



Restoring Faith in Government

New Dems' Anti-Corruption Agenda

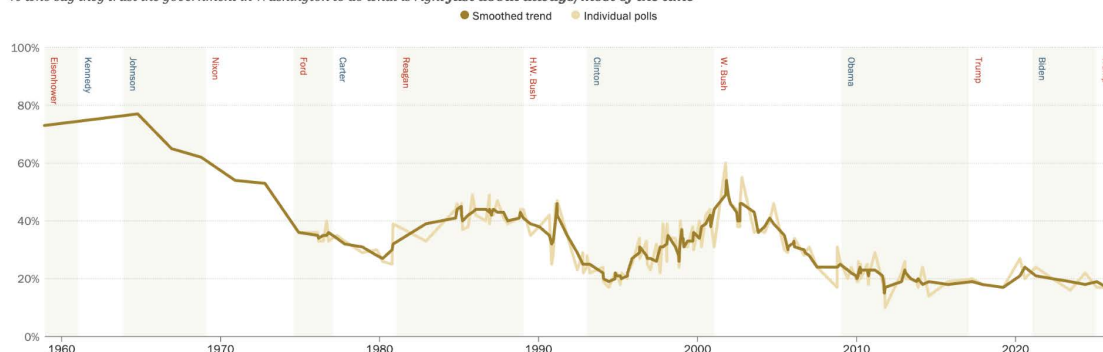
INTRODUCTION

Lawmakers in Washington need to address an increasingly obvious fact: the American people don't trust the government to act in their best interests. Just 17 percent of Americans have faith that the government will do the right thing – one of the lowest figures in the last 70 years. Meanwhile, public approval of Congress is similarly suffering at 16 percent, and the American people overwhelmingly view the “typical politician” as corrupt (71 percent).

These numbers are not shocking when everyday Americans see corrupt politicians and their families getting rich on under the table deals, anonymous bets placed on prediction markets aligned with announcements from the briefing room podium, seemingly endless dark money pouring into campaigns, growing federal interference in state and local election processes, and a President in the White House who every day undermines the fundamental separation of powers that our nation's founders established to protect the fidelity of the federal government.

Public trust in government hits near historic lows

% who say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right *just about always/most of the time*



Note: From 1976-February 2025, the smoothed trend line represents a three-survey moving average. Data prior to 1976, and the most recent number (September 2025), are from individual polls. Sources: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN surveys.

New Dems are committed to earning back the trust of the American people by rooting out corruption. We need to restore the strength of our federal institutions to hold corrupt actors accountable and uphold the high standards that people expect from their public servants.

Government officials work for the American people – not for themselves. The lawlessness and corruption of the Trump Administration has exposed the holes in our system that are ripe for exploitation. Now, New Dems are taking it upon ourselves to lead the charge in Congress to crack down on corruption and build a government that works for working people again.

TRUMP ADMIN'S CORRUPTION REPORT CARD

F

Serving the public interest: *The Trump Family has made more than \$4 billion off the presidency alone in one year.*

F

Respecting the power of the Presidency: *Trump has pardoned more than 1,500 people convicted of insurrection, fraud, money laundering, bribery, and more – many in exchange for campaign donations or political favors.*

F

Cracking down on insider trading: *New and anonymous Polymarket accounts are making millions from bets placed immediately before the President makes market moving announcements.*

F

Avoiding conflicts of interest: *Trump's administration appointments are pay-to-play, with dozens of key roles filled with wealthy donors, from Elon Musk and Scott Bessent to a litany of ambassadors who have funneled large sums to the Trump family.*

F

Following the law: *Trump has packed advisory boards with loyalists and outright broken the law to tear down the East Wing of the White House, build a \$1 billion taxpayer-funded ballroom, rename the Institute of Peace and the John F. Kennedy Center in D.C. after himself, and build a 250-foot "Arc de Trump" in Virginia.*

PRINCIPLES

- Government officials serve the public and must not use their power to enrich themselves. We must construct guardrails to block corrupt activity, ensure transparency into official actions, and punish misconduct with enforceable sanctions.
- All branches of government, including the judicial branch and the Supreme Court, should have a mechanism for public accountability.
- Free and fair elections are a cornerstone of our democracy and must be protected.
- American democracy endures because the separation of powers between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches creates proper checks and balances within our government, and we should strengthen and uphold this system.

POLICIES

1. Ensure that public service remains a public service, not a private moneymaking scheme, by:

- a. Fully banning insider trading by federal officials and political appointees, including Members of Congress, to include a ban on placing bets in prediction markets based on information related to their work and trading individual stocks and bonds.
- b. Prohibiting the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, senior Administration officials, and their families from issuing or endorsing securities and digital assets, like memecoins, so that public officials aren't using their position to build personal wealth.
- c. Banning pay-to-play politics by making it illegal to buy access to public officials and their immediate family by investing in private companies in which they have a financial interest.

2. Restore faith and ensure integrity in the Supreme Court by:

- a. Requiring the judicial branch to establish an enforceable code of ethics that includes standards for recusals and applies to all judges and Supreme Court justices.
- b. Setting limits on Justices and employees receiving gifts in line with limits for legislative and executive branch employees.
- c. Creating strict guidelines on behavior that compromises the integrity of the court or creates the appearance of impropriety.
- d. Establishing an inspector general within the judicial branch to independently investigate claims of misconduct.

3. Maintain free and fair elections as a cornerstone of our democracy by:

- a. Protecting and restoring the Voting Rights Act to ensure that all U.S. citizens have the right to vote free from discrimination and fighting back against efforts to create barriers to lawful voting, including by passing the Freedom to Vote Act and John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.
- b. Passing a Constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United vs. FEC and enacting the DISCLOSE Act to get dark money out of politics.

4. Strengthen and clearly delineate the separation of powers by:

- a. Reasserting Congress's Constitutional authority, including matters relating to funding, trade, and war.
- b. Enforcing strict penalties if the Executive Branch fails to comply with a lawful court order.
- c. Establishing strict guidelines on White House interactions with independent agency decision-making.