

# Open Democracy Action Legislative Questionnaire 2016

## 1. DISCLOSE ALL DONORS AND REQUIRE FULL TRANSPARENCY

*Disclose all donors.*

1.1 Do you agree or disagree that voters have a right to know the names and agendas of big-dollar political donors?  
Strongly agree [ ]      Somewhat agree [ ]      Somewhat disagree [ ]      Strongly disagree [ ]

1.2 Would you vote for legislation requiring that the identity of all donors be made public and that candidates list their top five contributors in their ads and campaign materials?  
Yes [ ]      No [ ]

*Require full transparency. For true transparency in campaign finance, donation and expenditure information must be complete, timely, and presented in a meaningful, easy-to-understand format. Historically this has not been the case in New Hampshire. This year, however, the State has instituted an online system for reporting campaign data that is tied to a searchable database—a great improvement. Still, the system is optional, so campaign information reported by traditional means is not included in the database, and campaigns may continue to report at widely-spaced intervals, by which time the information often arrives too late to be useful.*

1.3 Do you support or oppose *real-time* availability of campaign donation information?  
Strongly support [ ]      Somewhat support [ ]      Somewhat oppose [ ]      Strongly oppose [ ]

1.4 Would you vote for legislation requiring real-time availability of campaign donation information?  
Yes [ ]      No [ ]

1.5 Would you vote for legislation that would make electronic filing of campaign donation information mandatory?  
Yes [ ]      No [ ]

## 2. BAN CAMPAIGN SUPPORT AND JOB PROMISES FROM LOBBYISTS AND GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS

*Lobbyists and government contractors often donate generously to political campaigns and organize political fundraisers. They also offer lucrative jobs to retiring lawmakers and government officials.*

2.1 Do you agree or disagree that lobbyists and government contractors should *not* provide campaign support to the elected officials they seek to influence?  
Strongly agree [ ]      Somewhat agree [ ]      Somewhat disagree [ ]      Strongly disagree [ ]

2.2 Would you vote for legislation that prohibits lobbyists and government contractors from providing support to political campaigns?  
Yes [ ]      No [ ]

2.3 Do you support or oppose the concept of a "cooling off" period between the time a lawmaker leaves public office and the time he or she is hired as a lobbyist?  
Strongly support [ ]      Somewhat support [ ]      Somewhat oppose [ ]      Strongly oppose [ ]

2.4 Would you vote for legislation that prohibits legislators and state employees from being hired as paid lobbyists for 5 years after they leave the legislature or their state jobs?  
Yes [ ]      No [ ]

2.5 Would you vote for legislation that would prohibit lobbyists and government contractors from sponsoring fundraising events for candidates and political parties?  
Yes [ ]      No [ ]

### 3. BAN SUPERPACS AND OVERTURN *CITIZENS UNITED*

*The 2010 Citizens United decision legalized unlimited independent expenditures—political spending that is independent from and not coordinated with political campaigns—by corporations, unions, and wealthy individuals. The ruling spawned superPACs, lightly regulated groups responsible for a large and growing proportion of all election spending.*

3.1 Do you agree or disagree that Congress and state legislatures should have the authority to set common-sense limits on campaign donations and independent expenditures?

Strongly agree [ ]      Somewhat agree [ ]      Somewhat disagree [ ]      Strongly disagree [ ]

3.2 Would you vote for legislation petitioning the US Congress to pass a constitutional amendment overturning the *Citizens United* decision, effectively eliminating superPACs?

Yes [ ]      No [ ]

3.3 Would you vote for legislation limiting the amount of money candidates can accept from out-of-state corporations, interest groups, and individuals?

Yes [ ]      No [ ]

### 4. ESTABLISH SMALL-DONOR, CITIZEN-FUNDED ELECTIONS

*A common theme in today's political climate is that politicians depend on big-dollar campaign support from wealthy interests, resulting in policy tilted in favor of those interests. A campaign finance system based on large numbers of small donations supplemented by public funds removes the dependency and expands the pool of people willing to run for office. Maine, Connecticut, and Arizona are using systems of this kind.*

4.1 Do you support or oppose establishment of small-donor, citizen-funded elections for Senate, Executive Council, and Governor?

