



# **COMMON SENSE**

## **FOR A SUCCESSFUL AMERICA**

**TRUTH AND TRANSPARENCY  
FOR INFORMED CITIZENS**

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### Author's Preface

When I retired, I had three thoughts: I wanted to give back in some way, I wanted to write a letter to my children and grandchildren with life lessons as my grandfather had done for me, and I wanted to understand why America's political system didn't result in better leaders and solutions to issues. All three have come together in this pamphlet.

During my career as a Chief Financial Officer for various operating companies and a private equity firm, I found that success in any business requires an honest and thorough analysis of both its challenges and opportunities, and the development of an honest and thorough plan to minimize its challenges and maximize its opportunities. I believe the same is true for a Successful America.

In performing an honest and thorough analysis of America's political challenges, I identified specific problems that were contributing to its lack of success. I began working with reform organizations whose goals were to address those problems but saw insurmountable resistance. I found that our political systems are so intertwined with our economic systems that substantive political reforms are impossible without macro and fundamental changes to both our political and economic systems.

One of the benefits of being a parent and grandparent is developing a greater appreciation of the differences among people. We all have different personalities, skills, experiences, and environments. The result is different beliefs, feelings, and perspectives on issues. Such fundamental differences mean that consensus on solutions for issues isn't possible and that our goal must be to achieve a balance that represents the fairest representation of all interests.

A running buddy of mine used to say as we approached a steep hill - "every challenge is an opportunity to excel!" When I face a challenge in life I like to think of this saying and look for opportunities to excel. I hope each of you experience the same joy and happiness in your lives that I have in mine and that your challenges become "opportunities to excel" for you as they have for me.

## Introduction

Common Sense by Thomas Paine was published in 1776. Its purpose was to persuade the American people of the need for independence from the British monarchy and the establishment of a democratic republic. It paved the way for the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

The most fundamental principles of the Declaration of Independence were:

- All people have equal human value
- All people are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness
- Governments derive their powers from their people
- The people have the right to alter their government to ensure their happiness

The most fundamental principle of the Constitution was:

- Governments are to ensure justice, tranquility, general welfare, and liberty for their people

Common Sense for a Successful America is being published 250 years later. Its purpose is to persuade the American people of the need for an independent government agency to create rules and regulations that provide the checks and balances required to evolve America's culture to one of respect for truth and transparency within which informed citizens can create a successful America.

The elite at the top have had economic and political control over the many throughout the first 250 years of America's history, as has been the case throughout human history. The economic impact of that control has ebbed and flowed many times. We are currently at a point where that control is having a significantly negative impact on the many. Each such point in both American and human history has led to a catastrophic event (usually a revolution or war) to improve the balance.

Effectively balancing the interests of all of the people in our government, economy, and society would allow us to avoid a catastrophic event and provide the most effective checks and balances against the interests of a few dominating the interests of all in the future. Honestly and effectively pursuing and embracing the will of all of the people will lead to achieving that balance of interests.

The phenomenal and accelerating advancements in communications and technology, education and reasoning, and availability of information and perspectives provide the greatest opportunity in human history to effectively reflect and benefit from the full potential of embracing the will of all the people and to achieve a huge leap forward toward a true democratic government, a real free and fair market economy, and a just and respectful society.

This pamphlet provides common sense information and perspectives on the challenges America faces today, the opportunities it has, and a foundation upon which it can build a Successful America.

## The Economy

### **Purpose of an Economy**

The purpose of an economy, and therefore each business and financial market within the economy, is to efficiently and effectively generate the maximum goods and services and allocate those goods and services in the fairest manner possible to support that system.

### **Capitalism**

Capitalism is the private ownership of capital for investments. Socialism is the government ownership of capital for investments. Capitalism allows for the benefits of free and fair market determination of economic investments and therefore has the best potential for maximizing economic benefits for all. However, without sufficient checks and balances, capitalism can result in imbalances of power and benefits and therefore not be an effective and efficient economic system.

America has established sufficient checks and balances for free and fair capital markets and for free and fair corporate competition. Although America has established some checks and balances for employment and consumer markets, they have not been sufficient to create free and fair markets. The result is an economy where shareholders have an unfair influence over corporations and corporations have an unfair influence over employees and consumers (shareholder capitalism).

### **Shareholder Capitalism**

America's shareholder capitalism has led to the goal of corporations (and therefore the economy) being to maximize profits for shareholders. In order to maximize profits for shareholders, corporations must keep wages for employees as low as possible and keep prices for products and services as high as possible, while keeping the quality of products and services as low as possible.

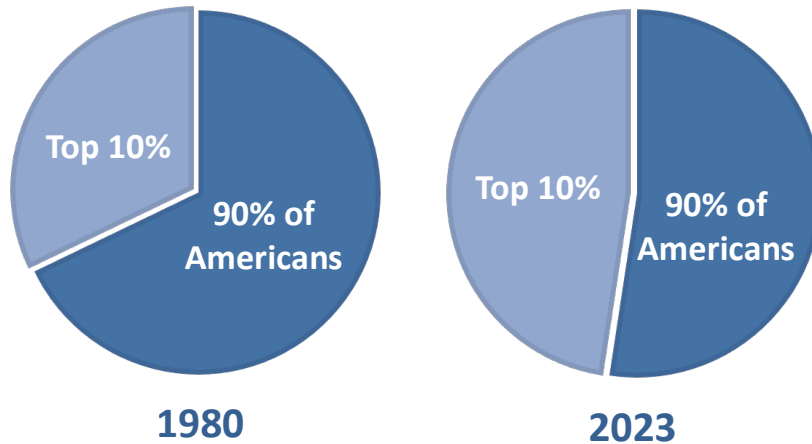
Management is incentivized to accomplish the goal of maximizing profits for shareholders by having the majority of their compensation tied to increases in share values. The top 10% of Americans own 90% of all shares and therefore benefit from the increases in share values. Most Americans do not benefit materially from increases in share values. The result has been an unfair and economically inefficient shift in income from most Americans to the top 10% over the past forty years.

### **Shift in US Income**

Shareholder capitalism has led to lower wages, higher prices, and lower quality of products and services for most Americans which has resulted in today's "affordability" crisis. Shareholder capitalism has also led to significant increases in prosperity for the top 10%. Together these have created a sense of unfairness that is causing America's current, significant political and social unrest.

