INFORMED CITIZENS COMMISSION

“BY ALL THE PEOPLE, FOR ALL THE PEOPLE”

INFORMED CITIZENS

FOR A SUCCESSFUL AMERICA

Informed Citizens Commission

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Table of Contents

	Page
1. Introduction	2
2. Goal and Objectives	3
3. Organization	5
4. Commissioners	7
5. Employee Information Division	8
6. Voter Information Division	10
7. Citizens Research Services Division	13
8. Support Group	16
9. Operations	17

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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 most of 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.

Balancing the interests of all people will allow us to overcome our challenges and take advantage of our opportunities. 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 political, economic, and social information for all citizens in order to generate the public, political, market, and peer pressure required to create a Successful America with an economy that benefits everyone, a government that represents everyone, and a society that respects everyone.

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Goal

Honesty and Transparency

For A Successful America with
An Economy that Benefits Everyone
A Government that Represents Everyone
A Society that Respects Everyone

Objectives

1. 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*)

2. 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)*

3. Ensure accurate and meaningful business, political, and social issues 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.

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

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Organization

The Informed Citizens Commission would be organized to achieve its goal and objectives, as follows:

- Commissioners who are citizen volunteers who support the goal and objectives above to review regulations and reporting proposed by the Employee Information Division, the Voter Information Division, and the Citizens Research Services Division, and approve, disapprove, request revisions, or request further information on those regulations and reporting proposals
- 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
- 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
- Support Group to support Commissioners and the staff of the Voter Information Division, the Employee Information Division, and the Citizens Research Services Division

The Informed Citizens Commission would be an independent, non-partisan agency with rotating citizen volunteer Commissioners and professional staff. The volunteer Commissioners would ensure independence, honesty, transparency, and public participation. The professional staff would be the most qualified personnel and would be vetted to ensure a belief in, and commitment to, the goal and objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission. 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 Group, 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.

States would enact their own Informed Citizens Commissions with a similar goal, objectives, and organization as the federal Informed Citizens Commission, modified to address the state voter, employee, consumer, and issue reporting requirements.

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Commissioners

The responsibilities of the Commissioners would be to review reporting requirements proposed by the Employee Information Division and the Voter Information Division and issues and guidelines recommendations proposed by the Citizens Research Services Division, consider whether they will accomplish the goal 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 political, economic, and social outcomes while alleviating adverse short-term effects.

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 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 goal 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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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 goal 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.

The Employee Information Division would have the staff, either directly or through the Support Group, 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.

Following are examples of corporate information reporting requirements that the Employee Information Division would consider:

- 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

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 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. The information reporting requirements would be published by the Employee Information Division on the USA.Gov website as well as an Employee Information Division website that would be available to all citizens.

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Voter Information Division

The Voter Information Division would be responsible for developing the candidate reporting requirements that would accomplish the goal 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.

The Voter Information Division would have the staff, either directly or through the Support Group, 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 top 10% and the 90%.

Following are examples of candidate information reporting requirements that the Voter Information Division would consider:

- 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)
- 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

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 website that would be available to all citizens. The Voter Information Division website would include comparisons between candidates running for the same office (see Vote-USA.org and BallotReady.org for examples). Candidate websites would be required to include a link to the Voter Information Division website. Information about the candidate information reporting requirements along with links to the Voter Information Division website would be provided on the USA.Gov website.

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.

Voter 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.

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
- 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

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. Information about this service and links to this website would be provided on the USA.Gov website.

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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

The Citizens Research Services Division would assume the responsibilities and staff of the Congressional Research Service agency. The Congressional Research Service agency 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.

Following are examples of issues that the Citizens Research Services Division would consider researching and reporting information and guidelines for:

- 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
  - Risk weighted equity returns
  - Long-term interest rates
  - Inflation rate
  - GDP growth rate
  - Federal debt to GDP ratio
  - Deficit to change in GDP ratio
- 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

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 the USA.Gov website as well as a Citizens Research Services Division website that would be available to all citizens.

The Citizens Research Servies 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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Support Group

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

The Support Group 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.

Position specifications for the key leadership positions of the Employee Information Division, Voter Information Division, Citizens Research Services Division, and Support Group based on the goal and objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission and the role and responsibilities of each organization would be provided for in the legislation creating the Informed Citizens Commission. That legislation would also identify a recruiting firm to conduct the search for the Support Group CEO.

That recruiting firm would identify Support Group CEO candidates that meet the position specifications. Those candidates would be screened by three randomly selected federal judges as they each do for their juries. Candidates would be excused if all three judges agree that the candidate shows clear bias or could not fulfil the responsibilities of the Support Group CEO. Candidates recommended by the recruiting firm and vetting by the federal judges would be presented to the Commissioners who would select a CEO from the candidates presented.

The CEO would then select a recruiting firm or firms from a list of approved recruiting firms provided in the legislation to identify candidates for leadership positions in the Employee Information Division, the Voter Information Division, Citizens Research Services Division, and each Support Group office, who would be vetted by federal judges as the Support Group CEO had been. Those candidates recommended and screened would be presented to the Commissioners who would select leaders for each division and office. All information and decisions would be available to the public.

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

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Operations

The staff of the Employee Information Division, the Voter Information Division, and the Citizens Research Services 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 Group 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 then be considered when preparing the reporting recommendations for the Commissioners review.

The candidate and corporation reporting requirements and issues and guidelines recommendations would be presented to the pubic in two or more formats: sufficiently summarized as to be useful to as many citizens as reasonable, as well as sufficiently detailed as to be useful to as many of the more sophisticated citizens as reasonable. 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 goal 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.

The reporting requirements and issues and guidelines 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 recommendations. The Division and Support Group staff would then implement the recommendations approved.

The Commissioners, Division and Support Group 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, 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 applicable personnel for changes required.

The Support Group staff would prepare an Annual Report for the Commissioners and public that would be available to the public. The Annual Report would include accomplishments that support the goal 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.

The Staff would make maximum use of technology to ensure accomplishment of the goal and objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission: 1) collection of citizen 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.

The public would also be provided with the opportunity to participate in national surveys by the Informed Citizens Commission by opting in on their tax returns. They would also be able to opt in to surveys and provide information and perspectives on the Informed Citizens Commission website portal by registering if they haven't opted in via their tax return. All personal information collected via tax returns and/or website portal would be held in confidence and not used for any other purpose.

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Only an independent government agency can ensure accurate information for everyone

