



INFORMED CITIZENS COMMISSION

“BY ALL THE PEOPLE, FOR ALL THE PEOPLE”

INFORMED CITIZENS



FOR A SUCCESSFUL AMERICA

Informed Citizens Commission

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Introduction

The income gap between those in the top 10% and everyone else has been growing over the past 40 years and is continuing to grow now. With the benefits from the projected increases in productivity resulting from AI, robotics, and other technological advancements going to the top 10%, the gap will grow even faster. This combined with a lack of trust in the establishment caused by political lying and misinformation, has led to polarization, social unrest, and the rise of authoritarianism and socialism.

On average, people in the top 10% have greater skills and abilities than those in the 90% and therefore with the reduction in regulatory controls and social norms that occurred over the past 40 years, their human nature instincts of putting their self-interests first have resulted in an excess of economic and political influence over the 90%. This imbalance of influence has led to the incomes of the 90% not keeping up with America's prosperity and falling far behind the incomes of those in the top 10%. As a result, they don't believe they are being treated fairly. In addition, many Americans in the 90% are having trouble making ends meet while watching the income and wealth of those at the top increase to unnecessarily high levels. Almost all agree that our economic systems are only working well for those at the very top.

Most Americans no longer believe that politicians, the government, or the establishment are working for them. Political lying and misuse of information (“spin” or “messaging”) to win elections, rather than honestly evaluating the challenges Americans are facing and addressing them, has led to an increasing lack of trust.

The current economic unfairness, lack of trust in the establishment, polarization, and social unrest trends are unsustainable. The only question is whether we will address them with rational intervention, or whether it will take a catastrophe or catastrophes as it did in the early 20th century (great depression and world wars), which was the last time the imbalance in the U.S. income was as high as it is today and the trends as negative as they are today, to reverse these trends and lead to the fair income sharing and high economic performance that America enjoyed throughout the middle decades of the 20th century.

Balancing the interests of all people will allow us to reduce the risk of a catastrophic event. Honesty and transparency about our economic and political challenges and opportunities is essential to allow the will of the people to effect the changes required to balance those interests. Accurate and meaningful information is essential for honesty and transparency.

The Informed Citizens Commission will ensure accurate and meaningful economic, political, and social information for all citizens in order to generate the public, political, market, and peer pressure required to create a Successful America with a government that represents everyone, an economy that benefits everyone, and a society that respects everyone.

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Goals

A Successful America with:

- A Government that Represents Everyone
- An Economy that Benefits Everyone
- A Society that Respects Everyone

Objectives

Ensure accurate and meaningful business, political, and social issues and guidelines information for elected representatives and citizens so they are better able to appreciate the interests and beliefs of others and create a society that respects everyone.

Ensure accurate and meaningful corporate information for employees so that they can choose corporations that balance the interests of the top 10% of Americans (shareholders) and the 90% (employees and consumers) to achieve maximum economic fairness and efficiency with:

- Corporate goals that balance the interests of the shareholders, employees, and consumers
- Corporate board representation that balances the interests of the shareholders, employees, and consumers
- Management compensation that is tied to achieving goals that balance the interests of shareholders, employees, and consumers (*eliminate management shareholder equity compensation because it prioritizes shareholder interests over the interests of employees and consumers*)

Ensure accurate and meaningful candidate information for voters so that they elect qualified and trustworthy leaders who will balance their own self-interests with citizens’ interests and will enact balanced legislation that minimizes challenges and maximizes opportunities for all citizens and that:

- Balance the economic interests of the top 10% of Americans with those of the 90%
- Prioritize honesty and transparency on the part of politicians and business leaders
- Ensure campaign financing results in balanced solutions for all citizens (*eliminate large, special interest campaign funding because it prioritizes the interests of those providing the funding over the interests of all citizens*)

Note: The candidate and corporate information reporting objectives may change based upon the information and perspectives developed by the Citizens Research Services Division (see the Citizens Research Services Division below).

