

CORRUPTION UNCHECKED

The Trump Administration is Undermining the Rule of Law and Leaving our Democracy Vulnerable

Since President Donald Trump's second term began, his administration has moved with shocking speed to undermine various laws, agencies, and programs that serve the vital mission of ensuring that the government serves the American people by protecting our democracy from corruption, abuses of power, and foreign influence.

Through many of its early actions, the Trump administration has sought to end or reverse the enforcement of ethics and anticorruption laws, scaled back or eliminated the further enforcement of such laws, and terminated key government watchdogs and monitors responsible for ensuring compliance with the nation's ethics laws. Overall, this destructive campaign has not only undercut past anticorruption work that safeguarded the public's interests, it has also left us far more vulnerable to—and less able to address—future malfeasance.

This guide from Campaign Legal Center (CLC) explains the immediate and longer-term danger of the Trump administration's actions, highlighting several of the biggest examples driving these bad effects and what can be done to reverse course.

PART 1: THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IS SYSTEMATICALLY STOPPING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

The Trump administration is actively undermining the enforcement of federal campaign finance and ethics laws—part of a larger pattern of eroding the rule of law—including by dismissing open enforcement actions and pardoning those previously convicted of violating these laws.

- **Foreign Money in Elections:** On January 28, 2025, the Department of Justice ("DOJ") moved to dismiss charges against former Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, who had been charged with making false statements to Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") agents investigating an illegal foreign donation to his campaign. Fortenberry had previously been convicted in 2022, but an appeals court overturned that conviction based on a procedural defect; when President Trump took office, the DOJ was prosecuting the case again.¹

¹ Kyle Cheney & Josh Gerstein, *DOJ Moves to Drop Charges Against Former GOP Lawmaker in Case Criticized by Trump*, Politico (Jan. 26, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/01/29/jeff-fortenberry-dismiss-charges-00201274>.

- **Abusing the Pardon Power:** President Trump has used the president's clemency power—a plenary power to commute sentences and grant pardons to anyone convicted of violating federal laws—as a sword against the enforcement of campaign finance and ethics laws, whose vital purpose he mischaracterizes and diminishes.
 1. *Brian Kelsey:* On March 12, 2025, President Trump pardoned former Tennessee State Senator Brian Kelsey, who had plead guilty to charges stemming from a scheme to use straw donors to funnel soft money to bolster his campaign for federal office and coordinate campaign spending with a special-interest-funded outside spending group.²
 2. *Rod Blagojevich:* On February 10, 2025, President Trump pardoned Rod Blagojevich, the former Governor of Illinois, who had been convicted of bribery and corruption charges and sentenced to 14 years in prison. President Trump had previously commuted Blagojevich's sentence during his first term in office.³

President Trump's recent pardons to undermine ethics and campaign finance laws continues a trend that he began during his first term as president:

3. *Duncan Hunter:* In December 2020, President Trump pardoned former congressman Duncan Hunter, weeks before he was set to report to prison after being convicted of misusing campaign funds for personal use.⁴ Hunter later agreed to pay a \$12,000 civil penalty in a settlement agreement relating to these violations with the Federal Election Commission (FEC).⁵
4. *Steve Stockman:* Also in December 2020, President Trump commuted the sentence of former congressman Steve Stockman, who was then two

² Neil Vigdor, *Trump Pardons Ex-Tennessee State Senator Imprisoned for Campaign Fraud*, N.Y. Times (Mar. 12, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/12/us/tennessee-senator-kelsey-trump-pardon.html>.

³ *Trump Pardons Disgraced Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich*, NPR (Feb. 11, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/10/g-si-47817/trump-pardon-rod-bлагоjevich-illinois-corruption>.

⁴ Jeremy White, *Trump Pardons Former Rep. Duncan Hunter*, Politico (Dec. 22, 2020), <https://www.politico.com/states/california/story/2020/12/22/trump-pardons-former-rep-duncan-hunter-1350183>.