America's top 10% share of income has increased from 32% to 47% over the past 43 years. The cumulative impact has been over \$50 trillion. The 2023 impact alone was \$2.3 trillion.

## Share of US Income



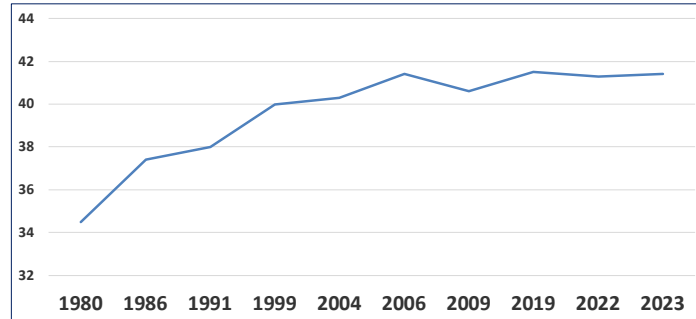
Without this unnecessary and inefficient shift in income, the average income for 70% of Americans would be 38% higher today. See Appendix A for more information on the unfair impact on the distribution of US income as a result of shareholder capitalism between 1980 and 2023.

### Impact on US Economy

The International Monetary Fund uses the GINI Index to measure the level of income sharing between the top 10% and the 90% of countries around the world. A GINI Index of 35 results in maximum economic growth and prosperity by achieving a sharing of income to the top 10% that maximizes supply of capital and income to the that maximizes demand for goods and services.

America's GINI Index has been steadily increasing over the past forty-three years from 35 to 41, reflecting a steadily increasing imbalance of income between the top 10% and the 90% of Americans and therefore an increasingly inefficient and underperforming economy.

## US GINI Index Excess Income to the Upper Class



**1980 – Maximum Economic Activity and Higher GDP Growth**

**2023 – Lower Economic Activity and Lower GDP Growth**

The average GINI Index of the remaining 14 of the world's 15 largest economies is 36, reflecting more efficient and higher performing economies in those countries.

The result of the increasing imbalance of income between the top 10% and the 90% of Americans is an excess of income available to the top 10% which has led to significant, not economically supported, price increases of high end assets (stocks, real estate, crypto currencies, etc.).

The 90% of Americans use a greater percentage of their income for consumer purchases than the top 10%. Since consumer purchases drive economic activity, the significant shift in income from the 90% to the top 10% has limited US economic growth and therefore the prosperity of the country.

GDP growth over the past 20 years was primarily the result of deficit spending (which takes prosperity from future generations) and population growth (over 50% of which was from immigration). We will have no choice but to stop the deficit spending soon and our population growth has and will continue to slow. The result will be a near term and continuing decline in GDP.

To achieve maximum sustainable economic growth, America needs to achieve a balance of income between the top 10% for capital requirements and the 90% for consumer demand.

### **Impact on the Free Press**

Mainstream media and social media (the "free press") are shareholder capitalism corporations. They have the same goal of maximizing shareholder value and management incentives tied to maximizing shareholder value as all other corporations. Although some more than others, all mainstream media and social media corporations use and misuse information and take advantage of political and social unrest and divisiveness to generate users and therefore revenue and profits for their shareholders.

As a result, the increasing social and political unrest and divisiveness are made worse by mainstream media and social media goals of maximizing profits for the benefits of their shareholders.

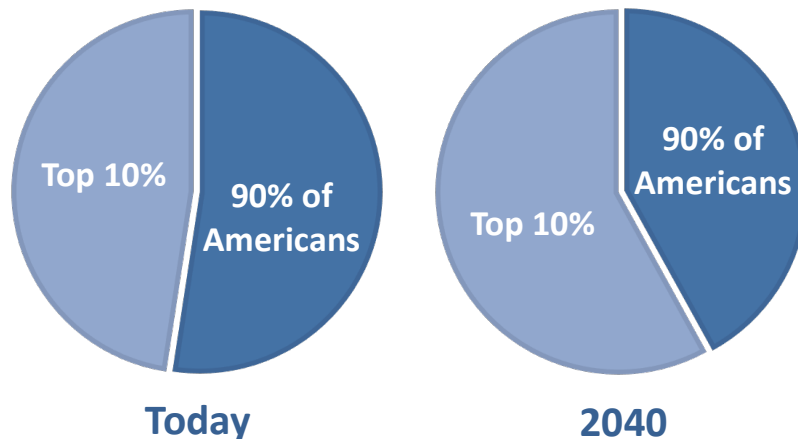
### Impact on Social Security

Social security taxes are projected to be insufficient to meet social security payment requirements over the next 75 years by \$25 trillion. The majority of the top 10% of Americans' income is not subject to social security taxes while all of the 90% of Americans' income is subject to social security taxes. If the shift in income from the 90% of Americans to the top 10% had not happened, there would not be a shortfall because the 90% would be paying sufficient taxes to fund the requirements.

### Continuing Shift in US Income

The share of America's prosperity going to the top 10% is continuing to increase. Without significant changes to America's shareholder capitalism culture (i.e., where the purpose of each corporation is to maximize shareholder value and therefore minimize employee and consumer value), the past forty year economic trends will not only continue but will accelerate with the benefits of the efficiencies generated by AI and robotics going to the top 10%, leaving the 90% further behind.

## Projected Share of US Income



This trend is unsustainable. The only question is will we avoid it with rational intervention, or will it take a catastrophe or catastrophe's as it did in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (great depression and world wars), which was the last time the imbalance in the US income was as high as it is today and the trends as negative as they are today, to reverse this trends and lead to the fair and efficient income sharing America enjoyed throughout the middle decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Summary**

Shareholder capitalism's goal of maximizing shareholder interests has led to an unfair, inefficient, and unsustainable economy, political polarization, and social unrest.

Our economic system will not change on its own. Human nature is to do what's in our own self-interest. Our government must provide the checks and balances required for it to work for all, not just those at the top. Free and fair economic markets for employees, consumers, communities, businesses, and shareholders, with sufficient, but not excessive, regulations that provide the goals, incentives, and guardrails for fair competition, is the only way to balance the human nature trait of doing what's in our own self-interests.