Strongly support [ ]      Somewhat support [ ]      Somewhat oppose [ ]      Strongly oppose [ ]

4.2 Would you vote for legislation that gives candidates the option of funding their campaigns via a small-donor, citizen-funded system?

Yes [ ]      No [ ]

### 5. END GERRYMANDERING AND MODERNIZE VOTING

*End gerrymandering. After each census, legislators of the party in power redraw electoral district boundaries, often creating "gerrymandered" districts—oddly shaped districts designed to favor one party over another.*

5.1 Do you agree or disagree that district boundaries should be drawn in such a way that no political party is given unfair advantage?

Strongly agree [ ]      Somewhat agree [ ]      Somewhat disagree [ ]      Strongly disagree [ ]

5.2 Would you vote for legislation that would set up an independent, non-partisan redistricting commission?

Yes [ ]      No [ ]

*Modernize voting. Confusing voter registration requirements, long election-day waiting lines, and outdated voting technology are some of the things that discourage people from voting.*

5.3 Do you support or oppose eliminating such barriers to voting?

Strongly support [ ]      Somewhat support [ ]      Somewhat oppose [ ]      Strongly oppose [ ]

5.4 Would you vote for legislation that, while maintaining traditional voter registration, adds a system of *automatic* voter registration using driver's license, auto registration, and other appropriate data.

Yes [ ] No [ ]

## 6. CLOSE LOOPHOLES AND ENFORCE CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAW

*Close loopholes. Because of loopholes in current state law, groups spending significant amounts to influence our elections can avoid making public their identity, donors, and election spending.*

6.1 Would you vote for legislation that would close such loopholes?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

*Enforce campaign finance law. Existing rules against coordination between campaigns and groups that support those campaigns with independent expenditures—superPACs, for example—are rarely enforced.*

6.2 Do you support tightening enforcement of anti-coordination rules?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

6.3 Would you vote for legislation that would require any complaint filed about violations of campaign law to be acted upon within a defined timeframe?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

## 7. THE WE THE PEOPLE AGENDA

7.1 Can you endorse the We the People Agenda as a whole?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

7.2 Will you cosponsor legislation that would implement the We the People Agenda?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

7.3 Of the issues of concern to you and your constituents, where does political reform of the kind envisioned in the We the People Agenda rank?

Most important [ ] Moderately important [ ] Less important [ ] Not on my list [ ]

## 8. IN YOUR UPCOMING *GENERAL* ELECTION CAMPAIGN...

*(a) Donations to your campaign*

8.1 Will you limit the amount you will accept from a single donor to your campaign to a value smaller than the \$1,000 per election currently allowed by law?

Yes [ ] (If Yes, amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ) No [ ]

8.2 Will you *refuse* donations from the following sources? *(Check all that apply.)*

*"PACs" refers to Political Action Committees, groups organized for the purpose of raising and spending money to elect and defeat candidates.*

|                         |     |                     |     |
|-------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| Out-of-state sources    | [ ] | All PACs            | [ ] |
| Out-of-district sources | [ ] | Out-of-state PACs   | [ ] |
| Businesses              | [ ] | Business PACs       | [ ] |
| Lobbyists               | [ ] | Union PACs          | [ ] |
| Government contractors  | [ ] | Interest group PACs | [ ] |

*(b) Independent expenditures on your behalf*

*The "People's Pledge," first agreed upon by Scott Brown and Elizabeth Warren in their 2012 U.S. Senate race, requires candidates to pay a penalty if outside groups make independent expenditures on behalf of their campaign.*

8.3 "I am willing to sign a so-called "People's Pledge" to actively discourage any groups, including superPACs, from making independent expenditures on behalf of my candidacy." Agree [  ] Disagree [  ]

*(c) Transparency*

8.4 "I will submit donation and expenditure data online for inclusion in the New Hampshire campaign finance database." Agree [  ] Disagree [  ]

## 9. NEW HAMPSHIRE POLITICAL REFORM CAUCUS

9.1 Will you join a nonpartisan caucus dedicated to the kinds of political reform outlined in this questionnaire?

Sign me up [  ] I'd like to [  ] I'm sympathetic but probably not [  ] No [  ]

Additional comments / further explanation / suggestions

Signature \_\_\_\_\_