⁵ Zoe Richards, *Former GOP Lawmaker Pardoned by Trump Hit with Campaign Finance Fines*, NBC News (Apr. 1, 2022), <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/former-gop-lawmaker-pardoned-trump-hit-campaign-finance-fines-rcna22656>.

years into a ten-year prison sentence for misappropriating over \$775,000 from charitable organizations.⁶

5. *Dinesh D’Souza*: In May 2018, President Trump pardoned Dinesh D’Souza, who had been convicted in 2014 for engaging in an illegal scheme to funnel political contributions through “straw” donors, which undermines transparency.

Case Study: The Dropped Prosecution of Eric Adams

Perhaps the most egregiously corrupt example of how the Trump administration has undermined the enforcement of campaign finance and ethics laws is the dismissal of criminal charges against New York City Mayor Eric Adams.

WHAT HAPPENED: In February 2025, the DOJ moved to dismiss all charges against Adams, who was indicted in September 2024 by a federal grand jury for, among other things, unlawfully soliciting or accepting political contributions from foreign nationals.⁷ The DOJ asserted that it was taking this action because the indictment limited Adams’s ability, as New York City’s mayor, to promote and advance President Trump’s immigration policies, and, further, because the indictment threatened to interfere with the forthcoming June 2025 mayoral primary in New York City—despite the indictment being issued nine months before that election.⁸

The DOJ’s decision caused an immediate furor within the ranks of the agency’s career staff, prompting the resignation of at least seven federal prosecutors across DOJ offices in New York and Washington, DC.⁹

⁶ *President Trump Commutes Prison Term For Former Texas Congressman Steve Stockman Who Misused Charitable Donations*, CBS News (Dec. 22, 2020), <https://www.cbsnews.com/texas/news/president-trump-commutes-prison-term-texas-congressman-steve-stockman-misused-charitable-donations/>.

⁷ Nolle Prosequi, *United States v. Adams*, No. 1:24-cr-00556-DEH (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 14, 2025); see Memorandum from Acting Deputy Att’y Gen. Emil Bove, U.S. Dept. of Justice, on Dismissal Without Prejudice of Prosecution of Mayor Eric Adams, to Acting U.S. Attorney & U.S. Attorney’s Office for S.D.N.Y. (Feb. 10, 2025), available at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/02/10/nyregion/adams-case-dismiss-memo.html>.

⁸ See William K. Rashbaum, et al., *Push to Drop Adams Charges Reveals a Justice Dept. Under Trump’s Sway*, N.Y. Times (Feb. 10, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/10/nyregion/eric-adams-charges-doj-trump.html>.

⁹ Hannah Rabinowitz, et al., *Seventh Prosecutor in Eric Adams Case Resigns and Calls Out Trump’s Former Lawyer in Scathing Letter*, CNN (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/14/politics/justice-department-eric-adams-case-new-york-southern-district/index.html>.

“DOJ’s assertion that it has ‘virtually unreviewable’ license to dismiss charges [to facilitate federal policy goals] is disturbing in its breadth, implying that public officials may receive special dispensation if they are compliant with the incumbent administration’s policy priorities.

That suggestion is fundamentally incompatible with the basic promise of equal justice under law.”

—Hon. Dale E. Ho, United States District Judge

On April 2, 2025, a federal district court dismissed the charges against Adams with prejudice—which means that the charges cannot be brought again—while noting: “Everything here smacks of a bargain: dismissal of the [criminal charges against Adams] in exchange for immigration policy concessions.”¹⁰

WHY IT MATTERS: Adams was charged with serious violations of federal campaign finance laws that serve a purpose crucial to our democratic system of self-government: limiting foreign influence in our elections and over our elected officials. The decision to drop the charges against him—especially as part of a corrupt bargain designed to secure cooperation with the Trump administration’s policy goal of cracking down on immigration¹¹—not only signals that these laws aren’t important enough to be enforced, it also sends a broadly cynical message that lawbreaking will be selectively overlooked for political loyalists.¹²

That’s practically an invitation to others who are deciding whether and to what extent they can get away with bending or even breaking laws designed to keep our election process transparent, free from foreign influence, and accountable to voters.

