



INDIVISIBLE

STATEMENT OF THE INDIVISIBLE PROJECT

In support of H.R. 1, For the People Act of 2019

Submitted to the House Judiciary Committee

January 29, 2019

Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Collins, and Members of the Committee,

Indivisible is a movement of more than 5,000 local groups across the country organizing locally to resist the Trump agenda. We write in strong support of H.R. 1, and urge you to advance the For the People Act quickly as a bold, comprehensive package.

Our movement emerged out of the chaos and fear surrounding Donald Trump's election in 2016. But even as we continue to organize against Trump's agenda, we turn to an even greater task: defeating the forces that gave rise to Trumpism in the first place.

A healthy democracy would have rejected Trump like a healthy body rejects a virus. But that didn't happen, because the wealthy and powerful have spent decades rigging the system to consolidate their power by discouraging, disempowering and disenfranchising the electorate. And make no mistake: the same communities that are disproportionately affected by these power grabs are the same communities most attacked by the bigotry of the Trump agenda.

But we have a historic opportunity to change course. A mass grassroots movement, including many in the Indivisible movement, built a Blue Wave that carried a new Democratic majority into the House of Representatives. We are a young movement, and are still learning about what excites and sustains our field. But when we surveyed our thousands of groups on policy issues for the first time last fall, we discovered that democracy reform — voting rights, getting big money out of politics, and eliminating corruption from all levels of government — easily topped every other issue.

Perhaps this is why, on Jan. 3, we saw the largest-ever single day of action in our movement thus far. On the first day of the new Congress, our groups all over the country showed up in front of their Representatives' district offices to rally in support of H.R. 1's passage, and to demand that its reforms not be weakened or divided in the process.¹

¹ See e.g.: "Schuylkill Indivisible Holds a Rally for Democracy," *PA Homepage*, Jan. 3, 2019, <https://www.pahomepage.com/news/schuylkill-indivisible-holds-a-rally-for-democracy/1685882152>; "Activists Call on Re. Delgado to Support Democracy Reform," *WAMC*, Jan. 3, 2019, <https://www.wamc.org/post/activists-call-rep-delgado-support-democracy-reform/>; "Nevada Protesters Urge Reform as Congress Begins New Session," *Public News Service*, Jan. 3, 2019, <https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2019-01-03/civic-engagement/nevada-protesters-urge-reform-as-congress-begins-new-session/a65110-1>; "Progressives Rally in Kingston for Democratic Reform Bill," *Mid-Hudson News*, Jan. 3, 2019, http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2019/January/04/prog_rally_King-04Jan19.html; "Activists Rally for House Ethics Bill Across the County and In Upstate NY," *Spectrum Local News*, Jan. 3, 2019, <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/binghamton/politics/2019/01/03/hr1-rallies-in-upstate-ny/>; "Coalition Group Calling on Congress to Pass Democracy Reform Bill," *WWLP*, Jan. 3, 2019, <https://www.wwlp.com/news/state-politics/coalition-group-calling-on-new-congress-to-pass-democracy-reform-bill/1685752029>; "Protesters Demand Action from Roseville Congressman as New Lawmakers Sworn In," *Fox 40*, Jan. 3, 2019,

Instinctively, our movement knows that leading with a bold and comprehensive package of democracy reforms is an essential first step in the work ahead. Unless we have a democracy that includes and represents all of us, we cannot secure relief for immigrant families, ensure access to affordable health care, end gun violence, tackle climate change, or accomplish any of our other goals.

Additionally, we must not merely signal a nominal commitment to protecting our democracy, but must use this opportunity to coalesce support behind the boldest solutions imaginable, and advance them as a single vehicle of holistic, interdependent reforms.

We look now to the House to follow through in advancing this landmark legislation. We urge you to move quickly to meet the demand that we have seen clearly from the voters, by keeping H.R. 1 intact and strong. This moment requires bold action to lay the foundation for a democracy that truly includes and represents us all.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our Associate Policy Director Elizabeth Beavers at elizabeth@indivisible.org if we can offer further support.

<https://fox40.com/2019/01/03/protesters-demand-action-from-roseville-congressman-as-new-lawMAkers-sworn-in/>; "Indivisible Rochester Sends Messages to Rep. Hagedorn," *KIMT News*, Jan. 3, 2019, <https://www.kimt.com/content/news/Indivisible-Rochester-making-their-voices-heard-all-the-way-in-Washington-D-C-503886891.html>; "Group Pushes Congress to Pass Anti-Corruption Bill," *ABC 10 News*, Jan. 3, 2019, <https://www.10news.com/news/local-news/group-pushes-congress-to-pass-anti-corruption-bill>; "Start the Year at Congressman Hill's Office, Urging Political Reform," *Arkansas Times*, Dec. 29, 2018, <https://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2018/12/29/start-the-new-year-at-congressman-hills-office-urging-political-reform>; "Indivisible Somerville Co-Hosts Rally for Democracy Reform as Congress Re-opes," *Wicked Local Boston*, Jan. 3, 2019, <http://northofboston.wickedlocal.com/news/20190103/indivisible-somerville-co-hosts-rally-for-democracy-reform-as-congress-re-opes>; "As New Congress Sworn In, Residents Rally at Hunter's Temecula Office," *San Diego Tribune*, Jan. 3, 2019, <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/politics/sd-me-indivisible-new-congress-20190103-story.html>; "Indivisible Monroe to Rally at Rep. Smith's Office for Democracy Reform," *Monroe Now*, Dec. 31, 2018, https://www.monroenow.com/indivisible-of-monroe-to-rally-at-rep-smith-s-office/article_5f094958-0d26-11e9-b223-23d19d85a045.html