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Organization

The Informed Citizens Commission would be organized to achieve its Goals and Objectives, as follows:

- **Commissioners** are citizen volunteers who support the Goals and Objectives above to review regulations and reporting proposed by the Citizens Research Services Division, the Employee Information Division, and the Voter Information Division, and approve, disapprove, request revisions, or request further information on those regulations and reporting proposals
- **Citizens Research Services Division** to ensure accurate and meaningful issues and guidelines information for elected representatives and citizens so that they can better appreciate the interests and beliefs of others and achieve a society that respects everyone
- **An Employee Information Division** to ensure accurate and meaningful corporate information for employees so that they can choose corporations that will achieve a fair and efficient economy that benefits everyone
- **A Voter Information Division** to ensure accurate and meaningful candidate information for voters so that they can elect qualified and trustworthy leaders who will enact balanced legislation and achieve a fair and efficient government that represents everyone
- **Support Offices** to support Commissioners and the staff of the Citizens Research Services Division, the Employee Information Division, and the Voter Information Division

Independence. The Informed Citizens Commission would be an independent, non-partisan agency with rotating citizen volunteer Commissioners. Rotating citizen volunteers would ensure the Informed Citizens Commission’s independence. Independence is critical to develop citizens’ trust and overcoming the lack of trust of current leaders and the establishment. Any attempt to influence inappropriately the selection process or decisions of a Commissioner or any employee of the Citizens Research Services Division, the Employee Information Division, the Voter Information Division, or Support Office, would be a crime punishable by a minimum of 1 year to up to 15 years in prison. The budget for the Informed Citizens Commission would be reviewed and approved directly by Congress to provide independence from the Administrative branch of government. The Informed Citizens Commission would be able to enforce its regulations itself through civil lawsuits that could result in fines, injunctions, barring business leaders from serving as corporate officers or directors and political leaders from running for public office and could refer willful or severe fraudulent misconduct to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution.

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State Informed Citizens Commissions. States would enact their own Informed Citizens Commissions with similar Goals, Objectives, and Organization to the federal one, as modified to address the state issues and guidelines and voter and employee reporting requirements.

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Commissioners

The responsibilities of the Commissioners would be to review issues and guidelines and reporting requirements proposed by the Citizens Research Services Division, the Employee Information Division, and the Voter Information Division, consider whether they will accomplish the Goals and Objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission, and approve, disapprove, request revisions, or request further information on those proposals. Consideration would be given by the professional staff within each division and the Commissioners for each proposal of the extent and timeframe that achieves the best long-term economic, political, and social outcomes while alleviating adverse short-term effects.

Volunteer, Screening, and Selection Process. Each year all eligible voters would have the opportunity to volunteer to be a Commissioner of the Informed Citizens Commission. Eligible voters could volunteer via the Informed Citizens Commission website by providing an email address or, if a taxpayer, by checking a box on their tax return and providing an email address. All volunteers would be emailed a high-level questionnaire to be completed online requesting basic information and confirmation of a belief in, and commitment to, the Goals and Objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission and the Commissioners’ responsibilities.

Random selections would be made from the questionnaires submitted for screening. The screening would be done by federal judges as they do for their juries. Citizens would be excused by the judge if they showed clear bias or could not fulfil the responsibilities of the Commissioners. Rotating judges would provide this service, each judge screening for approximately 50 Commissioners each year. In total, 900 Commissioners would be selected by approximately 18 judges in the first year.

Commissioners would serve three-year terms, except that one-third of the initial group would serve for a one-year term and one-third of the initial group would serve for a two-year term. Each following year 300 new Commissioners will be selected using the same review process as the initial one. The Commissioners could vote to remove any Commissioner whom they determine is not committed to the Commissioner’s responsibilities. Commissioners would be expected to be available for one to five days per month. Commissioners’ employers would be required to provide those days off as unpaid service days. They would be paid by the Informed Citizens Commission at their current employer compensation rate for their time worked.

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Citizens Research Services Division

The Citizens Research Services Division would be responsible for researching and recommending to the Commissioners the following:

- High-level, accurate, and meaningful information, analysis, and reporting on the issues facing our government, economy, and society that would be of most benefit to elected representatives and the people they serve (e.g., voters, employees, business leaders, the press, think tanks, educational institutions, governments, and other entities)
- High-level guidelines for macro and fundamental solutions to those issues that would include potential timeframes to realize outcomes, which could be years or even decades
- Methods to measure those solutions and the results of those measurements
- Suggestions for legislation and/or constitutional amendments to implement those solutions; where possible, legislation that addresses an issue in part together with amendment suggestions
- Evaluations of proposed legislation and/or constitutional amendments for those suggestions

