

1776 Again
Free-Enterprise Manifesto

6
Ways In
30
Days
To Save America

**Essential Legislation The
Government Does Not Want You To Know!**

Written and Proposed By
The Citizen Statesman
(By the way we are all Citizen Statesmen)

Stephen D. Redden



*The Pen is Mightier
Than the Sword*

Is there just one thing all Americans can agree on? What if I told you there are at least 6 major issues we all agree on. Whether, Democrat, Republican, Independent, Libertarian, Black, White, or Brown we all believe in “Self-Ownership”. These are not a political set of ideas, these are ideas that are rooted in truth, fairness, and love for each other.

I’m a nobody, like you, but we are all Citizen Statesmen. Just because we are laymen, does not mean we are idiots! As a tidal wave of Citizens we can flush out the swamp! While very noble, we can’t wait for years for the Article 5, Convention of States. There are legislations available now that can reset and restore the broken promises of the Declaration of Independence and the principles that created our Constitution. Enough is enough.

Governments only job is to protect citizens and their property, not to babysit and be the world police!

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1776 Again: An Introduction

The only goal of this book, 6 Ways in 30 Days to Save America, is to bring back the fundamental values and principles of the Declaration of Independence: the Original Amendment, which gave us the right to Self-Ownership.

The citizen has an unalienable right to property in themselves. Many Americans still don't know these basic ideas, and those who do typically don't say anything. We are at a very important crossroads today: between us, the 1776 Patriots, and the tyrants of 1913, creators of the 16th and 17th Amendments. The systematic theft of property—the eternal contract with endless debt and mortgage, the deal with the Devil. The tyrannical Republic is at the heart of almost every problem that American residents face today.

What is property? Property, at its core, is you. This sounds simple, but in that simplicity lies deep perfection. A true 1776 Citizen knows this without a doubt. The traitors of 1913 see the bright light that shows how evil collectivism is the root of tyranny.

The Declaration's Principles are Directly Opposed to Tyranny

This right to property in oneself cannot be taken away—the citizen. You don't have any rights if you don't have full control and freedom over your own body. The initial

purpose of the Declaration was to make these realities clear, however, the phrase “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” doesn’t adequately capture the timeless truth that “Pursuit of Happiness” is linked to the Right to Property, which resides in every person.

You have no real rights if you don’t own anything, including yourself, your ideas, your thoughts, your works, your earnings, your income, your home, your farm, your factory, and everything else you own. Even with the most basic physical property—your income (the fruits of your labor) and the things you work for—your rights are still quite limited.

People with more money can use their rights more effectively. We hear a lot about how unfair it is for poor people who can’t afford due process in civil or criminal cases because they don’t have the money.

Taxes on income, wealth, and property are just the “tip of the iceberg. Even if all of our property rights were totally restored, the monster of huge government would still be out of control. We need to bring back the ideas of 1776 as soon as possible. The time is now. Waiting for the government to pass important laws is like watching society crumble in slow motion!

Our last chance will be in 2026. Here are six proposed laws that won’t cost citizens anything but will make the government run more smoothly by getting rid of fraud, quid pro quo favors, and making all government processes completely transparent.

People Are Not Animals: Time to Stand and Fight for Free Market Enterprise

Animals subsist by hunting, foraging, and surviving in nature's raw state. Humans are different because we can create things. We make tools, build homes, grow crops, rear animals and fish, make things, and provide services, including medical, engineering, programming, and beyond. These activities are not innate responses but manifestations of self-ownership.

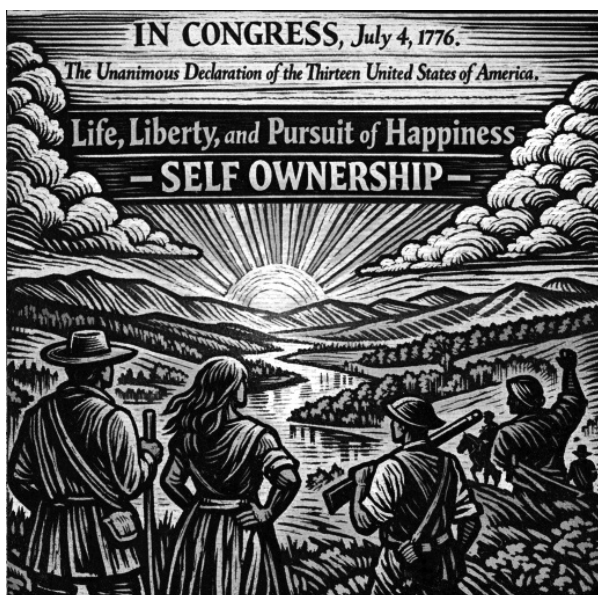
We produce first for the survival of our families, then our communities. One person makes a tool that another person needs, while another person plants food that may be traded. This is the basic idea behind free enterprise: trade that is peaceful and agreed upon by all parties, making everyone safer and more prosperous. Since the beginning of time, free enterprise automatically made a society's rules, even without governments, rulers or politicians.

When someone adds value to themselves, whether by generating new ideas or holding a stockpile no one else has, it creates surplus. These extraordinary talents and surplus create earnings and profits, and these are not greed; it's the natural incentive making a surplus. These surpluses make life safer and more prosperous for everyone. This dynamic is what makes free enterprise and capitalism work. It's not a monopoly, an oligarchy, or forced collectivism. It's a system based on human initiative and voluntary cooperation to

ensure survival, wealth creation, and property rights. It rewards hard work without requiring everyone to achieve the same results, allowing people with different skills to contribute and excel.

Collectivism is the opposite of free enterprise and capitalism. Collectivism may seem possible in small, morally strong organizations where everyone is working toward the same survival goals, but even Mennonites know: if you don't work, you don't eat. Human nature always comes into play in a collectivist society: those who make the most—those who overproduce—will get the short end of the stick. Those with the skills of a politician—the pied-pipers—become the celebrity leaders. They are perceived to be the wise, the strongmen, the geniuses, the saviors, and the “blessed” ones. Their contributions have their place, but they are many times overvalued, which ultimately gives them power and privilege, leading to tyranny.

Even in a republic like the United States, the tyrants are looming large. Taxes, laws, rules, and regulations are the tools they use to pry income, wealth, and property from citizens' self-ownership. By giving themselves power and privilege preaching redistribution of citizens' wealth to the less fortunate—but really to themselves and their cronies. The United States' road to tyranny began in 1913 with the 16th and 17th Amendments, shifting power from the people and the states to a centralized political monopoly. But when a tyrannical republic eliminates any percentage of self-ownership, the outcome is always the same: stagnation, corruption, and final collapse.



Chapter 1

Let's Face It, Time For a New Tax System. The Income Tax System is Broken, and Will Never Collect Enough Revenue to Balance The Budget

There are more than 6,871 pages of complex laws and regulations in the U.S. tax system, replete with loopholes, deductions, exemptions, and penalties. It punishes success with taxes on income, wealth, property, payroll, corporations, estates and gifts, and excise taxes. This leads to an underground economy, significant tax evasion, and compliance costs of over \$400 billion annually. Spending more than the government has adds trillions to the national debt, which leads to inflation, a drop in the dollar's value, and economic instability.

This system is broken and needs to be scrapped!

The Crisis of the Current Tax System

Why We Are at a Crossroads

We are at a crossroads between the fundamental principles of 1776 (the rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness) and the betrayals of 1913 (the 16th Amendment's adoption of the federal income tax). Property—encompassing one's own person and extending to income, ideas, works, residences, agricultural land, industrial facilities, and virtually all tangible and intangible assets—constitutes the foundation of all rights.

Taxing income or wealth directly contravenes this principle by restricting rights based on resources (e.g., the impoverished cannot meaningfully access due process, real estate, or education). In a free-market capitalist society, taxes are necessary to fund infrastructure and basic services. The existing system does not generate sufficient revenue, places an undue burden on citizens, and slows progress. We need a new solution that is easy, automatic, fair, and good for business.



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The Vision – Restoring Founding Principles Through a Citizens’ Tax Bill of Rights

The Declaration of Independence, the Original Amendment, is an incomplete explanation of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. What is the Pursuit of Happiness? It is very simple: to own property, and you, yourself, are that property, the “Fruits of Your Labor”, and extensions thereof. Without complete autonomy over your person and property, no rights exist. Happiness is inseparable from the right to property.

One of 6 Ways in 30 Days to Save America is The Citizens’ Tax Bill of Rights, embodied in the NOW TAX – BBESST (Broad Base of Every Sale (of Goods), Services, and Transaction Tax System; a one-page amendment replacing all federal (and ideally state) taxes with a single, broad-base, pay-as-you-go tax on every sale of goods, services, and financial transactions of all sectors of economy.

To keep it simple, imagine an infrastructure U.S. economic superhighway, like a toll road. Everyone and every sector of the economy uses it. You pay your exact share of taxes.



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Key Principles from the Tax Bill of Rights:

Citizens demand that the burden of taxes be equally and evenly spread across all sectors of our society so as to never favor any citizen, group, organization, business, or enterprise.

A neutral, non-regressive, non-progressive, apolitical, nonpartisan, and sole/single system.

Just one tax system, a Broad Base - National Sale of Goods & Services, and Financial Transactions Tax.

Never again shall income, property, and wealth be taxed.

Taxes will never invade the privacy of citizens.

Taxes will never punish, penalize, or incarcerate any Citizen.

Taxes will be the lowest tax rate possible, to have little or no effect on our economy.

Taxes will be limited to the least amount of laws, rules, or regulations.

Automatic with no forms, no deadlines, no penalties, no regulations, no other taxes.

Understanding Property and the True Nature of Taxation

Property begins with self-ownership (life, liberty, autonomy). It extends to thoughts, ideas, creations, earnings, income, homes, farms, factories—all property. Taxing these directly erodes rights and creates inequity: the more you earn, the more rights you can effectively exercise (e.g., affording legal defense, education, medical care, real estate, business opportunities, etc.).

Rights are for Citizens, Not Governments

In a constitutional republic, the government has delegated powers, not “rights.” Citizens have rights; the state has authorities granted by the people.

Before 1913, the government was largely funded by a series of pay-as-you-go tariffs and excise taxes. The 16th Amendment fundamentally changed the relationship between the citizen and the state by giving the government a direct claim on the “fruits of your labor”.

Unlike other parts of the Constitution that provide specific limits (like the 8th Amendment’s ban on “excessive” fines), the 16th Amendment contains no ceiling. This creates the “confiscatory” risk—if the government can take 20%, in theory

it can take 99%, which would render the right to property an illusion.

If the government's purpose is to protect your house from a thief, but the government then takes a portion of your house to pay for that protection, the line between "protector" and "extra-legal actor" becomes blurred for many.

Just like any crony system, the government has figured out by protecting you and your property you now owe them protection money at loan-shark rates. This blurs the line as to what is a protector and what is extra-legal.

Your labor is your property, and by taxing income, wealth, and property taxes you are being forced into labor and end up working for the government.