A Successful America requires Informed employees who will require corporations to balance the interests of the top 10% (shareholders) and the 90% (employees and consumers) to achieve maximum economic fairness and efficiency.

## Politics and Government

### **Purpose of Government**

The purpose of government, and therefore each elected representative and political party within government, is to ensure the fair pursuit of happiness for all citizens by providing rules and regulations that result in the fair balancing of liberal and conservative beliefs, in a fair and efficient balancing of economic interests of all citizens, and in physical and cyber security for its citizens.

### **Misuse of Information**

Politicians use misinformation (lack of information, partial information, spin, and lies) to get votes. Liberal and conservative politicians support and/or attack social issues that energize their voters. The result is elected leaders who must support their extreme positions, rather than compromise to find solutions that are balanced for the interests of all, and therefore a government in gridlock.

Political leaders have modified election and legislative process rules and procedures to advance their own self-interests, primarily getting re-elected, rather than balancing their self-interests with the public interest. The number of meaningful laws enacted by Congress has declined significantly. The laws that are passed are becoming more and more partisan.

Today there is an imbalance of influence by the establishment (the top 10% of Americans) on government which is benefiting them and negatively impacting 90% of Americans. The result is that the 90% assume there is a “deep state” controlling the establishment and that elections are rigged against them. They have lost faith in political leaders and democracy. They know the political and economic systems aren’t working for them. They have turned to authoritarianism in frustration.

There are currently two political paths being pursued to overcome the current authoritarianism:

- Return to existing political and economic systems
- Modify existing political and economic systems with progressive/socialist policies

Neither path will address the macro and fundamental challenges caused by shareholder capitalism.

### **Impact of Shareholder Capitalism**

Under shareholder capitalism the purpose of a corporation, and therefore the economy, is to maximize profits to maximize shareholder value. Corporate goals and management incentive compensation plans are tied to that purpose. As a result, corporation shareholders, board members, and managers use their influence to persuade politicians to enact laws and enforce regulations that benefit corporations and enable them to maximize profits and their shareholders’ value. The impact is that the 90% of Americans’ interests (employees and consumers) are negatively affected.

Shareholder capitalism has also negatively affected America’s international relations. America’s businesses and government put profits for shareholders over other countries’ interests. We have established the purpose of both our economy and our government as being to make the wealthy wealthier, at the expense of 90% of Americans and interests of others around the world.

### **Leaders**

Without accurate and meaningful information on candidates, voters are left to select leaders based on personality, positions on issues, and/or misinformation.

The more politicians, mainstream media, and social media distort the truth for their own and their donors and shareholders' interests the less real the "will of the people" becomes. We must restore truth and transparency to politics, business, and society to benefit from the real "will of the people", which is the only way to realize the goodness of God through the goodness of the people.

### **Summary**

The 90% of Americans being left behind politically, economically, and socially has led to a loss of faith in democracy and support for authoritarianism. America's political and economic systems are so intertwined that substantive political reforms are not possible without macro and fundamental changes to both our political and economic systems. Embracing democracy, a free and fair economy, and ensuring accurately and meaningfully informed voters and employees is the only way to evolve America from near authoritarianism to progressing toward a true representative democracy.

A Successful America requires Informed voters who will elect candidates for public office with integrity and honesty, the skills and experience for the role and responsibilities, and the wisdom required to find balanced solutions for the issues and opportunities facing America and the world.

## Society and its Citizens

### **Purpose of Society**

The purpose of society is to organize the interactions of its members for the best interests of all. Those interactions require a government to establish and enforce rules and an economy to determine how goods and services are created and fairly distributed to all members of society.

### **Beliefs and Self-interests**

Beliefs are necessary for humans to process and respond to the complexities of life. They are influenced by our personalities and experiences and fundamental to who we are. They may be refined with additional information and perspectives from others, but we each have a fundamental point of personal preference on the spectrum of things ranging from the far left to the far right.

Our beliefs are influenced by our need to prioritize our short-term self-interests over those of others. Prioritization of short-term self-interests is a fundamental aspect of human nature (survival instinct). Our beliefs lead to the need to control what happens in accordance with our beliefs. We create perspectives on issues that fit our beliefs and to achieve what is in our own self-interests.

### **Top 10% of Americans Beliefs Today**

The top 10% of Americans believe that the US economy is doing very well based on the following:

- Their incomes are high and growing
- GDP growth is high
- Stocks, crypto currencies, and other high end asset prices are high and increasing
- The incomes of the 90% of Americans are higher than most other countries

They believe America's economic success is the result of shareholder capitalism and the fiduciary duty of corporations, their boards, and CEOs to maximize profits for the benefit of shareholders. They believe that democracy and the rule of law are the foundation for America's success.

Liberals in the top 10% believe liberal views (e.g., financial, legal, religious, social, etc.) and liberal initiatives (e.g. DEI, BLM, gay rights, abortion, gun safety, etc.) are good and justify win at all costs politics. They believe gerrymandering and closed primaries are justified to win against opponents. They use political beliefs messaging to get votes.

Conservatives in the top 10% believe conservative views (e.g., financial, legal, religious, social, etc.) and conservative initiatives (e.g., abortion, gun rights, immigration, etc.) are good and justify win at all costs politics. They believe gerrymandering and closed primaries are justified to win against opponents. They use political beliefs messaging to get votes. They support Trump as a counter to liberal top 10% views and initiatives and for his support of their financial interests (lower taxes, etc.). They don't believe he will actually be able to overthrow democracy and establish authoritarianism.

The top 10% of Americans don't understand why the 90% of Americans are unhappy. They believe low unemployment and modest gains in income for the 90% of Americans should be sufficient. They

believe politicians need to “craft” messaging to convince the 90% to vote to maintain the status quo. The political messaging on the 90% affordability issue has been:

- Immigrants are taking your high paying jobs
- China is taking your high paying jobs
- Inflation is causing your inability to support your family

### **The 90% of Americans Beliefs Today**

The 90% of Americans know there is something wrong but are unable to see the flaws in the systems. They are left to believe that there is a “deep state” or “cabal of pedophiles” controlling the economy and government for their own self-interests at the expense of the 90% of Americans.