Organization. The Citizens Research Services Division would assume the responsibilities and staff of the Congressional Research Services agency. The Congressional Research Service is a public policy research institute of the United States Congress. Operating within the Library of Congress, it works primarily and directly for members of Congress and their committees and staff on a confidential, nonpartisan basis. It is referred to as America's think tank. The Citizens Research Services Division would continue to provide research services for members of Congress, but no longer on a confidential basis. All research performed for Congress and the Informed Citizens Commission would be available for public review on a Citizens Research Services Division website. Being part of the Informed Citizens Commission provides political independence, which is essential to its job of balancing the knowledge and experience of those on the left and right and those in the top 10% and the 90% to achieve the most balanced solutions to issues that Americans face and opportunities with which they are presented.

Reporting. The following are examples of issues that the Citizens Research Services Division would consider researching and reporting on information and guidelines:

- **Economy:** The purpose of an economy and therefore, each business within the economy and its financial markets, and goals for accomplishing that purpose. Objectives and targets that would achieve those goals for the following:
 - Corporation, board, and management goals and incentive compensation plans
 - Top 10% Share of U.S. Income
 - 90% Share of U.S. Income
 - U.S. GINI Index
 - Tax rates

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- Risk Weighted Equity Returns
 - Long-term Interest Rates
 - Inflation Rate
 - GDP Growth Rate
 - Federal Debt to GDP Ratio
 - Deficit to Change in GDP Ratio
- **Government:** The purpose of the government and therefore, elected representatives within government, and goals for accomplishing that purpose. Objectives and targets that would achieve those goals for the following:
 - Campaign Finance
 - Primary Elections
 - General Elections
 - Voting Districts
 - Political Honesty and Transparency
 - Candidate Reporting Information
 - Campaign Advertising
 - Voting
 - Voter Participation
 - Vote for President
 - Voter representation in Senate
 - Legislative Operations
- **Education and healthcare**
- **Racial, legal, and criminal justice**
- **Environmental responsibility**
- **Physical and cyber security**
- **Globalization and international affairs**

Information Access. The Citizens Research Services Division would provide, and update as necessary, all reporting required in a sufficiently summarized format to be useful for all citizens and in a sufficiently detailed format to be useful for those who require a more detailed format. Both reporting formats would be made available on a Citizens Research Services Division website that would be available to all citizens.

Citizen Information and Perspectives Input. The Citizens Research Services Division would seek input, via surveys and website input portal, from all citizens on their perspectives on issues and potential guidelines to consider those and prepare reporting that is most responsive and helpful for all citizens. The staff would use AI, with appropriate review and controls, to summarize and evaluate the feedback received from the public.

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Employee Information Division

The Employee Information Division would be responsible for developing and recommending to the Commissioners corporate reporting requirements for accurate and meaningful information for their employees, potential employees, and the public that would be required to accomplish the Informed Citizens Commission’s Goals and Objectives. It would be responsible for implementing and enforcing the regulations approved by the Commission. This would help employees make informed employment decisions and consumers make informed buying decisions. This information would also be used by the press, think tanks, research and educational institutions, governments, communities, and other entities for analysis for better political, economic, and social perspectives.

Organization. The Employee Information Division would have the staff, either directly or through the support offices, to research and determine what information and in what format that information should be to ensure that employees have accurate and meaningful information from corporations for free and fair employment markets, to determine what regulations would be required to ensure that the information is provided and that it is in the format required, and to enforce those regulations.

Reporting. The following are sample corporate information reporting requirements:

- **Corporate Goals and Board Representation**
 - Corporate goals and how they are balanced for the interests of all participants (employees, consumers, and shareholders)
 - Board representation and how it is balanced for the interests of all participants (employees, consumers, and shareholders)
- **Management Compensation Plans**
 - Management compensation plans and how they are designed to accomplish the corporate goals, particularly those that balance the interests of all participants
 - Explanation of why there are shareholder equity compensation plans, if any, and when those plans will be replaced with plans that balance the interests of all participants
- **Management and Employee Compensation**
 - CEO and senior management compensation compared with average compensation for groups of employees, along with ratios of the CEO and senior management compensation to each group of employees’ average compensation
 - Roles, responsibilities, compensation levels and structures for each group

Information Access. The Employee Information Division would require corporations to provide, and update at least annually, all reporting information required in both a sufficiently summarized format to be useful for all employees and potential employees, as well as a sufficiently detailed format to

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be useful for those employees and potential employees who require a more detailed format. Both reporting formats would be made available on the corporation’s public website presented in an Employee Information Division format. The corporation would be required to notify all employees and potential employees of the availability of that information and any updates thereto.