Common Concept: Tax Incidence, Who Truly Bears the Burden

The current systems hide this through withholding and complexity. BBESST makes it transparent: pay only when transacting, proportionately to economic activity/usage. Just think: if you and your wife are making about \$125k to \$250k a year and buying a new home costing \$500K; your lifetime taxes will be in low tax states \$1.25 million and high tax states \$2.5 million. This is neither fair nor affordable. While all the time we just keep tax patching the system and go further into national debt!

The “tip of the iceberg” is income, wealth , and property taxes. But even a full restoration of wealth through tax reform it still wouldn’t tame big government’s “Frankenstein” overreach. BBESST addresses root causes by funding essentials without punishing productivity.

The NOW TAX – BBESST System: Core Design and Mechanics

BBESST is not a VAT, income tax, consumer sales tax, or property tax. It is a neutral, apolitical, flat-rate (estimated 1-2%), broad-base tax on all qualifying sales, services, and transactions across All Sectors of the Economy (ASOE).

Broad base (**TESST – Total Economy of Sales, Services, and Transactions**): Includes goods (new/used), services (consumer/B2B), and financial transactions (stocks, bonds, derivatives). Divides federal budget costs for the lowest rate—broader base = lower rate, minimal distortion.

Collection: Providers add tax at point of sale; banks automatically deduct from SIC-coded deposits and forward to Treasury/Fed. SIC codes enable real-time TESST tracking (superior to lagging GDP for economic insights, no privacy issues as SIC is common knowledge).

“Just pay as you go—buy a candy bar and Coke, and you’ve paid your taxes!”

Why BBESST Succeeds: Over 50 Reasons It Is the Optimal Tax System

BBESST (Broad Base of Every Sales of Goods, Services, and Financial Transactions Tax) stands unmatched as a modern, automatic, pay-as-you-go tax system. It replaces complexity with simplicity, evasion with enforcement, and deficits with surpluses—while restoring founding principles and unleashing prosperity.

Eliminating income, wealth, and property tax laws, rules, and regulations will be the largest and most substantial deregulation of government in modern history. Setting the standard to look for more meaningful government deregulation.

Economist and major AI all agree (GROK, ChatGPT, Gemini) - the best tax system is: THE BBESST SYSTEM

Just one tax system at the lowest tax rate possible with the least amount of laws, rules, and regulations.

A neutral, non-regressive, non-progressive, apolitical, and nonpartisan tax system.

Will equally divide the federal budget by the largest common denominator (the broadest base possible, all-total sales of goods, services, and financial transactions of all sectors of the economy) to create the lowest tax rate possible (1-2%).

A tax system that collects enough to pay all government expenses - including the National Debt.

A tax system that creates positive cash flow for the economy; A tax system that does not favor any sector of the economy; A tax that has little or no negative effect on the economy.

NO FORMS • NO DEADLINES • NO FILINGS
NO WITHHOLDINGS • NO PENALTIES • NO HASSLES
NO WORRIES

Just One Simple, Pay-As-You-Go Tax

Another Way To Think About BBESST

Think of the United States as an Infrastructure Economic Superhighway - like a Toll Road. Every day, millions of people, businesses, organizations, and enterprises (all sectors of the economy) get on this toll road to generate trillions of dollars in sales of goods, services, and financial transactions.

And like a toll road, all people, businesses, organizations, and enterprises using it must pay-as-you-go the fee or tax. This broad base of sales of goods, services, and financial transactions, when divided by the cost of the "Infrastructure Economic

Superhighway-Toll Road,” yields the lowest possible toll rate/tax.

Because of the broadest base possible, the toll/fee/tax rate* will be the lowest possible rate of any other tax system (estimated 1-2%*). For the first time, all sectors of the economy will pay taxes only for their exact share of toll road usage. For citizens to realize the full benefits of this toll-road-style tax system, it is necessary to replace all other tax systems.

The BBESST Tax System is inevitable as it is the only way to collect enough funds to start to pay down the national debt, pay the budget, and guarantee to fund Social Security while lowering taxes to citizens.

*The actual rate is estimated at 1-2%; however, no one has ever calculated the Total Economy of Sales, Services, or Transactions (TESST).

Over 50 Interconnected Reasons and Why BBESST Will Be the Largest Government Deregulation in History

1. Lowest Rate: BBESST tax system keeps costs low for users by setting the rate at the lowest rate possible, 1-2%, and at a level needed to cover infrastructure and service expenditures. Finding the right rate: The tax rate or fee is directly tied to the government's spending needs. This means the rate changes based on the government's budget needs, reducing the risk of overtaxing or underfunding public services.

2. Broad Base: By taxing the massive amount of sales, services, and financial transactions, the government will collect enough funds to pay the Federal budget, stop deficit spending, and start to pay down the debt.

3. Openness: A tax system that is open and honest helps taxpayers trust each other and makes sure that everyone knows how the tax burden is shared. Having the same tax rate for all transactions makes an open tax system.

Taxpayers can easily understand how the tax system works, making it more transparent. Frequent changes to rates can clarify how taxes and government spending are directly related.

4. Simplicity: A flat tax on all sales of products, services, and financial transactions is easy to set up and run, which lowers the costs of compliance and administration. Using the common denominator, the broad base of all sectors of the economy, to figure out the rate, making tax administration easier, and cutting down on the need for complicated exclusions, deductions, or varying rates for different sorts of transactions. Taxpayers may easily grasp the tax system because it doesn't have complicated rules, paperwork, exclusions, or loopholes. Uniformity makes tax administration easier by eliminating the need to create and track multiple deductions and exclusions. This tax system would be easy to manage and understand because it applies the same rate to all transactions.

5. Fairness: Everyone, including individuals, firms, organizations, and enterprises-all sectors of the economy-would pay the same percentage of their transactions in taxes. Some people would see this as a way to make taxes fair. This kind of system aims to ensure that individuals and businesses pay taxes based on the extent to which they use public services and infrastructure.

The tax rate is based on the government's spending priorities; thus, it can be set to fairly and evenly share the tax burden.

6. Equity: A tax system with the same rates for everyone and no exclusions will be seen as equitable because it treats all parts of the economy the same. No citizen or group will have an advantage over another.

7. Fair Impact: Because the rate is based on budget needs, it should be less affected by political bias and will be set up to spread the tax burden in a way that fits with government spending priorities.

8. Efficiency: The tax system works better and puts less stress on tax authorities by using data that is already available and getting businesses involved in collecting taxes. Using the banking system to automatically collect taxes can be highly efficient and cost-effective, leveraging the existing financial infrastructure. Using the current banking infrastructure can make tax collection easier and more cost-effective. The system's flexibility can help government agencies quickly meet shifting budget needs without making dramatic policy changes or

cutbacks. Automatic tax collection through banks and daily transfers to the IRS can significantly reduce administrative overhead, making the tax system highly efficient.

9. Economic Tracking, Analysis, and Data: Due to SIC-Coding on every deposit, the system goes beyond the limitations of GDP reporting. Rich data generated by the SIC-Coding of TESST (Total Economy of Sales, Services, and Transactions) system can support virtual in-depth economic analysis. This enables policymakers to make informed decisions and assess the effectiveness of economic policies in real time. Additionally, can provide real-time insights into economic performance, potentially enabling quicker responses to economic trends and challenges for businesses and investors.

10. Economic Efficiency: Making the tax system easier to understand can lower the costs of compliance and administration for people and businesses, which could make the economy more efficient.

11. Economic Neutrality: A broad base sales, services, and transaction tax, when applied uniformly, has the potential to minimize economic distortions and discourage tax avoidance strategies.

12. Economic Stimulus: By taxing financial transactions rather than income or profits, this approach can encourage economic activity and cash flow.

13. Economic Confidence: Government being responsible with money can make investors and financial markets more confident, which could lead to better borrowing terms when needed.

14. Stimulating Economic Activity: By not solely targeting consumers and citizens, this tax system may have a relatively lower impact on individual spending and potentially stimulate more spending and economic activity.

15. Cash Flow: A tax system that spreads the burden more evenly across transactions and economic activities can increase cash flow for individuals and ASOE, potentially stimulating economic activity.

16. Minimal Economic Distortion: If the tax system is designed to minimize distortionary effects, it may contribute to a more favorable business and investment environment. Because the low tax rate applies to everyone and every transaction, there would be minimal economic distortion.

17. Consistent Revenue Sufficiency: By aligning the rate with the budget, the government can ensure that it collects enough revenue to cover its expenditures, theoretically avoiding budget deficits. Such a tax can provide a consistent and reliable revenue stream for the government.

18. Predictability: Taxpayers, both individuals and businesses, can know the tax liability more since set at a fixed low rate that is directly linked to government budgeting.

19. Accuracy: Automatic deductions on deposits ensure precise and timely tax collection, minimizing opportunities for tax evasion. This approach can provide a stable, reliable revenue stream for the government by capturing its share of all deposits.

20. **Reduced Tax Avoidance and Minimized Tax Evasion:** Automatic collection reduces opportunities for tax evasion, as the tax is deducted at the bank. Automatic tax collection at the time of deposit also reduces income underreporting.

A tax system that is difficult to evade or avoid, due to its broad base and precision, can enhance revenue collection. The involvement of merchants, resellers, and providers in collecting taxes directly from consumers and businesses can enhance tax compliance and reduce opportunities for evasion.

21. **Timeliness:** The daily transfer of collected taxes ensures that tax revenue is delivered promptly to the government, eliminating issues with late or delinquent taxes.

22. **Streamlined Collection:** The use of the existing banking infrastructure for automatic tax collection simplifies the process and reduces administrative costs for businesses and the government.

23. **Minimal Administrative and Compliance Burden:** Individuals and businesses do not need to take any specific actions to pay the tax, making compliance straightforward.

24. **Budget Alignment:** Linking the tax rate precisely to the budget can help ensure that government revenue meets its expenditure needs.

25. **Budget Flexibility:** The ability to precisely adjust the tax rate in response to changing budgetary requirements provides a high level of budget flexibility.

26. **Privacy Protection:** By only accessing deposit information and not collecting additional personal data, the tax

system can enhance privacy and data security.

27. Wide Coverage: Since practically all individuals and entities have bank accounts, the system can achieve broad coverage without the need for extensive outreach or registration efforts.

28. Reduction in Enforcement Efforts: With no tax evasion, enforcement efforts such as tax seizures and tax liens are not necessary.

29. Comprehensive Coverage: The system universally applies uniformly to everyone and all segments of the economy (ASOE), ensuring broad coverage.

30. Predictable Revenue: The daily collection mechanism provides a stable and predictable source of revenue for the government.

31. Lower Compliance Costs: The absence of complex tax forms and procedures reduces compliance costs for individuals and businesses.

32. Broad Coverage: By applying to all segments of the economy, the tax system achieves comprehensive coverage, leaving no potential gaps in revenue collection.

33. Budget Alignment: Frequent rate adjustments help ensure that government revenue closely matches its spending requirements, reducing the risk of budget deficits or surpluses.

34. Fiscal Responsibility: Regular but modest tax adjustments can help ensure that government budgets are balanced and that fiscal responsibilities are met without

accumulating unsustainable levels of debt.