The 90% of Americans believe the US economy is not doing well based on the following:

- Their incomes are low, not growing, and not sufficient to support their families
- GDP growth does not impact them
- Stock market, crypto, and other high end asset price increases do not impact them
- Their incomes relative to other countries aren’t important to them

The 90% of Americans believe the top 10% has been dishonest. They see political messaging as promises without delivering results. They see the top 10% as getting ahead while leaving the 90% of Americans behind. The 90% believe the top 10% is arrogant and condescending because of unfulfilled promises and the 90% continuing economic struggles.

They believe there has been election fraud because the results of elections have benefited the top 10% of Americans over the 90% of Americans. They blame the democrats more than the republicans due to their larger role in recent decades.

Women’s participation in the workforce in the 90% of Americans has increased. They have seen gains in their income relative to men, but they still only make 80% of what a man makes for the same job. Males in the 90% have seen a decline in both employment participation and income relative to women. They have become more dependent on their spouses to provide support for their families. Black and white men both see the other race in the top 10% of Americans getting ahead and therefore believe the other race in the 90% is getting ahead as well, which they are not.

The white people in the 90% believe liberal initiatives (e.g., DEI, BLM, Gay Rights, etc.) are part of why they are being left behind economically, politically, and socially by the top 10%. They believe in legal, religious, social, but not financial, conservative views. They support Trump as a counter to liberal top 10% views and actions.

The 90% of Americans have given up on democracy and capitalism and have turned to authoritarianism as their best hope for a better economic future, creating serious political and economic risks. The 90% of Americans believe democracy and rule of law have been used to leave them behind. They support Trump to clean house and create a government that takes care of them.

### Shared Values

Shared values are fundamental to society being able to balance its citizens' fair pursuit of happiness. Following are shared values and principles which are fundamental to a successful society:

- Human Rights
  - Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all
  - Equal social, civil, and legal justice for all
  - Freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition
- Beliefs
  - In honesty, transparency, integrity, and right over wrong
  - In treating others as we want them to treat us
  - Faith in the goodness of God
  - Faith in the goodness of people through our faith in the goodness of God
- Free Market Economy
  - Efficient and effective economic activity for meeting the needs of society
  - Sufficient income for the top 10% of Americans to fund business investment
  - Sufficient income for the 90% of Americans to fund economic activity
  - Sufficient income for social issues (healthcare, retirement, etc.)
  - Sufficient transparency of information to maximize efficient free and fair markets
- Democracy
  - Governance of the people, by the people and for the people
  - Separation of church and state, but retain a faith in the goodness of God
  - Separation of powers within the federal government
  - Separation of powers between the federal and state governments
  - Security and wellbeing (physical, digital, health, etc.)
  - Sufficient transparency of information to maximize effective elections

No matter the skills, abilities, or experiences, all people have a heart, love for children, and belief in fair play and right versus wrong. People's shared values, faith in God, and faith in the goodness of people can only surface if they believe their political and business leaders are being honest and are treating them fairly, which will only happen if their political and business leaders are being honest and are treating them fairly.

Faith in the goodness of God is important to most people. Religions help us to understand that faith. Each religion has developed from different cultures seeking to understand the greater good through God. The fact that they have developed with different approaches is understandable. Fundamental to each religion is the belief in treating others as you would have others treat you. Accomplishing that is done by seeking the common good through the pursuit of truth and balance in all things.

### Balance of Interests

Balancing all individual interests and perspectives is the only way to function successfully as a society. The complete and honest consideration of all aspects of issues prior to determining a solution that best meets the interests of all people is required to find balance.

## Common Sense

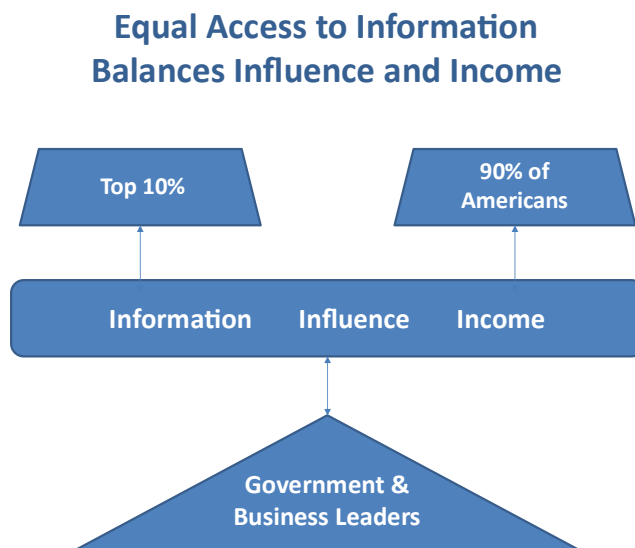
Following groups' interests require balance:

- Upper class and the 90% of America
- Urban and rural
- Conservatives and liberals
- White and non-white

Short-term and long-term perspectives also require balance. Our self-interests are more important in the short term (food, shelter, safety, family, etc.), but the common good is important in the long term for our long-term self-interest.

### Balance of Information

Only a balance of accurate and meaningful information among all participants can lead to successful economic markets and a successful democracy. Only an independent government agency can ensure accurate and meaningful economic and political information among all participants.



Today the Securities and Exchange Commission ensures the top 10% are provided with accurate and meaningful economic information. Political access via lobbyists, lawyers, networking, etc. ensures the top 10% are provided with accurate and meaningful political information. The current top 10% and the 90% of Americans imbalance in our economy and government is the result of the top 10% controlling the economic and political information the 90% receives. In order to achieve economic and political balance the 90% of Americans need an independent government agency to ensure it receives accurate and meaningful economic and political information.

- The **Securities and Exchange Commission** and **political access** benefit the top 10% today
- An **independent government agency** could balance that benefit for the 90% of Americans

### Summary

All people want a better future for their children and grandchildren. America's founding principles included: "All people are created equal" and "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". These principles should all be foundational for that future. An environment that provides the maximum opportunity for the pursuit of the greatest happiness for each citizen would embrace those principles and be a Successful America for all citizens. Achieving perfection is not possible but pursuing it as an important goal to maximize success.

