

# ETHICS REFORMS

## HR1/S1 • FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

HR1/S1, the For the People Act, is a bill designed to promote fair representation in our democracy. One of the central purposes of this bill is to implement government ethics reforms, which are designed to promote transparency, prevent conflicts of interest, hold officials accountable, and strengthen public trust.



## QUICK GLANCE

### *What are some of the proposed ethics reforms included in HR1/S1?*

#### **Promotes and improves enforcement of ethics reforms in the executive branch**

- Requires all senior executive branch employees to sign an ethics pledge
- Authorizes the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) to conduct formal investigations of allegations of ethics violations
- Clarifies that all federal employees, including White House staff, are subject to OGE ethics regulations

#### **Prevents presidential conflicts of interest**

- Requires presidential appointees to recuse themselves from matters involving the president's interests
- Requires the president and vice president to meet new disclosure requirements or divest personal financial interests that pose a conflict of interest
- Requires candidates for president or vice president to release their individual tax returns and disclose certain business returns to the public

#### **Strengthens ethical standards in existing legislation**

- Improves investigation and enforcement of the Foreign Agent Registration Act, which was designed to protect American politics from foreign influence
- Reforms the Lobbying Disclosure Act to require lobbyists to disclose their status as lobbyists when contacting public officials

#### **Enhances congressional ethical standards**

- Prohibits members of the House of Representatives from serving on boards of for-profit entities, a ban that already applies to senators
- Prohibits any member of Congress from introducing or helping to pass any legislation in which they or their family have particular financial interests

#### **Requires the development of an ethics code, which applies to all federal judges, including Supreme Court justices**