35. **Stable Fiscal Environment:** This approach can create a stable fiscal environment, reducing the need for significant budgetary adjustments, austerity measures, or emergency tax hikes during periods of economic instability.

36. **Debt Reduction:** Over time, responsible fiscal management can lead to a reduction in government debt, contributing to long-term fiscal health and stability.

37. **Sustainability:** By avoiding excessive debt accumulation, the government can ensure the sustainability of public finances and the ability to provide essential services to citizens.

38. **Economic Stability:** Building a surplus revenue during good economic times can help provide stability during economic downturns or unexpected fiscal challenges.

39. **Automatic Stabilizers:** This approach can serve as an automatic stabilizer, injecting additional funds into the economy when needed most, potentially mitigating the impact of economic recessions.

40. **Predictable Returns:** Taxpayers can anticipate and plan for the return of surplus funds at the end of each tax period, which can provide a sense of financial predictability.

41. **Savings Incentive:** Encouraging savings through surplus refunds can promote financial responsibility and economic security for individuals and businesses.

42. **Reduced Rate Changes:** By maintaining a slightly higher nominal tax rate to build a surplus, the need for

frequent rate changes may be reduced, minimizing potential disruptions to economic behavior.

43. Repealing the 16th Amendment: The repeal and replacement of the 16th Amendment, which authorized income taxation, and the abolition of various existing federal taxes and associated regulations.

44. Budget and Debt Control: Ensuring that the BBESST only collects enough taxes to balance the federal budget and pay the national debt, with a cap on the federal budget.

45. Tax Rate Adjustments: The flexibility to adjust tax rates as needed based on revenue requirements, with a general maximum limit of 5%.

46. Exemptions: Exemptions for money/funds transferred within a citizen's or non-citizen's direct family or within a single business's, organization's, or enterprise's financial accounts.

47. Penalty Reduction: Abolishing all felony tax punishment except for malicious tax fraud.

48. Tax Collection: Taxes are collected automatically through bank deposits by the Federal Reserve System, overseen by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

49. Bank Account Requirement: Requiring all entities (citizens, non-citizens, businesses, organizations, and enterprises) to maintain a U.S. bank account for tax deposits.

50. Self-Enforcing: The system is designed to be self-enforcing, with automatic deductions for taxes omitted or not collected by providers or resellers.

51. Transparency: Simplified tax collection and reporting processes with minimal paperwork. Taxpayers can immediately see how the tax rate affects government spending, making the relationship clearer. A tax system that is easier to understand can make the tax process more transparent and clear for taxpayers. It's easy for users to see how the taxes they pay are related to the services or infrastructure they use. Taxpayers can easily see how the tax is used, which builds trust and transparency.

These reasons demonstrate BBESST's unmatched advantages: it is simple, efficient, equitable, growth-oriented, transparent, and fiscally sound. No other system matches its ability to fund government, reduce debt, protect rights, and unleash prosperity. As Einstein said, "Everything should be made as simple as possible"—BBESST does exactly that.



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Addressing Criticisms – Pyramiding and Regressivity

Tax pyramiding/compounding: Viewed as
“more bang for your buck.”

Tax pyramiding—the cascading effect where a tax on transactions builds up through the supply chain—isn’t some apocalyptic scenario. It is the perfection of free-market enterprise and capitalism. Once all the offset benefits of BBESST Tax are factored in, the cost of goods goes down. Just by restructuring taxes, it cut consumer sales taxes by up to 4-6%. In a typical consumer sales tax or VAT tax setup, pyramiding can inflate effective rates on final goods due to the necessary rates of 10, 15, or 20%. The 1-2% BBESST Tax rate is nominal, with an aggregate rate of 3-4%. That’s a far cry from the 20-50% marginal rates people face on income or capital gains today.

Important to note that each transaction is a new, independent event. It’s not like income tax, where the government claws at your existence and earnings upfront. Before you get to spend 1 penny, the government is already spending your money. BBESST Taxes events that one can choose, not your existence.

What about volatility? Income tax rules can flip with every Congress, creating uncertainty that distorts investment

and planning way more than a stable, low transaction fee ever could.

The hype against businesses paying this? It's partly because economists (and lobbyists) fixate on "distortions"—like how pyramiding might encourage vertical integration (big companies merging to avoid multi-stage taxes), which they already do. For them, it would be a win-win, and for citizens, it would keep consumer prices low. Also, forcing horizontal companies to be more competitive, which again, benefits the citizens.

The BBESST system is revenue-neutral and returns up to \$7 trillion to households (via tax redistribution, lower consumer taxes, or direct payments), that's a significant offset—essentially shifting the burden from individuals to transactional flows, putting money in pockets where it can stimulate spending and growth. That is 80 million households getting a boost. That's real redistribution without the bureaucratic overhead of means-testing.

Businesses that might try to pass costs on are still faced with safeguards of supply, demand, and competition, but either way, at 1-2%, it's peanuts compared to current plundering. If profits dip, yeah, firms adapt by efficiency or innovation; that's free enterprise in action, not coddling the rich.

Overall, everyone would take a streamlined BBESST system like this over the status quo any day. It's simpler, harder to game (no deductions or loopholes for the wealthy), and aligns with "user fees" for societal infrastructure.

The pyramid red herring; totally overblown if rates stay microscopic. If BBESST means ditching the IRS gauntlet for something predictable and low-impact, all Americans are in—beats getting “nickel-and-dimed” to death by a thousand cuts.

To push back on the economists who treat vertical integration like a bug in the system. In a free-enterprise, capitalist economy, vertical integration is not a distortion — it’s a feature. In nearly every real-world case—especially with companies like Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Anheuser-Busch, and Amazon and Tesla—it benefits consumers far more than it harms them.

Let’s Break It Down, Tax Pyramiding

1. Vertical Integration Is Market-Driven Efficiency

When a beer company owns the brewery, the bottling plant, the distribution network, and even the aluminum supplier, it’s not “avoiding taxes” — it’s eliminating waste.

- No middleman markups
- Faster innovation (e.g., lighter cans, better refrigeration)
- Consistent quality control
- Lower final prices

Example: Coca-Cola doesn’t just make syrup — it controls bottling, distribution, and even vending machine technology. Result? Coke is cheaper, colder, and more available than if every step were taxed and negotiated separately. That’s consumer surplus, not market failure.

2. BBESST Doesn't "Cause" Integration — It Reveals What's Already Optimal

Old-school economists say: "A transaction tax will force firms to vertically integrate to avoid cascading taxes." Wrong framing. The truth is: If vertical integration makes sense, firms should do it — tax or no tax. A 1–2% BBESST doesn't distort the decision — it exposes the truth about which supply chains are bloated with redundant transactions.

- If a company integrates to save 3% in real costs but loses 1.5% to BBESST? Still a net win.
- If they don't integrate? The market was already efficient. That's capitalism working, not government meddling.

3. Consumers Win — Every Time

Look at the data: Ansheuser-Busch (Beer Industry) Cold chain quality reliability, national branding, and distribution, which means better products at lower prices. Other industry leaders, Coca-Cola, Pepsi, and most beverage companies if not vertically integrated, cannot compete, again the consumer wins, lower prices and a trustworthy product. Same thing for tech companies like Apple, Samsung, and thousands of others. Lastly, like Walmart, bringing more products for citizens at lower prices and creating opportunities for small businesses to sell products nationwide.

Antitrust myth busted: The DOJ only breaks up integration when it harms competition — not when it helps consumers. And under BBESST, any firm can compete — integration isn't a moat, it's a choice.

4. The Economist's Real Fear? Losing Control

When academics cry “distortion,” what they really mean is: “We can’t model this as neatly in our static equilibrium graphs.” But markets aren’t static. They’re dynamic, adaptive, and ruthless. Vertical integration under BBESST isn’t a loophole — it’s Darwinian selection for the most efficient producers. The consumer is the judge, not the Fed or the IRS.

Final Verdict:

“It should not be up to economists or the government in a free enterprise, capitalistic society. Vertical integration almost always favors consumers.”

BBESST doesn’t cause integration — it rewards efficiency. And in a world where every transaction carries a tiny toll, the winners will be the firms that deliver more value for less friction — exactly what capitalism is supposed to do.

Let the economists clutch their textbooks. Let the market decide. And let Coke keep flowing cold and cheap.

***BBESST doesn’t break capitalism —
it upgrades it.***



NowTaxUSA.com

Regressive Myth; Poor Not Wanting to Pay Their Fair Share. Putting a Little Skin in the Game

Regressivity: Many citizens below the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) often overlook the Reverse Income they receive from tax exemptions, tax refunds, earned income tax credits, entitlements, Medicaid, housing, and other sources. The Reverse Income calculation for major offsets, such as exemptions, entitlements, and benefits for citizens under the Federal Poverty Line (FPL), can be substantial. On average, a family of four below the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) can receive \$75,000 or more in benefits annually. A family slightly above the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) must pay for those items, creating a benefit cliff.

This leads to the argument that consumer sales taxes are regressive (a red herring concept); most citizens under the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) very rarely complain about consumer sales taxes to begin with. After all, we are all in this together, and all of us need a little skin in the game.

So, with the BBESST Tax in place, both federally and statewide at 1-2%, it will effectively lower the pay-as-you-go consumer rate, saving 4-6%. The BBESST actually cuts taxes to citizens under the Federal Poverty Line (FPL). This offset will also lead to lower consumer product prices.

The BBESST plan eliminates the complicated 6,871-

page federal tax code and replaces it with a simple, broad-based 1-2% sales tax on all transactions. This frees up funds for administration and predictable revenue, helping everyone, including FPL households, become more prosperous. Moving away from income taxes, which are subject to change, will provide stable funding for programs like Social Security and Medicare. Ensuring they stay operational and continue to help the poor who rely on them.

The BBESST will cut everyone's taxes by using the low-rate, broad-based strategy, the federal rate of 1-2%, and the lower state tax of 1-2%, which will add up to 4% in many states. This would be much less than people in high-sales-tax states pay (for example, in states like Tennessee or Louisiana, where the consumer sales tax is 9–10%, they save 6% on their current sales tax).

All consumers will save money on everyday purchases, but the poor will save proportionately more because they spend most of their income on taxable goods and services.

Everyone Has “Skin In The Game”

People who are worried about regressivity commonly focus on families below the FPL, although the real cash impact is small—usually \$1,000 or less a year in state sales and excise taxes for people below the federal poverty line (approximately \$15,650 for a single person in 2026). The proposal's promises make it easy to get over this problem: Social Security and

Medicare will be properly insured and solvent (which many low-income people depend on), and payroll taxes (SS and Medicare) will be included in the BBESST framework. Citizens under the FPL receiving a paycheck will no longer have matching SS and Medicare of 7.65%; this offsets any BBESST tax.

Also, everyday choices, such as cooking at home instead of ordering pizza every week, can more than offset any small price increase, making arguments about regressivity insignificant. A broad base transaction tax of 1–2% makes sure that everyone has “skin in the game.” In 2025, nearly 40% of households (about 76 million tax units) didn’t pay any federal individual income tax. Many people pay taxes through their paychecks, sales, or property taxes, but BBESST applies to all transactions, which makes it seem less like free-riding. This increases the tax base, makes it easier for high earners (who currently pay about 91% of federal income taxes), and encourages everyone to be more responsible with their money.

