

# DEMOCRACY AWAKENING 2016

## GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE ACT (H.R. 20)

Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)

Building a government of, by and for the people. The Government by the People Act is a bipartisan reform package designed to combat the influence of big money in politics, raise civic engagement and amplify the voice of everyday Americans – putting the public interest back in front of special interests.

## EMPOWER AMERICANS TO PARTICIPATE

Provide everyday Americans with a refundable My Voice tax credit to help spur small-dollar contributions to candidates for Congressional office. Empowering more Americans to participate in campaign giving will improve our representative democracy and reduce Congress' dependence on big money interests.

## AMPLIFY THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Establish a Freedom from Influence Fund to multiply the impact of small-dollar donations. Small-dollar contributions (\$150 or less per election) will be matched from the fund, provided the candidate receiving the contribution forgoes big money special interests and focuses on earning broad-based support from small-dollar donors. Carefully crafted to provide participating candidates sufficient resources to compete, the Freedom from Influence Fund would make the grassroots supporter just as powerful as the big money donor.

## FIGHT BACK AGAINST BIG MONEY SPECIAL INTERESTS

Prevent Super PACs and secret special interest spending from drowning out the voice of everyday Americans. In the wake of the Citizens United decision, unlimited outside spending has monopolized the airwaves in the final weeks of elections. Citizen-funded candidates who are able to raise at least \$50,000 in additional small-dollar donations within the 60-day "home stretch" of the general election would be eligible for additional resources, ensuring the voice of the people is heard.

## GET INVOLVED

We need your voice in this movement. As of April 5, 157 Representatives have joined Representative Sarbanes on the bill. If you are not yet among them, contact Raymond O'Mara in Representative Sarbanes's office.