There have been many advances in education, science, technology, communications, and Information availability over the past few decades that have had significant impacts on our social, political, and business environments. Further advances in those areas, along with the fundamentals of who we are as a collective people, provide us with the opportunity to realize America's potential.

America is the melting pot of the world. America's diversity of race, nationality, culture, and religion provides our challenges and opportunity. It is the foundation upon which to build a great country and become an example for the world. America has had a positive impact on world affairs for 80 years and has the potential to have an even greater, more positive impact in the future. A true representative democracy is a great political system with which to fulfill America's potential. A free and fair market economy is a great economic system with which to provide for America's prosperity.

Citizens can't individually, or in groups, solve the issues facing government, business, and society. Citizens can collectively establish shared values and demand that political and business leaders find solutions to issues based on those shared values and that are balanced for the best interests of all.

A Successful America requires informed citizens who respect the rights of others who are different, or hold different beliefs, and accept the need to balance those differences for the common good.

## Conclusion

### America's Challenges

America's greatest challenges are:

- An unfair and inefficient economy is leaving 90% of Americans behind
- Political leaders are using misinformation for their self-interests
- Unfair economy and misinformation are causing social unrest

Shareholder capitalism originated in the 1970s and 1980s in response to stagflation, increased global competition, and activist investors. The macro-economic impact of shareholder capitalism has been negative and the prioritizing of the income and wealth of management and shareholders over employees and consumers has led to political and social cultures of prioritizing self-interests of those in leadership positions.

There are three primary impediments to overcoming the shareholder capitalism challenge:

- Economic, political, and social leaders benefit individually from the current situation
- There is a valid concern that a fix could have an even greater negative impact
- Political, economic, and social reform initiatives focus on specific issues

America's challenges are tremendous, but so are its opportunities.

### America's Opportunities

America's greatest opportunities are:

- True representative democracy is the best form of government
- Real free and fair markets are the best form of an economy
- America's shared values reflect the best of humanity

The collective will of the informed people is the best guideline for society, the economy, and the government. The collective will of the informed people can best be realized through true representative democracy and a real free market economy.

Realizing America's opportunities will require significant efforts by many people. Most significant will be the requirement to not give up. Together the people can determine the fate of the country. Overcoming the self-interest prioritization of many of those benefiting from shareholder capitalism will be the greatest obstacle.

In order to overcome its challenges and realize its opportunities America needs a plan that benefits all citizens. The plan must result in short term changes that will result in long term solutions.

## Developing a Plan

Most people of reason and goodwill would agree that:

- The purpose of government, and therefore each elected representative and political party, is to ensure the fair pursuit of happiness for all citizens by providing rules and regulations that result in the fair balancing of liberal and conservative beliefs, in a fair and efficient balancing of economic interests, and in physical and cyber security for its citizens and that achieving that purpose would be best accomplished with a true representative democracy.
- The purpose of an economy, and therefore each corporation and financial market, is to efficiently and effectively generate the maximum goods and services and allocate those goods and services in the fairest manner possible to support that system and that achieving that purpose would be best accomplished with a real free and fair market solution.

In order to overcome America's challenges and realize its opportunities America needs a plan that works well for all its citizens. Development of a plan requires a vision of what is to be achieved, goals for what is needed to achieve that vision, and an approach for how to accomplish those goals. The above purposes of government and an economy are the foundation for the Plan for a Successful America.

## Plan for a Successful America

Following is a summary of a Plan for a Successful America:

- Vision - A Successful America with:
  - A Government that Represents Everyone
  - An Economy that Benefits Everyone
  - A Society that Respects Everyone
- Goals - Truth and transparency for:
  - Informed Voters who elect qualified and trustworthy leaders
  - Informed Employees who require corporations to balance the interests of shareholders, employees and consumers
  - Informed Citizens and Representatives who respect the rights of others
- Approach to Accomplish the Goals - An Informed Citizens Commission with:
  - A Voter Information Division to ensure accurate and meaningful candidate information for voters
  - An Employee Information Division to ensure accurate and meaningful corporate information for employees
  - Citizens Research Services Division to ensure accurate and meaningful information on key issues and guidelines

For more on the Plan for a Successful America see Appendix B.

### **Implementing the Plan for a Successful America**

Implementing the Plan for a Successful America will require citizen participation. Citizens need to let their representatives know they want them to support the Plan for a Successful America and enact an Informed Citizens Commission, as well as elect representatives who will support the Plan for a Successful America and enact an Informed Citizens Commission.

To learn more about actions that citizens can take - see [www.informedcitizens.com/take-action](http://www.informedcitizens.com/take-action)

## A Fair Sharing of America's Prosperity

	Average Income Per Taxpayer		
	Multiple of Top 1% to 70% of Americans	1% of Americans	70% of Americans
1980 Actual (adjusted for inflation)	<b>11x</b>	\$340,932	\$31,772
2023 Actual	<b>36x</b>	\$1,309,186	<b>\$36,626</b>
2023 Fair Sharing of America's Prosperity	<b>11x</b>	\$538,345	<b>\$50,419</b>
<b>Average increase for 70% of Americans</b>			<b><u>38%</u></b>

**Comments:** A fair sharing of America's prosperity over the past 43 years would have resulted in:

- > All taxpayers' incomes increasing by the same percentage as America's prosperity
- > The average income of the Top 1% being 11x the bottom 70% of taxpayers
- > The bottom 70% of taxpayers having 38% higher average incomes
- > The Next 15% of taxpayers having 18% higher incomes

**Note:** Detail information, analysis, and source information is located on Attachment A - Detail

## A Fair Sharing of America's Prosperity

	Average Income per Average Tax Return							
	Total	Top 0.1%	Next 0.9%	Next 4%	Next 5%	Next 15%	Next 25%	Bottom 50%
1980 Actual (adjusted for inflation)	\$63,550	\$2,343,575	\$338,519	\$199,205	\$141,396	\$104,159	\$65,152	\$22,498
2023 Actual	\$99,276	\$9,984,250	\$1,165,924	\$391,962	\$222,015	\$138,466	\$76,056	\$24,472
2023 Fair Sharing of America's Prosperity	\$99,276	\$3,661,078	\$528,824	\$311,193	\$220,885	\$162,715	\$101,778	\$35,146