Redirecting Trillions and Making the Economy Stronger

BBESST sends households the same amount of money that the federal government would collect from income,

corporate, and other complex taxes. In FY2025-2026, this would be about \$5.2-5.9 trillion (with individual income taxes making up about 49%, payroll taxes about 30%, and corporate taxes about 9%). This allows people to keep more of their money to spend, save, or invest.

The result is that the 80-plus million households that pay taxes will have more money to spend, driving growth through increased spending and investment. Economic models show that switching from income taxes that distort the economy to a broad-based consumption tax can boost annual GDP growth by 5% to 10%. This would create more jobs, expand career options, and strengthen the economy. This “\$5-7 trillion” redirected into the economy shows that, by making things easier, the long-term benefits—easier compliance, more people getting involved, and dynamic growth—are worth it.

You Have Been Drafted to Serve in the IRS!

The current tax systems used by federal and state governments compel business owners to act as tax collectors. Owners must collect employee taxes, Social Security, and Medicare payments—at their own expense and liability.

This uncompensated labor in performing these complex tasks takes many hours and costs citizens billions annually. The complexity of the tax code creates liability, and when errors occur, they can result in substantial penalties, punishing the business owner for work they are not paid for. This burden creates friction, diverting attention from productivity and growth.

The Middleman for Government

The business owner is forced into a contract they never agreed to, diverting funds to a third party, the government. Taxes are hidden and withheld before the employee even sees their check. The owner's liability is wrong, holding them personally liable, without any compensation or benefit.

Legally, once taxes are withheld, they become the government's property, held in trust. This brings up the taking clause from the 5th Amendment. This action can be argued when a citizen is deprived of property, as they are due just compensation. However, this fixed/rigged tax system favors the government. Once again, granting the government rights over citizens was the result of the 16th Amendment.

Lastly, because the government forces the owner to assume this unjust tax-collection role, it creates a liability for the owner. This means the government gains a backdoor through which it can pierce the corporate veil and subject the business owner to personal liability as well.

Implementation: The Proof is in the Performance

The best practice is a 2-year phase-in or sooner. Upon approval, implementation can be instantaneously or phased in. Either way, BBESST performance will be automatic. First, initiate mass deregulation by eliminating all tax laws unrelated to the income tax. Then start with a 0.25% BBESST Tax rate and, for every \$2.5 billion in taxes collected, cut income tax bracket rates across the board by 1-2% or more. Then start raising to reach the level needed to collect enough to cover the budget. Essentially replacing the 16th Amendment. "JUST DO IT".



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**PROPOSED AMENDMENT
PROPOSED “NOW-TAX” -
Broad Base of Every Sales(of
Goods) & Services and Financial
Transactions Tax™ Amendment
(BBESST)**

United States Citizens' Tax Bill Of Rights Preamble - In order for all United States citizens to have an equal opportunity to life, liberty, property, and wealth - the pursuit of happiness - it is time for a Citizens' Tax Bill of Rights.

One tax system that will fairly shift taxes to all segments of our economy. A sole/single, neutral, non-progressive, non-regressive, apolitical, and nonpartisan tax collection system. One tax system with the least amount of rules, regulations, and laws. A tax system that spreads the cost of the federal budget over the largest common denominator (the broadest base possible, all/total sales of goods, services, and financial transactions of all sectors of the economy) divided into the federal budget to create the lowest possible tax rate with the least negative effect on the economy. The largest common denominator means the broadest base possible, all sales of goods & services*, and financial transactions from all sectors of the economy: all citizens, non-citizens, consumers, organizations, enterprises, and businesses (Excluding internal money/funds transferred in personal or business financial accounts e.g. bank accounts, etc.).*After the calculation of Total Economy of Sales (of Goods), Services, and Transactions, selected essential goods & services may need to be exempt.

- Section 1: The Broad Base - National Sales of Goods, Services & Financial Transactions Tax™ Amendment (BBESST) will apply to all citizens, non-citizens, businesses, organizations, and/or enterprises residing and/or operating within the United States or United States Territories.
- Section 2: Establish BBESST for collecting federal taxes at the lowest possible rate. Taxes will be collected at a rate of 5% or less on all sale of goods, services, and financial

transactions in the United States (Excluding internal money/ funds transferred in personal or business financial accounts e.g bank accounts, etc).

- Section 3: Repeal and replace the 16th Amendment and abolish all federal taxes, all current tax laws, associated regulations; such as income tax, estate tax, capital gains tax, excise taxes, tax exemptions, deductions, and any/all other current taxes or laws not limited to this list.
- Section 4: It will forever be prohibited to have different tax laws (to favor or disfavor) for any citizens, non-citizens, businesses, organizations, and/or enterprises residing and/or operating within the United States or United States Territories.
- Section 5: The BBESST will only collect enough taxes to balance the federal budget. The federal budget will be derived by no greater than 5% of the Total Economy of all Sale of Goods, Services, and Financial Transactions (TESST) or not to exceed a federal budget cap of \$5 trillion, or to be determined. The rates may fluctuate as revenue is needed and/or the TESST rises or falls. The tax rate will never exceed 5% of the TESST unless by a 2/3 vote in both Houses, and except for approved national emergencies. Some industry rates may be adjusted as needed to not create an undue burden that would drastically affect, destabilize, or punish that segment of business or economy.
- 5-1: Optionally, if the collection of taxes exceeds the Federal Budget Citizens' Goods, and Services would be eligible for

exemptions. Eventually, with the goal of Citizens paying no Federal taxes.

- Section 6: This law does not apply to money/funds transferred inside a citizen's and non-citizen's direct family or a single business's, a single organization's, and/or a single enterprise's financial accounts residing and/or operating within the United States or United States Territories in a federally-regulated bank or financial accounts.
- Section 7: Abolish all felony tax punishment, except for malicious tax fraud.
- Section 8: Taxes will automatically be collected/deducted through bank deposits by the Federal Reserve System. All taxes collected will be overseen and managed by the Internal Revenue Service. Collection procedure: upon purchase of goods, services, or financial transactions, the provider/reseller will add the BBESST rate. The provider/reseller makes the deposits to the bank. The bank automatically deducts the BBESST rate. At the end of every business day, the bank sends the collected taxes to the Federal Reserve, in the care of the IRS. The only forms will be a deposit slip and a deposit receipt. All deposits will require a Standard Industrial Classification - SIC Code.
- Section 9: All citizens, non-citizens, businesses, organizations, and/or enterprises residing and/or operating within the United States or United States Territories will be required to maintain a current U.S. bank account for deposits of all sale of goods & services, and financial

transactions. This is not to be construed as implying that cash and credit card transactions will be illegal.

- Section 10: The BBESST is a system that eliminates late or delinquent taxes. Taxes are collected directly by the Federal Reserve each day from deposits of all sales, services, and financial transactions. The BBESST is self-enforcing. If the BBESST is omitted or not collected by the provider/reseller when the sales, services, and financial transactions are rendered, the BBESST will be automatically deducted from the provider's/reseller's deposits with no exceptions.



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Chapter 2

The Urgent Case for the Anti-Omnibus, One Bill, One Complete Law Amendment: Restoring Efficiency, Transparency, and Integrity to American Governance

The American legislative process has become a maze of inefficiency, lack of transparency, and self-serving arrangements that hurt taxpayers and undermine democratic values at a time when trust in government is at an all-time low. The existing system, rife with omnibus bills, backroom deals, and unregulated delegations of authority, allows special interests to thrive while ignoring the views of citizens and states.

Today's legislative process is not what our Founders meant by representative government. The proposed One Bill, One Complete Law Amendment (sometimes called the Anti-Omnibus Amendment) is a brave, structural change that will directly fix these problems. This amendment would reduce costs, improve efficiency and transparency, prevent fraud, eliminate quid pro quo favors, and limit lobbyists' influence. This effectively reduces the centralized power of Congress and the Senate, making them no longer the sole decision-makers for America's future. In short, it would address the problems the 17th Amendment created by giving too much power to the federal government, restoring a balance in which states and the people regain their proper roles.

Cutting Costs: Ending Wasteful Spending and Unnecessary Bureaucracy

The federal government's budget is now over \$7 trillion a year, mostly because of the accumulation of omnibus bills that put together unconnected pork-barrel projects into laws that have to be passed. These "Christmas tree" legislations require lawmakers to authorize large sums for pet projects to fund important initiatives. This has led to trillions of dollars in needless spending over the years.

Under the current system, incomplete bills grant unelected agencies broad powers, leading to an endless stream of rules that must be interpreted and enforced by large numbers of bureaucrats, which further drives up administrative costs.

The One Bill, One Complete Law Amendment explicitly addresses this issue by mandating that each law comprehensively cover a single subject, leaving no ambiguities for further rule-making. No more secret earmarks or decisions put off until later that turn into expensive initiatives. It eliminates the need for large regulatory systems by stopping delegates that allow agencies to change legislation without any checks. Estimates say that similar single-subject changes at the state level have cut legislative waste by 20–30%. If these reforms were implemented at the federal level, they could save taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars each year, which could be used to reduce the national debt, improve infrastructure, or lower taxes. In short, this amendment ensures that every dollar spent is discussed openly and properly justified.

Enhancing Efficiency: Streamlining a Paralyzed Process Congress Today is a Model of Inefficiency

Bills languish in committees controlled by party leaders, debates drag on indefinitely, and amendments pile up in chaotic fashion. The average bill takes months to navigate this gauntlet, often emerging as unrecognizable Frankenstein monsters. This

gridlock not only delays critical action but also encourages horse-trading that prioritizes political expediency over effective policy.

By mandating direct floor access for bills with sufficient sponsors (15 House members, 10 Senators, or 18 state legislatures), capped debate times (5-12 business hours per chamber), and up-or-down votes, the amendment transforms Congress into a lean, results-oriented body. No more committee bottlenecks or endless filibusters—bills move swiftly from introduction to vote, with amendments requiring super-majority support to prevent frivolous changes. The requirement for advanced written debate summaries ensures focused, productive discussions rather than grandstanding. For national emergencies, expedited procedures allow rapid response without sacrificing oversight. This efficiency would accelerate lawmaking, shorten congressional sessions, and allow representatives to focus on constituent needs rather than procedural gamesmanship, making government more responsive and less burdensome.

Boosting Transparency: Shining Light on Hidden Deals

Opacity is the enemy of accountability. Private committee meetings, last-minute amendments, and omnibus packages obscure who benefits from laws and at what cost. Citizens are left in the dark, unable to track how their tax dollars are allocated or hold lawmakers accountable.

This amendment requires radical transparency: bills must be publicly available for 10 business days before debate, and all mandatory pre-debate submission in writing 24 hours in advance for public review. No secret sessions except for verifiable national security needs. Banning multi-subject bills and incomplete delegations, it prevents laws from being shrouded in complexity or handed off to unaccountable bureaucrats. State ratification for bills further opens the process, inviting broader scrutiny. In a digital age, this means real-time public access to every step, empowering watchdogs, journalists, and citizens to expose irregularities before they become law. Transparency isn't just a buzzword here—it's enforced constitutionally, rebuilding public trust by making government an open book.

