



Ballot Fairness & Representation Act

A Legislative Blueprint to End Party Domination in US Elections

SECTION I — PURPOSE

To restore trust in American democracy by eliminating structural advantages granted to political parties and ensuring equal opportunity for all qualified candidates. This Act promotes a political system in which leadership is earned through merit, transparency, and genuine citizen support, not party allegiance or institutional favoritism.

SECTION II — FINDINGS

Congress finds the following:

1. Political parties have monopolized access to critical campaign infrastructure, debates, data, legal support, and ballot placement.
 2. Independent and unaffiliated candidates face disproportionate barriers to entry.
 3. Voters are denied full representation when voices outside major parties are silenced.
 4. Public trust in elections and institutions has declined due to perceived corruption, partisanship, and gatekeeping.
 5. Reform is needed to establish a truly open, competitive, and fair electoral system for future generations.
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SECTION III — DEFINITIONS

☐ **Candidate** — An individual who has filed to run for federal office and meets qualification requirements under federal election law.

☐ **Unaffiliated Candidate** — A candidate not registered with or endorsed by a recognized political party.

☐ **Ballot Access** — Legal qualification to appear on an election ballot in one or more states.

☐ **Federal Election Commission (FEC)** — The body overseeing enforcement and implementation of campaign finance law and regulatory standards.

☐ **Debate Access Threshold** — Criteria by which a candidate becomes eligible for participation in televised debates.

SECTION IV — POLICY PROVISIONS

A. National Ballot Access Standard

- Establish a **uniform federal requirement** for ballot access applicable to all presidential and congressional candidates.
- Prohibit **state-level party preference laws** that disadvantage independent or unaffiliated candidates.
- Ballot qualification requirements shall be based on **verified voter signatures** or a **percentage of prior general election turnout**, not on party registration or affiliation.

B. Equal Debate Access

- Require that any candidate who:
 - Polls at **5% or more** nationally, **or**
 - Appears on ballots in **10 or more states**,
be included in all **publicly funded or nationally broadcast** presidential debates.

C. Neutral Campaign Infrastructure Grants

- Create a **Federal Candidate Infrastructure Fund (FCIF)** to issue **need-based operational grants** to all qualifying candidates, regardless of affiliation.

D. Open Voter Data Access

- Establish a **Federal Campaign Data Portal**, a **nonpartisan repository** of voter engagement tools, precinct demographics, and electoral maps, open to all registered federal campaigns.

E. Ban on Party-Controlled Primary Funding

- Prohibit political parties from using centralized funds to influence or finance candidates in publicly administered primary elections.
- Require all candidates to raise campaign funds **independently** and **transparently**.

F. Nonpartisan Ballot Design

- Mandate that all federal election ballots list only:
 - Candidate Name
 - Office Sought
 - *(Optional)* A 3-word motto or platform summary provided by the candidate
- **Party affiliations will not be displayed.**

G. Independent Campaign Legal Aid Office

- Establish a **federally funded legal aid office** to offer **free election law guidance and filing support** for independent or unaffiliated candidates.
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SECTION V — IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

- ☐ **Year 1:** Enactment and establishment of federal offices and standards.
 - ☐ **Year 2:** Deployment of the Data Portal and Legal Aid Office.
 - ☐ **Year 3:** Full enforcement of ballot design and campaign finance reforms.
 - ☐ **Year 4:** First general election conducted under new standards.
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SECTION VI — GOALS & IMPACT

This Act will:

- Level the playing field for all presidential candidates.
- Return control of elections to the people.
- Increase voter choice and reduce partisanship.
- Encourage campaigns based on values, leadership, and solutions, not party loyalty.

“Leadership should be earned, not inherited through party favor. This legislation exists so that every American, regardless of background or backing, has a fair shot to lead.”

— **Benjamin Cobb**