. Write as much of this if you can ahead of time, and be sure to modify key details like numbers in attendance, appearances by a special guest, and anything else noteworthy that happens at the event. Send it in the body of your email to your media contacts and give them a follow up call to make sure the received it and to ask when they might run the story.
For Immediate Release
DATE:__________________, 2017
CONTACT: Edward Erikson, 202-420-9947, edward.erikson@gmail.com

CROSS PARTISAN AMERICAN PROMISE SPEARHEADS CITIZEN UPRISING TO SUPPORT A 28TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO SET REASONABLE LIMITS ON ELECTION SPENDING, AND SECURE HUMAN LIBERTY AND EQUAL REPRESENTATION

Event Description: Author and Constitutional Lawyer Jeff Clements to speak at [LOCATION/EVENT TITLE or]
“National Citizen Uprising v Citizens United”: A Practical Guide to Stopping Big Corporate Money from Stealing Our Democracy

[City__________]: - American Promise, a national cross-partisan non-profit organization dedicated to winning a 28th Amendment that will overturn Citizens United v. FEC, set reasonable spending limits in elections, and secure the political equality of all Americans, will be [_____________________] to rally citizens in support of a 28th Amendment.

[LEADER NAME or American Promise] calls on [STATE] citizens to stand “firmly on the right side of this fight for the future of our democracy” and urges “support for a 28th Amendment to the Constitution so we can have reasonable limits on election spending, reform pay-to-play politics, and secure human liberty and equal representation rather than turn our government into a global corporate marketplace.”

These are the highlights of the movement to amend the Constitution:

- The influence of money in politics is the number one problem our nation faces.
- Corporations are not people, but creatures of the state that must be subject to its control – as it explicitly states in the Wyoming constitution.
- Political equality – the idea of one person, one vote – is the bedrock of our Constitutional republic.
- A Constitutional amendment is necessary to undue a series of dangerously wrong Supreme Court decisions that make effective reform virtually impossible.

So far 18 states and over 740 cities and towns have passed 28th Amendment resolutions with cross-partisan support. In Montana and Colorado, voters have approved 28th Amendment ballot initiatives by 75-25%. In November, Washington State became the 18th State to call for the 28th Amendment, with a voter initiative passing by wide margins in every region and every Congressional district of the state.

Jeff Clements, President of American Promise will lead ____________________________REPEAT THE SUBHEADING ABOVE Event and meeting details: _______________________________[date/time/title/location/host].

American Promise inspires, empowers, and organizes Americans from across the political spectrum to back a Constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court’s decision in Citizens United v. FEC, which fabricated unprecedented “rights” for money and corporations at the expense of people in our political system. American Promise is leading a National Citizen Uprising, 50-state wave of action to prepare the nation – state by state - to win the 28th Amendment to stop global corporate power from tampering with our democracy and secure an equal voice for each of us. To learn more visit www.AmericanPromise.net

END
Sample Media Releases and Press Advisories

For Immediate Release DATE: December 3, 2016

CONTACT: Martha Stone, marthas@americanpromise.net

(978) 467-5629

Concord based AMERICAN PROMISE INITIATIVE
Leads National Movement for 28th Amendment

Concord, MA - American Promise - a national cross-partisan non-profit dedicated to winning a Constitutional Amendment to set reasonable spending limits in elections and secure political equality for all Americans – was founded in Concord and has become the leader in the movement for the 28th Amendment.

On election day, American Promise and its allies have added several more states (18 total), cities and towns (727 total) and 3 more members of Congress (nearly 200 total) to the 28th Amendment campaign.

American Promise assembled the first cross-partisan National Advisory Council with Doris Kearns Goodwin, Senator Alan Simpson (R-WY), State Senator Nina Turner (D-OH), Governor Michael Dukakis (D-MA), and Congressman Jim Leach (R-WI) and other influential figures in politics, business, faith, civics, the arts who are working with American Promise and speaking out for the 28th Amendment.

At the beginning of the year, American Promise was an idea and yet, within a few months has become a leader of the most effective and practical solution to keep global money from killing American democracy. American Promise:

- launched citizen-led American Promise Associations in every region of the country
- built a custom member network to connect citizens coast-to-coast
- provided staff, speakers, and support for successful citizen-led ballot initiatives in California, Washington, Florida, and in communities across the country
- created the first-ever National Citizen Leadership Conference that brought together 300 citizen leaders and 60 speakers from 40 states and all political stripes to connect, share, build skills, and strengthen work in their communities and among their representatives.
- Congressional Leadership awards went to: retired Congressman Jim Leach (R–IA), Congresswomen Donna Edwards (D–MD), Congressman Walter Jones (R–NC), and Congressman Jim McGovern (D–MA).

In an era of extreme partisanship, Congressman Walter Jones (R–NC) stands out for his willingness to build cross-partisan bridges and work together to return power to the people and get big money out of politics: “The 28th Amendment is not a partisan issue, it’s an American issue. Too many times money dictates policy, not the people. This is about returning power to the people.” Said Rep. Jones.