Curbing Fraud: Closing Loopholes for Abuse

Fraud thrives in ambiguity. Vague statutes and delegated rulemaking create opportunities for corruption, allowing agencies to interpret laws in favor of insiders or to create slush funds. Recent scandals, from COVID relief fraud (estimated at \$200 billion) to regulatory capture in industries like pharmaceuticals, highlight how incomplete laws enable misuse.

The amendment's insistence on complete, self-contained bills eliminates these vulnerabilities. Every detail—definitions, enforcement, and penalties—must be spelled out up front, leaving no room for fraudulent interpretation or unauthorized spending. By prohibiting post-passage changes without a full legislative amendment, it preserves integrity, making it harder for fraudsters to exploit gaps. Combined with transparent procedures, this would deter abuse at the source, saving billions and ensuring laws serve the public interest, not hidden agendas.

Eliminating Quid Pro Quo Favors and Lobbyist Influence: Dismantling the Swamp

Quid pro quo—I'll support your pork if you back mine—is the currency of Washington, fueled by omnibus bills that allow logrolling among lawmakers and special interests.

Lobbyists, spending over \$3.5 billion annually, exploit this by drafting complex provisions that slip through unnoticed, securing favors for corporations, unions, and foreign entities at the expense of everyday Americans.

This amendment strikes at the heart of such corruption by forbidding bundled legislation and requiring a single-subject focus. No more trading unrelated favors; each bill stands on its own merits. The high bar for amendments (a two-thirds vote) and equal debate time democratize the process, reducing the influence of powerful factions. Empowering state legislatures to initiate bills and ratify outcomes dilutes lobbyist sway in D.C., shifting influence back to the local level, where grassroots accountability is stronger. Lobbyists would find fewer doors open in a system where transparency exposes their machinations, effectively marginalizing their role and cleaning up the “swamp” through structural reform rather than empty promises.

Neutralizing Congress and the Senate as the Sole Voice: A De Facto Reversal of the 17th Amendment

The 17th Amendment (1913), which shifted Senate elections from state legislatures to popular vote, centralized power in Washington, turning Senators into national politicians beholden to party machines and big donors rather than state interests. This has

made Congress the unchallenged “sole voice of America,” often ignoring regional diversity and amplifying federal overreach. In a masterful self-correction, this amendment effectively neuters that dominance without formal repeal. By allowing state legislatures to sponsor bills directly (bypassing congressional gatekeepers) and requiring state ratification for key measures, it restores states as co-equal partners in governance. Congress becomes a facilitator, not a dictator—its role diminished as states gain veto power and initiation rights. Citizens, through transparent processes and public review mandates, reclaim oversight, ensuring laws reflect America’s federalist roots rather than top-down mandates. This “self-elimination” of the 17th’s excesses revives the Founders’ vision: a balanced republic where power flows from the people and states upward, not from a distant elite downward.

A Path Forward: Why This Amendment is Essential Now

The One Bill, One Complete Law Amendment isn’t just reform—it’s a reset button for a dysfunctional system. By slashing costs, streamlining operations, enforcing transparency, stamping out fraud, ending backroom deals, sidelining lobbyists, and rebalancing power toward states and citizens, it addresses the root causes of governmental malaise. In a time of fiscal crises, political polarization, and eroding freedoms, this amendment offers hope: a government that works for the people, not against them. It’s time to rally support—from grassroots activists to state houses—and demand this change. America’s future depends on reclaiming the Constitution’s promise of liberty, efficiency, and accountability. Let’s make it happen.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment: The One Bill, One Complete Law Amendment (Also known as the Anti-Omnibus and Anti-Delegation Amendment)

Preamble

To ensure transparency, accountability, and faithful representation in lawmaking; to prevent government overreach through incomplete, vague, or multi-subject legislation; and to guarantee that all laws enacted are self-contained, fully defined, and subject only to amendment by the constitutional legislative process, the following amendment is proposed. The Federal Government is the servant of the Citizens, who hold ultimate sovereignty under the Constitution. No legislative rules, procedures, committees, or delegations shall deprive elected representatives, states, or Citizens of equal participation and public oversight, except in genuine national security matters requiring confidentiality.

Section 1. Single Subject and Complete Form

Requirement

Every bill enacted into law shall embrace but one subject, which shall be clearly and descriptively expressed in its title. Each law shall be presented in complete form at the time of passage, containing all necessary definitions, standards, criteria, and enforcement mechanisms. No law shall leave any substantive matter—such as rules, regulations, definitions, implementation details, or future adjustments—to be determined later by executive agencies, administrative processes, de facto practices, or any non-legislative entity. Any delegation of rule-making authority is prohibited unless explicitly limited to ministerial functions and fully bound within the statute itself. Violations of this section shall render the affected portions void.

Section 2. Prohibition on Future Changes Without

Amendment

No changes, expansions, clarifications, or additions that alter the substance, scope, application, or effect of a law may be made except through a new bill enacted in accordance with this amendment. Administrative interpretations, regulatory expansions, or implied delegations that effectively amend the law are forbidden. Courts shall have jurisdiction to invalidate any such actions.

Section 3. Bill Introduction and Floor Access

Any bill sponsored by at least 15 Members of the House of Representatives and 10 Senators, or by concurrent resolution of the legislatures of at least 18 states, shall be brought directly to the floor of the originating chamber for consideration, in the order received, without discretionary committee blocking or exclusion.

Section 4. House Procedure

Upon introduction, each bill shall be made publicly available for review for at least 10 business days. Debate shall then occur, with equal time allocated to all participating Members. Total debate shall not exceed 5 to 12 business hours. Members wishing to speak must submit a written summary of their position and key arguments at least 24 hours in advance, to be publicly posted; failure to do so precludes participation. Amendments require a two-thirds vote of the House to adopt.

Section 5. House Vote

After debate, the bill proceeds to an immediate up-or-down vote.

Section 6. Senate Procedure

If passed by the House, the bill moves to the Senate, where identical procedures apply: public review (if not already satisfied), equal debate time (5–12 business hours max), advance written summaries required, and a two-thirds vote for amendments. If not passed, the bill dies and may not be

reintroduced until the next congressional session.

Section 7. Resolution of Differences

If the Senate amends and passes the bill, it returns to the House for an up-or-down vote on the amended version. If rejected, the bill dies. If concurred in, the bill passes both Houses.

Section 8. Presidential Action

A bill passed by both Houses shall be presented to the President for approval or veto, per Article I, Section 7.

Section 9. State Ratification Option

For bills not involving appropriations or national emergencies, upon passage by Congress, the bill may (by concurrent resolution) be transmitted to the states for ratification by a simple majority of state legislatures within 30 days. Abstentions do not count; a simple majority of participating states suffices. Ties are broken by the President.

Section 10. National Emergency Exception

In a declared national emergency, a bill directly addressing the emergency may be prioritized for immediate floor consideration and expedited debate/vote, upon a two-thirds vote to invoke the exception in each chamber.

Section 11. Enforcement

Congress shall enact legislation to enforce this amendment. Any law or action violating its provisions shall be void to the extent of the violation. Any citizen, Member of Congress, or state shall have standing to seek judicial review and appropriate relief, including injunctions against enforcement.



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Chapter 3

The Public Ownership and Instant Transparency Act (PIOTA) or Instant FOIA

This is not merely a technical upgrade to how government handles information—it's a necessary corrective to a broken system that has allowed opacity to breed inefficiency, waste, fraud, abuse, and erosion of public trust. In today's environment of record-high FOIA backlogs, multi-month (or even multi-year) delays, skyrocketing processing costs, and repeated scandals fueled by hidden deliberations, real-time transparency is essential to restore accountability, deter misconduct, and make government work better for citizens.

The Broken Status Quo: Delays, Backlogs, and Barriers to Access

The current Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process, while well-intentioned, has become a bottleneck that frustrates citizens and shields government actions from scrutiny. Federal agencies routinely miss the statutory 20-working-day response deadline, with “unusual circumstances” extensions pushing the timelines far beyond that. Recent data shows average processing times for simple requests climbing to 44 days or more in some cases, while complex or backlogged requests can take months to years—examples include Department of Education FOIA responses averaging over nine months (185 business days) and widespread agency backlogs exceeding 200,000–267,000 requests government-wide in recent fiscal years.

These delays impose real costs on taxpayers and citizens alike. The federal government spent an estimated \$723 million on FOIA processing in FY 2024 (up 22% from prior years), plus tens of millions defending lawsuits, with backlogs growing 33% in some periods despite increased staffing. Citizens face frustration, lost time, and barriers to oversight—whether journalists investigating public safety, researchers tracking policy impacts, or individuals seeking personal records. This inefficiency not only wastes resources but also undermines the core promise of FOIA: timely public access to government records.

Hidden Deliberations Enable Waste, Fraud, and Corruption

Private meetings, closed-door briefings, and informal “working groups” create shadows where misconduct can flourish unchecked. Historical examples abound: the 2020 congressional insider trading scandal, where Senators allegedly used non-public information from closed briefings to profit during the early COVID-19 market crash; the Abscam sting in the 1970s, which exposed bribery in Congress through secretly recorded deals; and ongoing concerns about regulatory capture, earmarks, and self-dealing that thrive away from public view.

Non-public processes allow waste and fraud to go undetected—billions of dollars lost annually to improper payments, mismanagement, and abuse across agencies. Without real-time visibility, citizens cannot spot patterns of favoritism, conflicts of interest, or decisions prioritizing special interests over the public good. As Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously noted, “sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants”—and studies of open government initiatives, like the 2009 Recovery Act transparency requirements, confirm that proactive disclosure deters fraud, waste, and abuse by making officials more cautious and accountable.

How POITA Delivers Real Solutions and Benefits

POITA addresses these failures head-on by shifting from reactive, delayed FOIA requests to proactive, near-instantaneous public access:

Eliminates delays and backlogs by mandating automatic, real-time uploads to the National Public Archive (NPA)—within 30 seconds for most records—bypassing FOIA queues entirely for non-exempt materials. No more waiting months; citizens get immediate insight into government actions.

Cuts costs dramatically over time by reducing FOIA processing burdens, litigation, and administrative overhead. The \$10 billion phased implementation investment (spread over years and conditioned on compliance) pales in comparison to ongoing annual FOIA expenses and fraud losses, while enabling efficiencies such as automated AI redactions for narrow exceptions (national security, health privacy).

Deters fraud, waste, and corruption through constant visibility. Livestreamed meetings, instant archiving of drafts/amendments, and auto-captured communications (on official devices only) make it far harder to hide improper dealings. Research on transparency initiatives shows they act as deterrents, lowering rates of abuse by fostering self-discipline among officials and empowering public oversight.

Builds trust and engagement by affirming that government records belong to citizens from the moment of creation—no

copyrights, no gatekeeping. Real-time access empowers journalists, watchdogs, and everyday Americans to monitor spending, decisions, and performance, leading to more responsive governance and higher public confidence.