¹⁰ Opinion and Order at 3, *United States v. Adams*, No. 1:24-CR-00556-DEH (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 2, 2025), available at <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/788b1cf4faeb508/62260dd6-full.pdf> (“Adams Dismissal”).

¹¹ See Adams Dismissal at 60 (“[W]hile DOJ’s immigration enforcement rationale is supported to some extent by the record, it points towards an uncomfortable conclusion: that the decision to dismiss this case was apparently premised on [Adams] taking subsequent immigration-related actions in conformity with the administration’s policy preferences.”).

¹² The Trump administration’s decision not to prosecute Adams—who was charged with conspiring to solicit foreign national campaign contributions—directly contradicts President Trump’s directive, in a March 2025 executive order, to “prioritize enforcement of [the federal campaign finance law barring foreign national contributions] and other appropriate laws to prevent foreign nationals from contributing or donating in United States elections.” Exec. Order § 8, *Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections* (Mar. 25, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/preserving-and-protecting-the-integrity-of-american-elections/>.

PART 2: THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IS ENDING EFFORTS TO COMBAT CORRUPTION AND FEND OFF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN OUR ELECTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

The Trump administration is moving to end key monitoring and enforcement efforts that are vital to combating corruption and preventing foreign nationals—both individuals and governments—from influencing who wins elected office and what policies our government pursues. Ending these efforts leaves us more vulnerable, all but inviting foreign influence and corrupt dealmaking.

- **Prohibiting Bribery and Corruption:** Under the Trump administration, the DOJ has effectively ceased enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), which has helped to prevent corruption for decades by prohibiting American companies from bribing foreign officials.¹³ President Trump’s executive order on February 10, 2025, baselessly asserts that the FCPA has been “stretched beyond proper bounds and abused” and therefore directs the DOJ to “cease initiation of any new FCPA investigations or enforcement actions” and to review any pending actions.
- **Reporting Foreign Lobbying:** Immediately after being confirmed, Attorney General Pam Bondi directed the DOJ to limit enforcement of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), which requires lobbyists working for foreign clients to report their work.¹⁴ This move also effectively ends important efforts to monitor foreign influence in the policymaking process, facilitating undisclosed lobbying efforts by foreign individuals and governments.
- **Reporting Ownership of Shell Companies:** Under President Trump, the Treasury Department has announced that it won’t enforce penalties for failing to comply with beneficial ownership reporting requirements of the Corporate Transparency Act, a mechanism to monitor the use of shell companies by foreign nationals.¹⁵ This decision hamstring a new law that Congress passed

¹³ Exec. Order, *Pausing Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Enforcement to Further American Economic and National Security* (Feb. 10, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/pausing-foreign-corrupt-practices-act-enforcement-to-further-american-economic-and-national-security/>.

¹⁴ Memorandum from the U.S. Attorney Gen. re: General Policy Regarding Charging, Plea Negotiations, and Sentencing at 4 (Feb. 5, 2025), <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1388541/dl?inline> (“Bondi Memo”) (“Recourse to criminal charges under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) and 18 U.S.C. § 951 shall be limited to instances of alleged conduct similar to more traditional espionage by foreign government actors. With respect to FARA and § 951, the Counterintelligence and Export Control Section, including the FARA Unit, shall focus on civil enforcement, regulatory initiatives, and public guidance.”).

¹⁵ Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of Treasury, Treasury Department Announces Suspension of Enforcement of Corporate Transparency Act Against U.S. Citizens and Domestic Reporting Companies (Mar. 2, 2025), <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0038>.

to help prevent foreign actors from using U.S. shell companies to mask their influence. Ending enforcement of the beneficial ownership rule also makes it easier for wealthy special interests, including billionaires and big corporations, to secretly spend money on political contributions through unlawful “straw donor” schemes.

Case Study: Declawing the DOJ Against Foreign Influence Operations

One of the starkest illustrations of the Trump administration’s disregard for foreign influence monitoring is President Trump’s decision to end DOJ programs aimed at curbing that influence.