### Comments:

1980 Actual Income distribution was fair and economically efficient as reflected in the 1980 GINI Index of 35

2023 Actual Income distribution was unfair and economically inefficient as reflected in the 2023 GINI Index of 42

2023 Income with a Fair Sharing of Prosperity distribution reflects the impact had the US maintained a fair and economically efficient GINI Index of 35

### Notes:

1. This information is from the IRS Data Tables found at the Tax Foundation website: [www.taxfoundation.org/publications/latest-federal-income-tax-data/](http://www.taxfoundation.org/publications/latest-federal-income-tax-data/)
2. The 1980 CPI adjustment was calculated at the Bureau of Labor Statistics website: [www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm)
3. Per taxpayer information on Appendix A includes working spouses at 50% and 67% of married filing jointly returns in 1980 and 2023, respectively

# Plan for a Successful America

## *Vision*

### **A Successful America**

(A future that will maximize happiness for all)

**A Government that Represents Everyone** and recognizes equal human value for all people through dignity and respect

**An Economy that Benefits Everyone** and recognizes a fair economic value for all people while providing maximum economic efficiency

**A Society that Respects Everyone** and recognizes the collective goodness of people through our faith in God

## *Goals*

### **Truth and Transparency**

(What we need to achieve our Vision)

**Informed Voters** who elect qualified and trustworthy leaders with integrity and honesty, the skills and experience for the role and responsibilities, and the wisdom required to find balanced solutions for issues and opportunities facing America who:

- Enact laws that are balanced for liberal and conservative views
- Enact laws that provide for a fair and efficient economy
- Enact laws that provide physical, cyber, and economic security

**Informed Employees** who require corporations to balance the interests of the upper class (shareholders) and the working class (employees and consumers) to achieve maximum economic fairness and efficiency with:

- A fair sharing of America's prosperity with the working class
- Quality products for consumers and social responsibility
- Sufficient, but not excessive returns for shareholders

**Informed Citizens and Representatives** who respect the rights of others who are different, or hold different beliefs on issues, and accept the need to balance those differences for the common good which will lead to:

- Trustworthy leaders who will do what's in the best interests of all citizens
- Trustworthy leaders who are honest, transparent, and respect others
- Trustworthy leaders who will result in honest and respectful citizens

# Plan for a Successful America

## *Approach*

### **An Informed Citizens Commission**

(How we will accomplish our Goals)

**A Voter Information Division** to ensure accurate and meaningful candidate information for voters so they elect qualified and trustworthy leaders who will enact:

- Campaign finance reforms that will result in elected representatives enacting legislation in the best interests of all citizens (eliminate big money donations)
- Election reforms that result in elected representatives enacting legislation in the best interests of all citizens (eliminate partisan control of elections)
- Legislative procedure reforms that result in elected representatives enacting legislation in the best interests of all citizens (eliminate partisan procedures)

**An Employee Information Division** to ensure accurate and meaningful corporate information for employees so they can choose corporations that balance the interests of the upper class (shareholders) and the working class (employees and consumers) to evolve to 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***)

**Citizens Research Services Division** to ensure accurate and meaningful information on key issues and guidelines for all citizens so they can appreciate the viewpoints of others and evolve into a society that respects everyone:

- Accurate and meaningful government issues reporting for voters
- Accurate and meaningful business issues reporting for employees
- Accurate and meaningful social issues reporting for all citizens

**Note:** The above objectives of the Voter and Employee Information Divisions may change based on the information and perspectives developed by the Citizens Research Services Division.

For more on an **Informed Citizens Commission** see Appendix C.

# **Informed Citizens Commission**

**“By the People, For the People”**

# Informed Citizens Commission

“By the People, For the People”

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# Informed Citizens Commission

“By the People, For the People”

## Purpose

### **Pursuit of Truth and Transparency for:**

- Qualified and Trustworthy Leaders
- A Fair and Efficient Economy
- Respect for all People

## Objectives

**Ensure accurate and meaningful candidate information for voters** so they elect qualified and trustworthy leaders who will enact:

- Campaign finance reforms that will result in elected representatives enacting legislation in the best interests of all citizens (eliminate big money donations)
- Election reforms that will result in elected representatives enacting legislation in the best interests of all citizens (eliminate partisan control of elections)
- Legislative procedure reforms that will result in elected representatives enacting legislation in the best interests of all citizens (eliminate partisan procedures)

**Ensure accurate and meaningful corporate information for employees** so they can choose corporations that balance the interests of the upper class (shareholders) and working class (employees and consumers) to achieve maximum economic fairness and efficiency with:

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

**Ensure accurate and meaningful information on issues for citizens** so they can appreciate the viewpoints of others and create a society that respects everyone:

- Accurate and meaningful government issues reporting for voters
- Accurate and meaningful business issues reporting for employees
- Accurate and meaningful social issues reporting for all citizens

**Note:** The above Objectives may change based upon the information and perspectives developed by the Citizens Research Services Division (see the Citizens Research Services Division section below).

# Informed Citizens Commission

“By the People, For the People”

## Organization

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

- **A Voter Information Division** to ensure accurate and meaningful candidate information for voters so they can elect qualified and trustworthy leaders that will lead to a fair and efficient government that represents everyone.
- **An Employee Information Division** to ensure accurate and meaningful corporate information for employees so they can choose corporations that will lead to a fair and efficient economy that benefits everyone.
- **Citizens Research Services Division** to ensure accurate and meaningful issues and guidelines information for elected officials and citizens so they can better appreciate the viewpoints of others leading to better legislation and a society that respects everyone.
- **Advisory Board** of citizen volunteers to review Employee Information Division, Voter Information Division, and Citizens Research Services Division recommendations and to provide the Commissioners with a collective rating or ratings on the accuracy and adequacy of those recommendations relative to the Purpose and Objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission.
- **Commission** of citizen volunteers to review regulations and reporting proposed by the Employee Information Division, the Voter Information Division, and Citizens Research Services Division, consider input from the Advisory Board on the proposals, all relative to the Purpose and Objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission, and approve, disapprove, request revisions, or request further information on those regulations and reporting proposals.
- **Support Offices** to support Commissioners, Advisory Board members, and staff of the Employee Information Division, Voter Information Division, and Citizens Research Services Division.