Balances security and privacy with targeted, auditable exceptions and a Citizen Oversight Board for independent audits—ensuring transparency without compromising legitimate protections

In an era of rampant public distrust in institutions, POITA represents a bold, structural fix: making openness the default, not an exception. It transforms government from a distant bureaucracy into an accountable servant of the people, reducing opportunities for abuse, saving resources, and strengthening democracy. The time for incremental tweaks has passed—real-time transparency is the reform we need to reclaim government for citizens.



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The Public Ownership and Instant Transparency Act Instant FOIA Legislation

To establish near-instantaneous public access to government records through a centralized national archive, affirm public ownership of government-created materials, eliminate non-public deliberations except in limited circumstances, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the “Public Ownership”

SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Government records created or maintained with public funds are the property of the citizens of the United States and held in trust by government entities.

(2) Existing processes under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) impose significant delays, costs, and barriers to citizens accessing their own property.

(3) Non-public deliberations, including private committee meetings and informal discussions, often conceal waste, fraud, abuse, and decisions affecting the public interest.

The purpose of this Act is to—

(1) establish a real-time, publicly accessible national archive of government records (subject to limited national security and privacy exceptions);

(2) eliminate non-public meetings of public officials discussing official business; and

(3) promote accountability through technology-enabled transparency.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) Covered entity.—The term “covered entity” means any Federal agency, department, office, commission, legislature, court (except the Supreme Court and Article III courts in adjudicative functions), or public corporation; and any State or local government agency, legislature, or court receiving Federal funds subject to this Act.

(2) Government record.—The term “government record” means any document, email, text message, audio recording, video recording, metadata, or other data created, received, or maintained by a covered entity in the course of official business.

(3) National security exception.—The term “national security exception” means information properly classified under Executive Order 13526 (or successor order) or sealed by court order in an ongoing criminal investigation.

(4) Near-instantaneous.—The term “near-instantaneous” means within 30 seconds of creation or receipt, subject to technical feasibility.

SECTION 4. PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF GOVERNMENT RECORDS.

(a) Ownership.—All government records are the property of the citizens of the United States and held in trust by covered entities.

(b) No copyright.—No covered entity may assert copyright or any intellectual property right over a government record.

(c) Public domain dedication.—Upon creation or receipt, all government records (except those falling under

the national security exception) shall be dedicated to the public domain under a CC0 1.0 Universal license or equivalent.

SECTION 5. NATIONAL PUBLIC ARCHIVE.

(a) Establishment.—The Archivist of the United States, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall establish and maintain the National Public Archive (NPA), a single, searchable, publicly accessible database with blockchain-verified integrity to prevent tampering.

(b) Mandatory upload.—Each covered entity shall stream or upload all government records to the NPA near-instantaneously via secure, standardized APIs.

(c) Automated redaction.—Open-source, auditable AI-based redaction tools shall automatically apply redactions solely for—

- (1) information under the national security exception;
- (2) personally identifiable health information (in compliance with HIPAA de-identification standards); and
- (3) other narrowly defined exemptions required by law. Redactions shall be logged with explanations, subject to audit.

(d) Public access.—No FOIA request shall be required for access to records in the NPA. The NPA shall provide—

- (1) full-text search capabilities;
- (2) downloadable original formats;
- (3) permanent, per-record URLs; and

(4) live transcription and archiving of meetings within 60 seconds of occurrence.

SECTION 6. ELIMINATION OF NON-PUBLIC MEETINGS.

(a) Open meetings requirement.—All meetings of 2 or more officials of a covered entity discussing official business shall be open to the public, with no exceptions for executive sessions, closed briefings, or informal groups, except for matters under the national security exception.

(b) Livestream and archive.—Meetings shall be livestreamed in high-definition video, stereo audio, and real-time captioning, and archived in the NPA with per-second timestamps.

(c) Legislative committees.—All committees and subcommittees of Congress, State legislatures, and local bodies shall prohibit non-public deliberations. Draft bills, amendments, and explanations shall be uploaded to the NPA within 60 seconds of creation.

SECTION 7. TRANSPARENCY FOR COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) Official devices only.—Public officials shall use only government-issued devices for official business.

(b) Auto-archiving.—Communications shall be automatically archived in the NPA, including—

(1) emails via SMTP/IMAP integration;

(2) VoIP phone calls with transcription (redacting only court-ordered protected content); and

(3) text messages (SMS/MMS) with full metadata (sender, recipient, timestamp, geolocation where applicable).

SECTION 8. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.

(a) Suspension.—Any official who intentionally disables recording, delays upload, or conceals a record shall be immediately suspended without pay pending investigation.

(b) Criminal penalties.—Willful concealment, alteration, or destruction of a government record shall be a Class D felony, punishable by up to 7 years imprisonment and fines.

(c) Citizen enforcement.—Any citizen shall have standing to seek mandamus in a Federal district court to compel compliance, with reasonable attorney fees awarded to prevailing plaintiffs.

SECTION 9. IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.

The Archivist shall implement this Act in phases:

(1) Within 180 days: NPA prototype operational; all Federal agencies connected.

(2) Within 1 year: All State legislatures and the 100 largest municipalities connected.

(3) Within 2 years: All covered entities nationwide.

SECTION 10. FUNDING AND PREEMPTION.

(a) Authorization.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000,000 for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to assist States and localities with compliance, with funds conditioned on timely uploads to the NPA.

(b) Preemption.—This Act preempts any State or local law permitting non-public meetings or delayed disclosure inconsistent with this Act.

(c) Compact.—States shall join an interstate compact

for POITA compliance within 2 years or risk loss of certain Federal highway funds.

SECTION 11. CITIZEN OVERSIGHT BOARD.

(a) Establishment.—There is established a Citizen Oversight Board consisting of 15 members, none of whom may be current or former public officials: 5 appointed by the President, 5 by the Senate Majority Leader (in consultation with the Minority Leader), and 5 by the Speaker of the House (in consultation with the Minority Leader).

(b) Duties.—The Board shall conduct quarterly audits of NPA integrity, issue reports, and subpoena officials for public testimony as needed.

SECTION 12. SEVERABILITY; EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) Severability.—If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the remainder shall not be affected.

(b) Effective date.—This Act shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment.



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Chapter 4

The Urgent Need for Term Limits: Breaking the Cycle of Stagnation, Entrenchment, and Career Politics in American Government

In a republic founded on the principles of citizen governance and periodic renewal, the United States has drifted far from its ideals. Today, elected officials and appointees often cling to power for decades, supported by entrenched party machines, special interests, and a system that rewards longevity over innovation. The 2-party system went from noble representation to that governmental oligarchy we all fear. In the dread of Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, and Madison, we have created a “Tyrannical Republic”. This stagnation breeds inefficiency, corruption, and a disconnect from the American people, making term limits not just a reform but an essential reset. By capping service in key positions—such as the presidency, Congress, the judiciary, and executive roles—we can eliminate career politicians, inject fresh perspectives, and restore a government that truly serves its citizens rather than perpetuating a self-serving elite.

The core problem is the indefinite tenure that allows officials to become “embedded” in their roles, insulated from accountability. Career politicians, backed by party apparatuses and donor networks, prioritize re-election over bold action, leading to legislative gridlock and policy inertia. For instance, the average tenure in Congress has ballooned, with many members serving 20-30 years or more, fostering a culture where incumbents win over 90% of races due to name recognition and fundraising advantages. This entrenches stagnation: long-serving lawmakers become beholden to lobbyists and special interests, trading favors for campaign support and sidelining the needs

of everyday Americans. Term limits would shatter this cycle by forcing turnover, ensuring representatives remain responsive to constituents rather than distant power brokers.

Public support for term limits is overwhelming, reflecting widespread frustration with this status quo. A 2023 Pew Research Center survey found that 87% of Americans favor limiting congressional terms, with strong bipartisan backing (90% of Republicans and 86% of Democrats). This isn't partisan—it's a democratic imperative. Without limits, parties prop up indefinite officeholders, turning public service into a lifelong profession. Careerism erodes trust: approval ratings for Congress hover around 20%, as voters see officials more focused on personal gain than national progress. Term limits would bring in leaders with real-world expertise—from business, science, education, and community activism—rather than professional politicians who have never held a job outside Washington.

The judiciary exemplifies this need. Lifetime appointments for Supreme Court justices and federal judges, intended to insulate them from politics, have instead created unaccountable power. It could be argued that it establishes an oligarchy. Justices serve an average of 28 years, with some exceeding 30, raising concerns about mental decline, strategic retirements, and ideological entrenchment. Recent ethics scandals and polarizing decisions have plummeted public trust in the Court to historic lows, with only 40% approval in recent polls. A 15-year term would introduce regular turnover, bringing fresh ideas, reducing

confirmation battles, and enhancing democratic accountability without undermining independence. Unlike lifetime tenure, which sets the U.S. apart from nearly every other democracy and all but one state court system, term limits align with global norms while preserving judicial integrity.

For the executive branch, uncapped service in high-level roles fosters bureaucratic inertia and cronyism. Senior officials can embed for decades, remain resistant to change, and be insulated from oversight. A 20-year cap would prevent this, promoting innovation and merit-based advancement.

Critics argue that term limits could disrupt stability, reduce expertise, or make institutions more political. Yet, evidence from states with limits shows fresher legislatures are more dynamic and less corrupt, with no loss in effectiveness. The Founders envisioned citizen-servants, not perpetual rulers—term limits honor that vision by ensuring power rotates, preventing dynasties, and revitalizing democracy.

In 2026, amid fiscal crises, polarization, and declining faith in institutions, term limits are a nonpartisan solution to reclaim government for the people. They eliminate the stranglehold of career politicians, combat stagnation, and ensure officials serve with urgency, knowing their time is finite.

The Judicial and Legislative Accountability - Federal Term Limits Amendment Act

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to establish term limits for certain Federal offices and positions.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to establish term limits for certain Federal offices and positions.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years after the date of its submission for ratification:

ARTICLE --

Section 1. Presidential Term Limits.

No person shall be elected to the office of President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more than once. This section reaffirms and incorporates the provisions of the 22nd Amendment but shall not preclude service in other branches of government.

Section 2. Congressional Term Limits.

No person shall be elected to the office of Senator for more than two six-year terms. No person shall be elected to the office of Representative for more than three 3-year terms. Service in one chamber shall not count toward limits in the other chamber, and these limits shall not preclude service in other branches of government.

Section 3. Judicial Term Limits.

Justices of the Supreme Court shall serve a single term of 15 years from the date of confirmation, after which they may serve on lower Federal courts if appointed or elected. All other Article III Federal judges shall serve a single term of 15 years from the date of confirmation, after which they may be reappointed or serve in other judicial capacities as provided by law. These limits shall not preclude service in other branches of government.

Section 4. Executive Branch Term Limits.

No person shall serve in any Senate-confirmed executive branch position, including Cabinet secretaries, agency heads, and senior executive service roles, for more than 20 years in aggregate across all such positions. This limit shall not apply to career civil service employees below Senate-confirmed levels and shall not preclude service in other branches of government.