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Voter Information Division

The Voter Information Division would be responsible for developing the candidate reporting requirements that would accomplish the Goals and Objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission. Those reporting requirements would provide voters with the information they need to elect qualified and trustworthy leaders who will represent everyone. The Voter Information Division would recommend candidate information reporting requirements regulations to the Commissioners. The Voter Information Division would be responsible for implementing and enforcing the regulations that the Commissioners approve. This would result in candidates providing accurate and meaningful information about themselves and their supporters so that voters could make more informed voting decisions. This information would also be used by the press, think tanks, research and educational institutions, governments, communities, and other entities for analysis for better political, economic, and social perspectives.

Organization. The Voter Information Division would have the staff, either directly or through the support offices, to research and determine what information and in what format that information should be to ensure that voters have accurate and meaningful information from candidates to elect the most qualified and trustworthy leaders, to determine what regulations would be required to ensure that the information is provided and that it is in the format required, and to enforce those regulations. In addition, the Voter Information Division would assume the responsibilities and staff of the Federal Election Commission. The Federal Election Commission is an independent regulatory agency with responsibility for public disclosure of, and enforcing restrictions on, campaign financing for federal elections, overseeing and administering the public funding of presidential campaigns, and providing public information on campaign finance regulations. Being part of the Informed Citizens Commission provides greater political independence, which is essential to be able to do its job of balancing the interests of those on the left and right and those in the upper class and working class.

Reporting. The following are sample candidate information reporting requirements:

- **Background and qualifications**
 - Name, address, and candidate website
 - Education, experience, and skills for the office
 - Goals for the office and the country
- **Positions and certification of honesty and transparency**
 - Positions on key issues and balanced solutions to address those issues, including those recommended by the Citizens Research Services Division
 - Position on establishing a law that prohibits politicians from lying about elections
 - Regular certifications that all public statements made since the last filing were materially true, the whole truth, and nothing by the truth (provable, intentional violations would lead to either suggestions for clarification, requirements for clarifications, small fines, large fines, exclusion from public office, or prison time)

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- **Sources of campaign funding**
 - By major donor and PAC
 - Each major donor and PAC's position on key issues and balanced solutions
 - Explanation of differences between the candidate and each major donor and PAC's positions on key issues and balanced solutions

Information Access. The Voter Information Division would require candidates to provide, and update as necessary, all required candidate information reporting in a sufficiently summarized format to be useful for all eligible voters and in a sufficiently detailed format to be useful for those eligible voters who require a more detailed format. Both reporting formats would be made available on the candidate's website and on a Voter Information Division maintained website that would be available to all eligible voters and that would include comparisons between candidates running for the same office (see Vote-USA.org and BallotReady.org for examples). Candidate websites will be required to include a link to the Voter Information Division website.

Recommendations for Changes in Laws and/or Constitutional Amendments. The Voter Information Division would provide the Citizens Research Services Division with any recommendations for candidate reporting requirements that would provide voters with the information they need to elect qualified and trustworthy leaders that require changes to laws and regulations and/or constitutional amendments. Two examples would be 1) honesty and transparency in political speech and campaign advertising and 2) changes to campaign finance, including limits to political contributions, public financing of political campaigns, and/or limited influence of political donors during and after elected officials' terms.

Use of Candidate Information. The Voter Information Division would also be responsible for developing and recommending to the Commissioners individual and team candidate evaluation processes, procedures, and forms, as well as suggested evaluation criteria for voters to consider using in their evaluations of candidates for elected office.