**Independence.** The Informed Citizens Commission would be an independent, non-partisan agency with rotating citizen volunteer commissioners and advisory board members. Rotating citizen volunteers would ensure the Informed Citizens Commission’s independence. Independence is critical to develop the trust of citizens and overcome the lack of trust of current leaders and the establishment. Any attempt to inappropriately influence the selection process or decisions of a Commissioner, an Advisory Board member, or any employee of the Employee Information Division, Voter Information Division, Citizens Research Services Division, or Support Office would be a crime punishable with a minimum of 1 year, with up to 15 years in prison. The Informed Citizens Commission would have the ability to transmit its budget directly to Congress and have the power to litigate independent of the Department of Justice.

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

# Informed Citizens Commission

“By the People, For the People”

## Voter Information Division

The Voter Information Division would be responsible for developing the candidate reporting requirements that would accomplish the Purpose 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 and Advisory Board. The Voter Information Division would be responsible for implementing and enforcing the regulations approved by the Commissioners. This would result in candidates providing accurate and meaningful information about themselves and their supporters so voters could make more informed voting decisions. This information would also be used by the press, think tanks, research and educational institutions, governments, 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 voters have accurate and adequate information from candidates to elect the most qualified 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.

**Reporting.** 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**
  - Position on balancing solutions for the benefit of all citizens
  - Positions on key issues and balanced solutions for addressing those issues
  - Position on Citizens Research Services Division solution recommendations
- **Sources of campaign funding**
  - By major donor and PAC
  - Each major donor and PAC's position on key issues and solutions
  - Explanation of differences with each major donor and PAC's positions

**Information Access.** The Voter Information Division would require candidates to provide, and update as necessary, all required candidate information reporting in a summarized enough format to be useful for all eligible voters and in a detailed enough format to be useful for those eligible voters requiring that more detailed format. Both reporting formats would be made available 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). Candidate websites will be required to include a link to the Voter Information Division website.

# Informed Citizens Commission

“By the People, For the People”

**Recommendations for Changes in Laws and/or Constitutional Amendments.** The Voter Information Division would recommend to Citizens Research Services Division any suggestions 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) truth 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 post elected officials’ terms.

**Use of Candidate Information.** The Voter Information Division would also be responsible for developing and recommending to the Commissioners and Advisory Board 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.** Following are sample candidate evaluation criteria:

- **Integrity, honesty, and transparency**
  - Positive ads, based on record, not attacking opponent or opponent 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 impacts
  - Middle class and upper class interests
  - Citizens Research Services Division solution 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.

# Informed Citizens Commission

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## Employee Information Division

The Employee Information Division would be responsible for developing and recommending to the Commissioners and Advisory Board corporate reporting requirements for accurate and meaningful information for their employees, potential employees, and the public that would be required to accomplish the Purpose and Objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission. It would be responsible for implementing and enforcing the regulations approved by the Commission. This would help employees make informed employment decisions, consumers make informed buying decisions, and communities make informed community support decisions. This information would also be used by the press, think tanks, research and educational institutions, governments, 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 employees have accurate and adequate 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.** 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, communities, and shareholders)
  - Board representation and how it is balanced for the interests of all participants (employees, consumers, communities, 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**
  - Compensation of the CEO, senior management, and each quartile of employees, along with the multiple of the CEO and senior management compensation to the average of each quartile of employees as compared to Citizens Research Services Division recommendations
  - 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 required reporting information 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 requiring that 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.

# Informed Citizens Commission

“By the People, For the People”

## Citizens Research Services Division

Citizens Research Services Division would be responsible for researching and recommending to the Commissioners and Advisory Board 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 for impact realization, which could be years or even decades
- Methods for measuring those solutions and results of those measurements
- Suggestions for legislation and/or constitutional amendments for implementing those solutions; where possible, legislation that partially addresses an issue along with amendment suggestions
- Evaluations of proposed legislation and/or constitutional amendments against those suggestions

**Organization.** 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 done 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 upper class and working class to achieve the most balanced solutions to issues Americans face and opportunities Americans are presented with.

**Reporting.** Following are samples of issues that Citizens Research Services Division should consider researching and reporting on information and guidelines:

- **Purpose of the economy:** The purpose of the economy and therefore each business within the economy and its financial markets. Compare and contrast our current shareholder capitalism economy with a fully free and fair markets economy.
- **Economy:** Accurate and meaningful information and guidelines for the following categories that would facilitate achieving the goal of a fair economy that shares prosperity with all citizens
  - Corporate goals, board representation, and board, CEO, and management incentive compensation plan objectives and rewards that balance the interests of employees, consumers, communities, and shareholders
  - Fair Top 10% Share of Income
  - Fair 90% Share of Income
  - Fair US GINI Index
  - Fair tax rates, effectively flat considering all taxes, once fair income disparity is achieved
  - Reasonable, Risk Weighted Equity Returns

# Informed Citizens Commission

“By the People, For the People”

- Reasonable Long-term Interest Rates
- Reasonable Inflation Rate
- Reasonable GDP Growth Rate, considering population changes, deficit spending, etc.
- Sustainable Federal Debt to GDP Ratio
- Sustainable Deficit to Change in GDP Ratio
- **Purpose of government:** The purpose of the government and therefore each elected representative within government. Compare and contrast our current partisan, polarized political system with an open, honest, truthful, and transparent political system.
- **Government:** Accurate and meaningful information and guidelines for the following categories that would facilitate achieving the goal of a government that represents all citizens and maximizes social and economic benefits in both the short-term and long-term for all citizens
  - Effective Campaign Finance
  - Effective Primary Elections
  - Effective General Elections
  - Fair Voting Districts
  - Political Truth and Transparency
  - Candidate Reporting Information
  - Effective Campaign Advertising
  - Ease of Voting
  - High Voter Participation
  - Popular Vote for President
  - Voter representation in Senate
  - Legislative Operations
- **Education and healthcare:** Actions that would result in affordable quality education and healthcare for all, balanced with appropriate economic impact.
- **Racial, legal, and criminal justice:** Legislative actions that address the realities of racism and other legal and criminal justice inequities without negative short-term impacts.
- **Environmental responsibility:** Legislative actions balanced for science and economic impact.
- **Physical and cyber security:** Cost effective actions in the public’s best interest.
- **Globalization and international affairs:** Actions that recognize the U.S. as the standard for democracy, free enterprise, and social justice, while maintaining relationships that result in worldwide economic development and security.