Section 5. Application and Transition.

The term limits established by this article shall apply prospectively and shall not affect the terms of individuals serving at the time of ratification. Partial terms exceeding half the full term length shall count as a full term for purposes of these limits. Congress may enact legislation to implement this article, including provisions for staggered implementation in the judiciary to maintain continuity.

Section 6. Compensation

(a) Minimum Service Requirements for Vesting.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Member of the House of Representatives, the Senate, or the President of the United States shall be eligible for a federal retirement annuity or employer-sponsored benefit package until they have completed a

minimum of eight (8) years of creditable federal service.

(b) Benefit Calculation Tiers. The retirement benefit for an eligible individual under this section shall be calculated based on the following schedule of completed years of service:

Tier 1 (8 Years): Upon completion of 8 years of service, the individual shall be entitled to 25 percent of the maximum allowable benefit package.

Tier 2 (15 Years): Upon completion of 15 years of service, the individual shall be entitled to 50 percent of the maximum allowable benefit package.

Tier 3 (20 Years): Upon completion of 20 years of service, the individual shall be entitled to 75 percent of the maximum allowable benefit package.

Private Sector Parity: In no instance shall the total government-funded portion of the retirement package exceed the median value of defined-benefit or defined-contribution plans offered by the top 500 private-sector employers (S&P 500) as audited annually by the Department of Labor.

(c) Cumulative Service and Reciprocity. Years of service for the purposes of this Section shall be cumulative across all federal elected offices. Service in the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Executive Branch (President and Vice President) shall be aggregated to determine the applicable Tier under subsection (b).

(d) Term Limit Interaction. The application of term limits to a specific office shall not preclude an individual from reaching higher benefit tiers through service in a different federal elected office, provided the total years of service meet the requirements set forth in this Section.

Chapter 5

Slam the Revolving Door – 5-Year Non-Compete to Stop Politicians Cashing In

Cooling-Off Periods in the U.S. Government: Addressing
Influence Peddling and Quid Pro Quo Through Revolving
Door Restrictions

In the U.S. government, “cooling-off” periods—also known as revolving door restrictions—serve as ethical safeguards to prevent former officials from immediately leveraging their public service for private gain.

These rules apply to elected, appointed, and executive branch personnel, aiming to curb conflicts of interest and maintain public trust. While current laws focus primarily on lobbying and representational activities, they do not fully prohibit employment or book deals/media deals, leading some critics to argue that the framework is incomplete. This article explores the existing restrictions, their rationale in preventing quid pro quo arrangements, and why stronger measures might be warranted, drawing on federal statutes and ethical guidelines.

What Are Cooling-Off Periods?

Cooling-off periods mandate a waiting time after leaving government service during which former officials are barred from certain activities that could exploit their insider knowledge or connections. These are enshrined in federal law under 18 U.S.C. § 207, which imposes post-employment restrictions on executive branch employees, including senior and very senior officials. The key prohibitions include:

Lifetime Ban: Former employees cannot represent others or communicate with the intent to influence specific matters in which they personally and substantially participated while in office.

Two-Year Ban: Applies to matters under their official responsibility in the last year of service, prohibiting representational communications or appearances.

One-Year Cooling-Off for Senior Officials: Senior employees (e.g., those earning at least 86.5% of Executive Level II pay) cannot lobby or influence their former agency for one year. This extends to two years for “very senior” officials, such as Cabinet members.

Presidential executive orders have often strengthened these via ethics pledges. For instance, President Obama’s E.O. 13490 imposed a two-year ban on working on issues involving former employers, while Trump’s E.O. 13770 extended lobbying bans to five years for appointees. Biden’s administration revived similar pledges, emphasizing transparency.

These rules do not outright ban all post-government employment or book deals/media deals. Instead, they target activities that involve influencing government decisions. States have analogous laws, often with one- to two-year waits before former legislators can lobby. Restrictions on Book deals/media deals and Employment

While cooling-off periods primarily address lobbying,

book deals/media deals for former officials are governed by ethics rules that prohibit compensation if tied to official duties. Under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.807, current employees cannot receive payments for writing related to their roles, such as if the content draws on nonpublic information or if the invitation stems from their position. For former officials, this evolves into broader conflict-of-interest concerns.

Book deals/media deals are not explicitly prohibited post-employment, but they can raise red flags if they appear as veiled quid pro quo—exchanging official acts for future rewards. Federal bribery laws, such as 18 U.S.C. § 201, criminalize corruptly accepting value for official acts and require a quid pro quo agreement. The Supreme Court in *Snyder v. United States* (2024) clarified that 18 U.S.C. § 666 applies only to such explicit exchanges, not after-the-fact “gratuities” like thank-you gifts or book advances without prior agreement.

Employment restrictions follow suit: Former officials can take private-sector jobs, but not if they involve representing clients before their old agency during the cooling-off period. Critics argue this is insufficient, as “influence peddling” can occur subtly through consulting or advisory roles without direct lobbying. Proposals like Elizabeth Warren’s anti-corruption plan suggest banning companies from hiring ex-officials to “rig the game” and expanding bribery definitions to cover access sales.

Why These Restrictions Are Needed: Preventing Quid Pro Quo

The core purpose of cooling-off periods is to deter quid pro quo corruption—where officials trade favors for personal benefits—and to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Without them, the “revolving door” allows officials to regulate industries leniently in anticipation of lucrative post-government jobs, eroding public trust. As noted in federal guidelines, these rules prevent the unfair use of government contacts for private gain, promoting ethics and transparency.

Historical context underscores this: The Framers viewed influence-buying as corrupt, even in the absence of explicit deals, as seen in early congressional scandals in which gifts aimed to secure future favors. Modern examples abound, such as Trump Administration officials transitioning to lobbying firms, prompting calls for reform. Book deals/media deals amplify risks; a large advance could incentivize biased decisions if promised implicitly during service, subverting democratic processes.

Critics, including the Supreme Court in cases like *Citizens United*, have narrowed “corruption” to quid pro quo only, arguing broader definitions infringe on free speech. However, this view is contested: Influence and access can distort policy as effectively as bribes, leading to “structural corruption” where officials prioritize donors over constituents.

Is the Current Framework Complete?

Many argue it's not. Cooling-off periods are often too short (one to two years), allowing relationships to persist. Book deals/media deals remain a loophole, with former presidents and officials earning millions from memoirs that capitalize on their tenure without direct restrictions. To fully address quid pro quo, reforms could include: Extending bans to five years or more for all high-level officials.

Prohibiting book deals/media deals or advances during a cooling-off period if linked to official experiences. Banning employment with entities regulated by their former agency.

Such measures, as proposed in anti-corruption bills, would strengthen safeguards against influence peddling. Ultimately, these rules are essential for preserving government integrity, ensuring decisions serve the public rather than personal enrichment. Except for national security, where expertise is limited to that individual, practical exceptions are subject to a process of approval. A stronger, more comprehensive approach to revolving door restrictions could build on existing federal laws (primarily 18 U.S.C. § 207) and past proposals by implementing a uniform 5-year cooling-off period for all elected officials, high-level appointees, and executive management personnel. This would prohibit them from being hired by or entering into lucrative arrangements (such as book deals/media

deals) with entities they regulated, oversaw, or influenced during service, where such arrangements could exploit their government influence.

This extended period would apply broadly to prevent quid pro quo dynamics, where officials might favor private interests in anticipation of future rewards. However, to balance public interest needs—particularly in areas like national security, defense, intelligence, cybersecurity, or other specialized fields where expertise is often limited to a small pool of individuals—practical exceptions should be allowed through a rigorous, transparent approval process.

Proposed 5-Year Cooling-Off Framework

Core Restriction: A 5-year ban on: Employment, consulting, advisory roles, or board positions with private entities (e.g., defense contractors, regulated industries, foreign governments) that the official directly influenced or oversaw. Book deals/media deals, speaking fees, or media contracts that monetize official experiences or access (e.g., advances tied to insider knowledge or influence).

Any form of compensated influence-peddling, including “strategic consulting” that skirts direct lobbying definitions.

Rationale for 5 Years: This duration aligns with historical proposals (e.g., Donald Trump’s 2016 ethics plan for a 5-year lobbying ban on executive branch officials and lawmakers; similar ideas in bills like those from Reps. DeSantis and DeFazio; public polls showing 73-77% support for 5-year extensions). It exceeds current statutory 1-2 year periods for senior/very senior officials and executive orders (e.g., Trump’s E.O. 13770 imposed 5 years for appointees). Longer periods reduce incentives for regulatory capture or lenient decisions during service.

Practical Exceptions for National Security and Limited Expertise

Exceptions would be narrowly tailored to avoid undermining the ban while addressing genuine public needs, such as retaining irreplaceable expertise in classified or highly technical domains (e.g., nuclear deterrence, cyber threats, intelligence analysis).

Eligible Categories: Roles directly serving U.S. national security interests (e.g., consulting for DoD, intelligence agencies, or critical infrastructure protection). Positions where the individual’s unique, non-transferable expertise (gained primarily through government service) is essential, and no suitable alternative exists in the public or cleared private sector. Limited to non-lobbying, non-representational activities (e.g., technical advisory without influencing decisions on behalf of private clients).

Approval Process and Application: The former official (or prospective employer) submits a detailed request to an independent ethics body, such as the Office of Government Ethics (OGE), in coordination with the relevant agency (e.g., DoD, DNI for intelligence).

Review Criteria: Certification that the activity serves a critical national security or public interest need. Evidence that expertise is truly limited (e.g., no comparable experts available without the individual's involvement). No conflict with lifetime "switching sides" bans (e.g., no representation on matters personally handled). Public disclosure of the waiver request (redacted for classified info) to ensure transparency.

Decision-Maker: OGE Director (or delegated authority) issues written certification, potentially with input from agency heads or the President for high-profile cases. Limit waivers (e.g., cap at 25 active at any time, similar to existing 18 U.S.C. § 207 provisions for certain waivers).

Oversight and Revocation: Annual review; waivers revocable if circumstances change. Violations trigger civil/criminal penalties.

Existing precedents support this: Federal law already allows waivers for post-employment restrictions when "in the public interest" or for national security/economic exigencies (e.g., via presidential certification under 18 U.S.C. § 207(k), limited to 25 at

a time; Secretary of State waivers for international organizations). DoD and intelligence communities have carved out exceptions for scientific/technical collaboration. A formalized process would prevent abuse while enabling rare, justified cases.

Why This Is Needed

A 5-year baseline with targeted exceptions would close loopholes in current rules (short cooling-offs, no broad employment/book deal bans) while preserving flexibility for irreplaceable talent in high-stakes areas. Without it, the revolving door continues to erode trust—officials may prioritize future opportunities over public duty. This reform promotes integrity, deters implicit quid pro quo, and ensures government decisions serve citizens, not personal gain. Implementation could occur via legislation (e.g., amending 18 U.S.C. § 207) or executive order for appointees, with congressional action for broader/elected coverage.