WHAT HAPPENED: On her first day in office, Attorney General Bondi disbanded the Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF), an FBI team that fought secret attempts by foreign countries like Russia and China to interfere in American elections.¹⁶ The task force had been created in 2017, during President Trump’s first term as president, to identify and counteract covert foreign disinformation campaigns aimed at influencing and interfering in U.S. elections. Attorney General Bondi also disbanded DOJ groups tasked with seizing the assets of Russian oligarchs.

“Foreign influence operations . . . spread disinformation, sow discord, push foreign nations’ policy agendas, and ultimately undermine confidence in our democratic institutions and values. . . . Almost two years ago, I established the Foreign Influence Task Force (FITF) to identify and counteract malign foreign influence operations targeting the United States.”¹⁷

– Christopher Wray, then-FBI Director, October 2019

WHY IT MATTERS: We’ve known since the time of the Founding Fathers that foreign influence is a threat to our system of democratic self-governance. “We the People” does not include foreign nationals, including foreign governments, spending money to influence voters and drive particular election outcomes. That’s a big reason why federal campaign finance laws categorically bar foreign nationals from spending money on elections at any level—federal, state, and local—and bar the solicitation of foreign money for election spending.

¹⁶ Bondi Memo at 4, *supra* note 14 (“To free resources to address more pressing priorities, and end risks of further weaponization and abuses of prosecutorial discretion, the Foreign Influence Task Force shall be disbanded.”).

¹⁷ Statement of Christopher Wray, Director, FBI, Before the Comm. on Homeland Security, U.S. House of Representatives (Oct. 30, 2019), <https://www.congress.gov/116/meeting/house/109937/witnesses/HHRG-116-HM00-Wstate-WrayC-20191030.pdf>.

Nevertheless, academic research has uncovered evidence of over a hundred foreign influence operations since 2011, with “Russia, China, and Iran” as the “lead perpetrators.”¹⁸ In fact, the FITF was established in response to the findings of Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation, which concluded in March 2019 that the “Russian government interfered in the 2016 presidential election in sweeping and systematic fashion.”¹⁹

The Trump administration’s actions disregard the threat of foreign influence in our elections and government, which only makes it more likely that foreign nationals looking to wield such influence will view these moves as an open invitation.

PART 3: THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IS DISMANTLING ETHICS COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURES

The Trump administration has moved to curtail the enforcement of ethics laws across the government by eliminating employees tasked with holding officials accountable for ethics violations. These moves leave the public vulnerable to abuses of power.

- **Office of Government Ethics:** On February 10, 2025, President Trump removed the director of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE), David Huitema, temporarily replacing him with the Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins.²⁰ OGE oversees the entirety of the executive branch’s ethics program and acts as a crucial backstop against government corruption. The agency works to prevent conflicts of interest in government by assisting government officials and their agency ethics officials with complying with ethics laws. The agency is also responsible for administering the government’s financial disclosure system, ensuring transparency of officials’ financial holdings.
- **Office of Special Counsel:** On February 7, 2025, President Trump removed the head of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC), Hampton Dellinger. OSC is

¹⁸ Danna Lorch, *Just How Influential Are Foreign Governments’ Social Influence Campaigns?*, Princeton School of Public and Int’l Affairs (Sep. 17, 2024), <https://spia.princeton.edu/news/just-how-influential-are-foreign-governments-social-influence-campaigns> (“In August [2024], the FBI confirmed that the Iranian government was behind a hacking scheme to breach and subsequently leak confidential information about both the Trump and Harris presidential campaigns. Last week, the FBI reported that the operation is likely ongoing. These attempts to infiltrate and influence the American public are nothing new, though. In fact, Jacob Shapiro, a professor of politics and international affairs . . . said that his team cataloged 107 similar attempts by foreign governments since 2011 alone, with Russia, China, and Iran the lead perpetrators.”).

¹⁹ Report on the Investigation Into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election at 1, Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III, U.S. Dep’t of Justice (Mar. 2019), <https://www.justice.gov/archives/sco/file/1373816/dl?inline=>.