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

**Citizen Information and Perspectives Input.** Citizens Research Services Division would seek input, via surveys and website input portal, from all citizens on their perspectives on issues and potential guidelines in order to consider those and prepare reporting that is most responsive and helpful for all citizens.

# Informed Citizens Commission

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## Advisory Board

The responsibility of the Advisory Board would be to review all Employee Information Division, Voter Information Division, and Citizens Research Services Division recommendations and to provide the Commissioners with a collective rating or ratings on various aspects of the recommendations, at a minimum on the accuracy and adequacy of those recommendations relative to the Informed Citizens Commission Purpose and Objectives.

***Volunteer and Selection Process.*** Each year all eligible voters meeting minimum criteria (e.g., college education and/or leadership or professional experience) would have the opportunity to volunteer to be a member of the Advisory Board of the Informed Citizens Commission. Eligible voters could volunteer via the Informed Citizens Commission website and provide an email address or by checking a box on their tax return and providing an email address. All volunteers would be emailed a questionnaire to be completed online requesting basic information, including with regard to education and professional experience, and confirmation of a belief in and commitment to the Purpose and Objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission and the Commissioners and Advisory Board responsibilities. Questionnaires submitted would be screened electronically, with audits performed by an independent consulting firm selected by the interim CEO. A portion of those passing the initial screen would be selected randomly and contacted for video interviews and evaluations. The goal of the screening process and video evaluations would be to approve as close to all eligible voter volunteers with the minimum education or professional experience and a belief in and commitment to the Purpose and Objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission and the Commissioner and Advisory Board responsibilities as possible. Of those passing the video evaluations, 900 would be randomly selected to serve as members of the Advisory Board in the first year. Advisory Board members 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 Advisory Board members would be selected using the same review process as the initial one. The Advisory Board members could vote to remove any member they determine not to have the minimum education or professional experience or to not be committed to the Advisory Board responsibilities. Advisory Board members would be expected to be available for two to ten days per month. Advisory Board member employers would be required to provide those days off as unpaid service days. Advisor Board members would be paid for their time worked at their current employer compensation rate by the Informed Citizens Commission.

# Informed Citizens Commission

“By the People, For the People”

## Commissioners

The responsibilities of the Commissioners would be to review regulations and reporting proposed by the Employee Information Division, the Voter Information Division, and Citizens Research Services Division, consider input from the Advisory Board on the proposals, consider whether they will accomplish the Purpose and Objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission, and approve, disapprove, request revisions, or request further information on those regulations and reporting proposals. Sharing of information would be required to the extent and within a timeframe that achieves the best long-term economic, political, and social impact while moderating negative short-term impacts.

***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 Purpose and Objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission and the Commissioners’ responsibilities. Questionnaires submitted would be screened electronically, with audits performed by an independent consulting firm selected by the interim CEO. A portion of those passing the initial screen would be selected randomly and contacted for video interviews and evaluations. The goal of the screening process and video evaluations would be to approve as close to all eligible voter volunteers with a belief in and commitment to the Purpose and Objectives of the Informed Citizens Commission and the Commissioner responsibilities as possible, even those with the most basic understanding of the responsibilities. Of those passing the video evaluations, 900 would be randomly selected to serve as Commissioners 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 they determine to be not committed to the Commissioner responsibilities. Commissioners would be expected to be available for one to five days per month. Commissioner employers would be required to provide those days off as unpaid service days. Commissioners would be paid for their time worked at their current employer compensation rate by the Informed Citizens Commission.

# Informed Citizens Commission

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## Support Offices

The Support Offices would be responsible for providing support for the Commissioners, Advisory Board members, and staff of the Employee Information Division, Voter Information Division, and Citizens Research Services 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. The Commissioners with input from the Advisory Board would select an independent recruiting firm to identify Support Office CEO candidates, and the Commissioners with input from the Advisory Board would select a CEO from the candidates presented. The CEO would select a recruiting firm or firms to identify leader candidates for the Employee Information Division, the Voter Information Division, Citizens Research Services Division, and each Support Office, would select leaders from the candidates presented and present them to the Commissioners for approval.

**Remote Operations.** The Commissioners and Advisory Board members would work remotely with support, coordination, and controls provided by the Support Offices employees. Each Commissioner and Advisory Board member would be provided with a personal computer and secure access.

# Informed Citizens Commission

“By the People, For the People”

## Operations

**Staff Research.** The staff of the Employee Information Division, the Voter Information Division, and Citizens Research Services Division would research all sources of information and engage advisors to develop accurate and adequate information on each candidate and corporate reporting requirement to be recommended to the Advisory Board Members and Commissioners, considering an appropriate balance of the cost and benefit of each. The staff would utilize the Support Offices as necessary. The staff would also survey economists, sociologists, political scientists, business leaders, community leaders, etc., as necessary. The surveys would be inclusive of 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.

**Advisory Board Ratings.** The reporting requirements recommendations would be presented to the Advisory Board members in two formats: sufficiently summarized to be useful for all Advisory Board members, as well as sufficiently detailed for maximum benefit for the most sophisticated members. The Advisory Board members would review the reporting requirement recommendations relative to the Informed Citizens Commission Purpose and Objectives and provide their opinion via a rating system.

**Commission Approval Process.** The reporting requirement recommendations and Advisory Board ratings would be presented to the Commissioners in two formats: sufficiently summarized to be 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 approved recommendations.

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

**Annual Surveys.** Annually the Commissioners, Advisory Board members, Division and Support Office staff, special interest groups, think tanks, and the public in general would be surveyed on current regulations, suggestions for new regulations, the ICC operating process, the participants, etc. The results of the surveys would be made public and would be considered by Informed Citizens Commission personnel for changes required.

**Annual Report.** The Support Offices personnel would prepare an Annual Report to the Commissioners and Advisory Board that would be available to the public. The Annual Report would include accomplishments relative to the Purpose 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.