A BILL

Public Service Integrity and Anti-Revolving Door Act

To strengthen ethics rules by creating a 5-year “cooling-off” period for former elected officials, high-level appointees, and senior executive branch employees; to prohibit them from taking most private jobs, consulting roles, or book deals/media deals that profit from their government influence; to prevent quid pro quo corruption and the appearance of improper influence; and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Public Service Integrity and Anti-Revolving Door Act of 2026”.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to: Protect the public trust by stopping former government officials from immediately cashing in on their public service through private jobs, consulting, or book deals/media deals with companies or groups they regulated, oversaw, or influenced while in office.

Reduce the risk of quid pro quo arrangements, where officials make decisions during their term, hoping for future personal rewards.

Maintain public confidence that government decisions serve the American people, not private interests.

Allow limited exceptions only when absolutely necessary for national security and when no other expert can fill the role, with strict approval and public transparency.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

Covered Official: Any person who, at any time after the date of enactment of this Act—

Serves as President, Vice President, Member of Congress, federal judge, Cabinet Secretary, or other “very senior” executive official (as defined in current law);

Serves in a senior appointed or elected position (e.g., pay

at or above the level for “senior” employees under ethics rules); Or holds executive management roles in agencies with regulatory, contracting, or oversight authority.

Restricted Entity: Any private company, organization, foreign government, or entity that the covered official directly regulated, awarded contracts to, oversaw, or substantially influenced during their last 3 years in government service.

Book Deal or Similar Arrangement: Any paid contract for writing, publishing, speaking fees, or media appearances that relies on or monetizes the person’s government experiences, access, or insider knowledge.

SECTION 4. 5-YEAR COOLING-OFF PERIOD.

(a) **General Prohibition** — For 5 full years after leaving government service, a covered official may not: Accept employment, consulting, advisory, board, or any paid role with a restricted entity.

Enter into any book deal, advance, royalty agreement, or paid speaking/media contract that draws on their official duties, decisions, or non-public information.

Provide any compensated advice, strategy, or influence-related services (even if not formal “lobbying”) to restricted entities.

(b) **Why 5 Years?** — This period gives time for relationships and influence to fade, reduces incentives for officials to favor private interests while in office, and aligns with public support for longer restrictions (as seen in polls and past proposals).

SECTION 5. EXCEPTIONS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND LIMITED EXPERTISE.

(a) Narrow Exception Allowed — The 5-year ban does not apply if: The new role directly supports U.S. national security (e.g., technical consulting for the Department of Defense, intelligence community, or critical infrastructure protection); The covered official has truly unique, non-transferable expertise gained mainly through government service; No comparable expert is reasonably available in government or cleared private sectors; and The role involves no lobbying, representation of private interests, or influencing government decisions on behalf of a private client.

(b) Approval Process (must be followed for any exception): The former official (or the prospective employer/agency) submits a written application to the Office of Government Ethics (OGE), with copies to the relevant agency head (e.g., Secretary of Defense or Director of National Intelligence). The application must include:
Proof of that the national security need.
Evidence the expertise is irreplaceable.
Details on compensation and duties.
Certification that no conflict exists with lifetime “switching sides” bans.

OGE reviews the request publicly (redacting classified info) and decides within 60 days, consulting the relevant agency. If approved, OGE issues a written waiver with conditions (e.g., no private client representation).

Waivers are limited: No more than 25 active at any time, government-wide.

All waivers are posted online (redacted) for public review.

Waivers can be revoked if facts change or misuse occurs.

SECTION 6. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.

Violations are civil offenses, with fines up to \$500,000 per violation. Knowing or willful violations are criminal offenses, punishable by up to 5 years in prison and fines.

The Office of Government Ethics enforces this Act, with authority to investigate and refer cases to the Department of Justice.

Annual public reports list all waivers, violations, and compliance.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act applies to anyone leaving covered government service after the date of enactment.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY.

If any part of this Act is found invalid, the rest remains in effect.

This sample bill keeps things tough on everyday influence peddling and book deals/media deals (common ways officials profit quickly) while building in a careful safety valve for genuine national security gaps. It draws from real-world ideas like extended cooling-off proposals, ethics pledges, and waiver processes in current law. If passed, it would need tweaks by lawyers and Congress, but this version explains the core rules in everyday language.



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Chapter 6

First Time Homeowner and Business Owner Homestead 2026 Land Rush

The Power of “Somewhere”. Imagine the transformation of the public spirit when we trade “tenants” for “stewards”.

A Hand Up, Not a Handout:

By providing 2 acres for a home or 100 for a dream, we aren't just giving away dirt; we are giving away possibility.

Stability for the Soul

When a young person knows they must hold their land for five years to earn their equity, they plant roots. They join the PTA; they start a small business; they care if the bridge down the road is fixed.

The Multiplier of Dignity

A HUD-backed home or an SBA-backed startup isn't just a building. It is a workshop where a new middle class is forged. It is a hotel run by a family that knows the names of their guests, or a townhouse where the landlord is a neighbor, not a distant toll-collector.

A Legacy of Equity

This narrative isn't just about real estate; it's about restoring the human scale. It is about ensuring that a young entrepreneur can build a farm without being crushed by the weight of land speculation. It is about making sure that when a foreclosure happens, the land stays with the people—passed from one first-time dreamer to the next, like a baton in a race we are all trying to win.

By keeping the market closed to corporations and open to families, we create a sanctuary for the American spirit. We

are building a future where the next generation doesn't just inherit debt—they inherit earth, equity, and a place to call home.

The Preamble to the New American Homestead Act: A Manifesto for the People

WHEREAS, the fundamental strength of a free society is rooted in the independence, dignity, and stability of the individual and the family unit; and

WHEREAS, for too long, the heritage of the American landscape has been treated as a commodity for the few rather than a foundation for the many, leading to an era of corporate consolidation that has priced a generation out of their own future; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge with solemnity the historical abuses of federal land policy—the broken promises, the unfair seizures of eminent domain, and the preferential treatment of industrial titans over the humble settler—which have left scars upon our geography and our collective trust;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the New American Homestead Act is established upon these unshakeable ethical pillars:

I. The Priority of the Person Over the Portfolio

We declare that land is a place for living, working, and building—not a vehicle for corporate speculation. No

corporation, holding company, or faceless investment fund shall be permitted to hold title under this Act. The soil shall belong to individuals and families, ensuring that those who steward the land are the ones who breathe its air and contribute to its community.

II. The Restoration of the “First Step”

The barrier to entry for the American Dream has grown too high. We commit to lowering that bar for first-time homeowners and startup entrepreneurs. By reserving the first right of acquisition for those who own nothing, we transform the federal government from a distant landlord into a partner in the creation of private wealth and public stability.

III. The Mandate of Stewardship

Equity is not something merely given; it is something earned through presence and perseverance. By requiring a five-year period of committed residency and operation, we ensure that this land is not “flipped” for a quick profit, but nurtured into a home, a farm, or a business that serves the common good.

IV. The Protection of Generational Equity

Financial hardship should not result in the permanent loss of community assets to the highest bidder. We establish a “Cascade of Opportunity” in the event of foreclosure, ensuring that even in failure, the land remains a “hand up” for another first-time seeker. The market shall serve the people; the people shall not be servants to the market.

V. The Harmony of Resources

We recognize that the wealth beneath the earth belongs to the nation, but the peace upon the earth belongs to the inhabitant. Mineral rights shall be exercised only through the lens of cooperation, ensuring that national needs never create a hardship that displaces the family or destroys the dream they have built.

The Covenant

This is our covenant with the next generation: You shall not be a permanent tenant in the land of your birth. You shall have the right to 2 acres for your hearth or 100 acres for your trade. You shall have the backing of your government's credit to build your vision. And after ten years of labor and love, the equity you have built shall be yours—a gift to your children and a testament to the enduring power of the individual.

By this Act, we reclaim the horizon for the people.

H.R. 2026 — The New American Homestead Act (NAHA)

AN ACT to provide for the settlement of individual citizens upon federal lands; to promote the creation of small businesses and family farms; to redress historical land-grant inequities; and to facilitate the building of generational equity through HUD and SBA supported programs.

Section 1: Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Act is to decentralize federal land holdings and empower individual citizens and families—specifically first-

time homeowners and startup entrepreneurs—by providing a direct pathway to land ownership, thereby fostering a new era of national economic stability and public good.

Section 2: Definitions

- **Qualifying Individual:** A natural person who is a citizen or legal resident. This definition explicitly excludes any corporation, Limited Liability Company (LLC) owned by a parent corporation, or Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT).
- **First-Time Owner:** An individual who has not held an ownership interest in a primary residence or commercial property in the three (3) years prior to application.
- **Hardship:** Any extraction of mineral resources that results in the devaluation of the surface property, structural damage to improvements, or significant interference with the owner's primary use of the land.

Section 3: Land Allocation and Use

Federal land identified for disposal under this Act shall be divided and allocated as follows:

1. **Residential Homesteads:** Minimum of two (2) acres, reserved for the construction of a primary residence.
2. **Commercial/Agricultural Homesteads:** Up to one hundred (100) acres, reserved for farms, small businesses, hotels, or the development of rental townhouses.
3. **Prohibition on Corporate Ownership:** Title may only be held by individuals or family trusts. Any attempt to transfer title to a corporation shall result in immediate reversion of the land to the Federal Government.

Section 4: Financing and Assistance

Participants in the NAHA program shall be eligible for:

- HUD Section 203(b) Loans: For the construction and improvement of residential homesteads.
- SBA 7(a) and 504 Loans: For the establishment and capital equipment needs of businesses and farms situated on homestead land.

Section 5: Ownership Timeline and Market Entry

To prevent speculation and ensure the development of community roots, the following restrictions apply:

- The Five-Year Vesting Period: The homesteader must retain the property for a minimum of five (5) years. During this time, they must demonstrate active “stewardship” (residency or business operation).
- The Restricted Transfer Gate (Years 5–10): Between years five and ten, the property may only be sold to another First-Time Owner (Individual or Startup).
- Open Market Entry: After ten (10) years of continuous ownership, the property is fully vested and may be sold on the open market to any party.

Section 6: Foreclosure and the Cascade of Opportunity

In the event of a default on a HUD or SBA loan, the property shall not be sold to the general public immediately. It shall follow a Priority Purchase Cascade:

1. Tier 1: Offered for the balance of the debt to other First-Time Homeowners or Startup Businesses.
2. Tier 2: If no Tier 1 buyer is found within 90 days, the property is offered to any Individual or Family (regardless of prior ownership).
3. Tier 3: If no individual buyer is found within an additional 60 days, the property may be released for Public Auction.

Section 7: Mineral and Subsurface Rights

The Federal Government reserves the right to enter into contracts for mineral extraction on NAHA lands. However:

1. Contractual Participation: The land owner may participate in the profits of said government contracts.
2. Hardship Clause: No extraction may occur if it creates a physical or financial Hardship for the land owner. Any damage to the surface or peace of the resident must be compensated at 150% of the market value of the damage.

Section 8: Historical Restitution

The Department of the Interior shall prioritize land allocations in regions previously impacted by unfair federal land grabs, railroad over-grants, and eminent domain abuses, ensuring these areas are the first to be restored to individual citizenship.



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