²⁰ OGE has been notified that the President is removing David Huitema as the Director of OGE. OGE is reverting to an Acting Director. Please see OGE’s Organizational Leadership webpage., U.S. Off. of Gov’t Ethics (Feb. 10, 2025), <https://oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/News+Releases/FCCCCDB6367A7C0A85258C2D00683079?opendocument>.

responsible for protecting the federal workforce from illegal personnel actions, including whistleblower retaliation. The office also investigates violations of the Hatch Act, a law that prohibits certain political activities by government employees. OSC is intended to stop illegal or retaliatory firings of federal employees.²¹ Firing the Special Counsel limits protections for the federal workforce at a time when President Trump is reducing that workforce dramatically.²²

- **Department of Justice's Public Integrity Unit:** The Trump administration plans to downsize the DOJ office responsible for prosecuting cases of fraud and public corruption, with a focus on reducing the number of attorneys prosecuting criminal cases against public officials.²³ This move is part of the administration's efforts to weaken divisions President Trump claims were politically motivated in the past.²⁴
- **Agency Ethics Officials:** The Trump administration has appointed at least six political appointees to serve as designated agency ethics officials, a role normally held by career officials.²⁵ Many of these appointees do not have prior ethics enforcement or government experience.

Case Study: Removing Inspectors General

WHAT HAPPENED: In a shocking and unprecedented move, President Trump fired Inspectors General (IGs) across 17 different federal agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Defense (DOD), State, Health and Human Services, Veteran's Affairs (VA), Energy, Transportation, Education, Labor, and Interior, as well as at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

²¹ See Press Release, U.S. Off. of Special Counsel, Special Counsel Dellinger Statement on Request that MSPB Stay Terminations of Probationary Employees (Feb. 24, 2025), <https://osc.gov/News/Pages/25-22-Stay-Request-Probationary-Employees.aspx>.

²² James Oliphant & Nathan Layne, *Trump Poised to Launch New Round of Layoffs Despite Setbacks in Court*, Reuters (Mar. 14, 2025), <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/white-house-looks-ahead-with-mass-layoffs-after-agencies-submit-reduction-2025-03-14/>.

²³ Glenn Thrush & Alan Feuer, *Justice Dept. Moving to Downsize Units Investigating Fraud and Corruption*, N.Y. Times (Mar. 12, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/12/us/politics/justice-dept-fraud-corruption.html>.

²⁴ Exec. Order, *Ending the Weaponization of the Fed. Gov't* (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-the-weaponization-of-the-federal-government/>.

²⁵ The six political appointees are Paul Ney (Nat'l Sec. Council), Scott Gast (White House Off.), Adam Candeub (Fed. Communications Comm'n), J. Russell McGranahan (Gen. Services Admin.), Andrew Kloster (Off. of Personnel Mgmt.), and Sean Cooksey (Off. of the Vice President). See *Agency Ethics Program Contact Info.*, U.S. Off. of Gov't Ethics, https://www.oge.gov/web/oge/nsf/about_ethics-contact-list (last visited Apr. 14, 2025).

After President Trump fired 17 Inspectors General (IGs) in January 2025, nearly *half* of all IG positions across the federal government are vacant.²⁶

IGs conduct internal investigations into potential violations of ethics provisions or conflict of interest laws, and many can only be fired with 30 days' notice to Congress. President Trump's mass firing spree removed the only independent offices within agencies designed to protect taxpayer money and root out corruption in the agencies.

WHY IT MATTERS: IGs protect the public's interest by conducting independent investigations and recommending appropriate corrective actions. In many cases, IGs provide the only avenue to investigate and make public ethics violations by the most senior officials in executive branch departments and agencies. Firing these important federal watchdogs means less accountability. The public deserves to be protected by an independent office committed to ensuring officials are serving the public interest and not their own interest.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The Trump administration's early actions have rapidly torn down many of the critical safeguards that protect Americans from corruption, abuse, and foreign interference in our elections and government. Yet there are responsive actions, each of which directly or indirectly rely on the public's support, that could help alleviate some of the potential damage.

Pushing back on dangerous and potentially illegal actions requires knowing what has happened, why it matters, and what can be done about it.