Jim McGovern, is a lead sponsor of the Constitutional amendment from Massachusetts: “A 28th Amendment is about taking our democracy back from big money and big corporations, it’s about empowering people, ensuring that people and not corporations have the greatest influence in our government.” Said Rep. McGovern.

Jeff Clements, the President and co-founder of American Promise, confirms, “even in the seismic national election this year, 80+% of ALL Americans want an amendment to the Constitution to reverse the damage of Citizens United v FEC, and put people - not money, not corporations, not special interests - back in charge of our elections and government.”

Clements notes, “Americans have been waiting for the chance to act for the good of the country, and American Promise provides a meaningful way for citizens to lead, in their own communities and across the country. We are doubling our capacity next year to build on the dozens of ballot initiatives that won across the country on November 8th.”
***MEDIA ALERT***

Congressman Jamie Raskin Joins Author and Constitutional Lawyer, Jeff Clements, to Speak at Washington Adventist University About the Movement to Win A 28th Amendment to Ensure That Only People – Not Money, Not Corporations, Not Special Interests – Govern America.

A day before Jeff Clements testifies in favor of the 28th Amendment before the Maryland House of Delegates, he joins Congressman Raskin, and Get Money Out – Maryland for a public event to discuss a 50-state Citizen Uprising to win the 28th Amendment in Maryland and across the country to save American democracy.

WHAT: Get Money Out – Maryland: Fight for the 28th Amendment

WHO: Congressman Jamie Raskin and Jeff Clements, Founder and President of American Promise, constitutional lawyer, author of Corporations Are Not People: Reclaiming Democracy From Big Money & Global Corporations, and co-founder of Free Speech For People.

WHEN: March 9, 2017
7 PM to 8:30 PM

WHERE: Washington Adventist University Science Building Auditorium, 7600 Flower Ave, Takoma Park, MD 20912

*Photo & video opportunities will be available. All media are welcome, no RSVP necessary.

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American Promise Can Help

American Promise is committed to providing the necessary support, tools, and guidance for all teams and citizens working to pass the 28th Amendment. As you build and grow your local team there are a variety of ways we can help you succeed.

On our website (americanpromise.net) you can find resources that are helpful for planning, communications, and events. By exploring our full toolkit you can download additional documents that offer ideas on everything from how to talk about the Citizen Uprising to suggestions on how to build an advocacy campaign in your community.

All of our American Promise members can also log in to the AP Connect portal where you can stay up to date on key announcements across the country, find additional outreach resources, and participate in forums providing feedback, stories, and suggestions from your peers.

We also host monthly core team conference calls where we offer trainings, hear from guest speakers, answer questions, and share experiences. Recent calls have provided tips on writing letters to the editor and grassroots lobbying. These calls are helpful to bring volunteers together from across the country and provide ideas for immediate action items for teams on the ground. We will send email reminders for these calls but you can also reach out to us at uprising@americanpromise.net for more information.
AMERICAN PROMISE ASSOCIATIONS

For many teams it may make sense to establish a local chapter, which we refer to as an American Promise Association (APA). We provide additional support and training to our APAs through our Civic Courage program that helps your group take effective community action to pass the 28th Amendment.

There are five steps to set up an APA in your community.

1. **Set up a call with American Promise**
   Ben Gubits (beng@americanpromise.net) or Joyce Sanchez (joyces@americanpromise.net) will help you learn about starting an APA in your community.

2. **Host the inviting team call with 5-10 people.**
   Our AP team will help you you share new program with allies in your community. Set a date, time and location for the call. American Promise will do training and role-playing of a call to one (or a few) of your friends, and share sample invite e-mail.

3. **Welcome APA staff to your community for an energizing APA launch meeting.**
   With significant coaching and follow up from our inviting team call, we’ll be ready for the APA launch. This meeting will be roughly 3 hours in length and will include breakouts, role-playing, sharing of personal stories, planned action items for immediate engagement, and inspiration for sustained citizen action.

4. **Activate your APA with the 4-part new group training.**
   Here, you’ll deepen your connection to each other, your commitment to a 28th amendment, and your skills and confidence as an activist. Members of your APA will be confident in their ability to meet with an editorial board, a legislator or community organization.

5. **Dial in with your APA and APAs around the country for the monthly conference call.**
   Each call is a launchpad for action and will feature great guest speakers with expertise and advise on how to win a 28th Amendment. Calls will have a Q&A period, and grassroots victories shared from around the country – including the barriers APAs had to overcome, guidance on how to become a better spokesperson for the 28th Amendment, and a monthly action to focus on.

For more information on forming a local APA in your community, email us at uprising@americanpromise.net.
OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE IN OUR TOOLKIT:

Ballot Access Guide
Building Your Campaign
What You Can Do Today
Spread the Word
Citizen Uprising in Your State