Evaluation Criteria. The following are sample candidate evaluation criteria:

- **Integrity, honesty, and transparency**
 - Positive ads, based on record, which do not attack opponent or opponent's party
 - Actions consistent with messaging
 - Transparent with the information required for this rating
- **Skills and experience for the office**
 - Government and business experience
 - Education
 - Goals for the office

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- **Enact balanced approaches to challenges and opportunities**
 - Short-term and long-term effects
 - Top 10% and 90% of Americans interests
 - Citizens Research Services Division guideline recommendations

Information Access. The Voter Information Division would be responsible for creating the infrastructure required, including technology to support access to process, procedures, and forms, to implement the approved individual and team candidate evaluation processes, procedures, and forms, as well as suggested evaluation criteria approved by the Commission (see informedcitizens.com/candidate-reviews for an example).

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Support Offices

The support offices would be responsible for providing support for the Commissioners and the staff of the Citizens Research Services Division, the Employee Information Division, and the Voter Information Division in the fulfillment of their responsibilities.

Organization. The support offices would include the offices of Regulations, Employee, Voter, and Citizen Education, Enforcement, Examination, General Counsel, Financial Management, Recruiting, Human Resources, and Information Technology. The Commissioners could approve additional offices, as necessary. An independent recruiting firm would identify and recommend Support Office CEO candidates, and the Commissioners would select a CEO from the candidates presented. The CEO would then select a recruiting firm or firms to identify candidates for leadership positions in the Employee Information Division, the Voter Information Division, Citizens Research Services Division, and each Support Office, and would recommend and present leaders from the candidates presented to the Commissioners for approval.

Remote Operations. The Commissioners would work remotely with support, coordination, and controls provided by the support offices employees. Each Commissioner would be provided with a computer and secure access.

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Operations

Staff Research. The staff of the Citizens Research Services Division, the Employee Information Division, and the Voter Information Division would research all sources of information and engage advisors to identify accurate and meaningful information on each key issue and guideline and each candidate and corporate reporting requirement to be recommended to the Commissioners, considering an appropriate balance of the cost and benefit of each. The staff would use the support offices as necessary. The staff would also survey economists, sociologists, political scientists, business leaders, community leaders, etc., as necessary. The surveys would include most, if not all, leading participants in the field being surveyed. The results of all surveys would be publicly available on the Informed Citizens Commission website. The staff would prepare draft reporting requirements and make them available for public comments. Comments would be considered when preparing the reporting recommendations.

Public Review, Comments, and Ratings. The issues and guidelines and corporation and candidate reporting requirements recommendations would be presented to the public in two formats: sufficiently summarized as to be useful for all citizens, as well as sufficiently detailed for maximum benefit for the most sophisticated citizens. The public would have sufficient opportunity to review the reporting requirement recommendations and provide their opinions via a rating system and comments on whether they achieve the Informed Citizens Commission Goals and Objectives. The staff would make use of AI, with appropriate review and controls, to summarize and evaluate the feedback received from the public and use this information to either revise its recommendations or prepare responsive information and perspectives to communicate the reasons for and benefits of the recommendations once approved.

Commission Approval Process. The key issue and guideline and reporting requirement recommendations and public ratings and summarized comments would be presented to the Commissioners in two formats: sufficiently summarized as useful for all Commissioners, as well as sufficiently detailed for maximum benefit for the most sophisticated Commissioners. The Commissioners would have the opportunity to approve, decline, request more information, or suggest changes. The process would continue until a majority of the Commissioners approve or decline the recommendation. The division staff and support offices would then implement the recommendations approved.

Annual Surveys. The Commissioners, Division and Support Office staff, special interest groups, think tanks, and the public in general, would be surveyed annually on current regulations, suggestions for new regulations, the Informed Citizens Commission operating process, and the participants, etc. The results of the surveys would be evaluated and summarized by AI, with appropriate reviews and controls, and would be made public and would be considered by Informed Citizens Commission personnel for changes required.

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Annual Report. The support offices staff would prepare an Annual Report to the Commissioners and public that would be available to the public. The Annual Report would include accomplishments that support the Goals and Objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission for the prior year; political, economic, and social trends; and goals and operating plan for the upcoming year.

Use of Technology. The Staff would make maximum use of technology to ensure accomplishment of the Goals and Objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission: 1) collection of citizens information and perspectives via surveys, portal access points, and use of AI, with appropriate reviews and controls, to analyze large quantities of citizen information and perspectives, and 2) distribution of citizen information and perspectives collected and analyzed, together with Informed Citizens Commission information, perspectives, and recommendations.