For starters, it's important simply to stay informed about what's happening, and what it means for our democracy. Because the Trump administration is doing so much, so fast—the so-called “flood the zone” approach—these moves have quickly overwhelmed our collective ability to pay attention and respond. Pushing back on dangerous and potentially illegal actions requires knowing what has happened and how it makes us less secure. Resources like this guide are intended to track the

²⁶ *Inspector General Vacancies*, Oversight.gov, <https://www.oversight.gov/about/inspectors-general-vacancies> (last visited Apr. 14, 2025).

specific moves that the Trump administration has made and explain why they are harmful—the first step in fighting to reassert the rule of law.

Other recommended actions include:

1. **Challenging Unlawful Actions:** Individuals and organizations like CLC are taking legal action when the Trump administration violates the law. For example, CLC has filed lawsuits challenging President Trump’s executive order unconstitutionally directing federal agencies to change voting and election rules,²⁷ as well as the lawless federal spending decisions being made by Elon Musk’s so-called “U.S. DOGE Service” (DOGE), which clearly infringe on Congress’s constitutional authority to appropriate funds—the “power of the purse.”²⁸ Similarly, CLC has filed an ethics complaint regarding Musk’s blatant conflicts of interest arising from running DOGE while simultaneously owning and operating a satellite internet company, Starlink, that contracts with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).²⁹

In addition, CLC has called on the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to reject President Trump’s attempt, through a recent executive order, to compromise the agency’s independence and capacity to administer and enforce the law free of political or partisan influence, and has called out the president’s unlawful “firing” of former FEC Chair Ellen Weintraub.³⁰

2. **Maintaining Checks and Balances:** Under our tripartite system of government, Congress and the Supreme Court—the other two branches of the federal government, whose role is to check and balance the Executive—cannot simply cave to the lawless actions of a president with a wildly expansionist reading of the Executive’s powers under Article II of the Constitution. While voters have little impact on the federal judiciary, they can

²⁷ See Emily Burns & Jonathan Diaz, *CLC Sues to Block Trump Administration’s Illegal Election Overreach*, CLC (Mar. 31, 2025), <https://campaignlegal.org/update/clc-sues-block-trump-administrations-illegal-election-overreach>.

²⁸ See Kate Huddleston & Maha Quadri, *CLC Sues to Stop Elon Musk and DOGE’s Lawless, Unconstitutional Power Grab*, CLC (Mar. 5, 2025), <https://campaignlegal.org/update/clc-sues-stop-elon-musk-and-doges-lawless-unconstitutional-power-grab> (detailing CLC lawsuit challenging DOGE’s authority to make federal spending decisions).

²⁹ Press Release, CLC, Campaign Legal Center Files Ethics Complaint Against Elon Musk for Potentially Violating Laws to Benefit His Satellite Business (Mar. 13, 2025), <https://campaignlegal.org/press-releases/campaign-legal-center-files-ethics-complaint-against-elon-musk-potentially-violating>.

³⁰ Statement from CLC President Trevor Potter, Trump Illegally Attempts to Fire Federal Election Commission Chair Ellen Weintraub (Feb. 6, 2025), <https://campaignlegal.org/press-releases/trump-illegally-attempts-fire-federal-election-commission-chair-ellen-weintraub>; see also Ramishah Maruf, *Fired Democratic FTC Commissioners Are Suing Trump*, CNN (Mar. 27, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/27/business/fired-ftc-commissioners-trump-lawsuit/index.html> (detailing lawsuit challenging President Trump’s firing of Alvaro Bedoya and Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, Democratic members of the Federal Trade Commission).

send a clear message to their elected officials in Congress urging them to fight for the rule of law and ensure that Congress continues to play its historical, constitutionally-mandated role in our democracy.

3. **Reforming Campaign Finance and Ethics Laws:** Strengthening the laws that bolster transparency and accountability for candidates and officeholders would genuinely serve everyday Americans' interests. When elected officials are making decisions affecting “kitchen table” issues like economic growth, education, and healthcare, they are often powerfully influenced by the wealthy special interests that spend big money electing their preferred candidates and lobbying for their preferred policies.

Stronger campaign finance and ethics laws would help to reverse that trend, resulting in elected officials who listen more closely to their constituents than to billionaire megadonors and corporate executives.