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Governor Nikki Haley
State House
P.O. Box 11369
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Dear Governor Haley,

I'm neither Democrat nor Republican. I'm a concerned American and an Independent voter. Like the majority of Americans I want is what is best for my country; and I am frustrated with Washington. Not just the President, but Congress. I wrote to the Senator for my district and received a political form letter. I wrote to the news media and never received a response. Recently I realized the only politicians that care about the states and their constituents are the Governors. I believe this is where the real power now rest in this country.

Therefore I'm writing to ask for your support, and take a few minutes to read my letter. I believe the biggest problems in the United States today is the two party system; career politicians with a high percentage of law degrees; and the influence of lobbyist, special interest groups and political action committees. Real or perceived most Americans believe the priorities of Congress and the President are the needs of: 1) their party; 2) the special interest groups; 3) and finally America and the American people. This perception is the result of: 1) the lack of transparency and honesty by all Federal politicians; 2) perceived overreach on the part of the President and his Executive actions; 3) the lack of action on the part of Congress and the never ending congressional hearings; 4) out of control spending; and 5) the lack of accountability.

I believe this is why nearly 50% of all eligible voters in America don't vote. I understand very little can be done in the short term to correct the problems plaguing the United States today. And I don't expect Congress to act, I really believe they like the status quo. But with your support I believe the States have the power to act to restore order in Washington. You have the power to propose state legislation to improve the Federal Election Process prior to the 2016 elections; limit the influence of special interest groups in Congressional elections; and make Congress more accountable to the American people.

I am asking you to propose to your State's legislature legal, non-partisan legislation to help educate the American people and encourage more eligible Americans to get out to vote. To accomplish this it is necessary to 1) understand why Americans don't vote; 2) what can be done to encourage them to vote; and 3) what impact will the proposed legislation have on the American people and the 2016 elections.

Why Americans Don't Vote: Voter turnout for Presidential Elections for the past 35 years has averaged less than 55%. The question is why? I believe to be the following factors contribute to this low turnout:

- 1) Americans know the political parties and "Donor Class" select the candidates for Congress and President of the United States; and if they vote, they believe they are voting for the lesser of two evils.

- 2) Americans don't believe their elected officials represent them or their state; they view them as professional politicians who are only concerned with their party and getting re-elected.
- 3) Under the Electoral System for Presidential Elections, 48 states use the "winner take all" approach to award their Electoral Votes. This approach creates three problems: 1) many Americans don't believe their vote counts, either because their state either awards all its Electoral votes to the party they belong to or to the opposition party, and they believe their vote won't change the outcome; 2) the media uses the results of past elections to predict the outcome of the current election, which also discourages voter participation; and 3) it eliminates the opportunity for third party Presidential candidates to be elected.
- 4) Political news and commentary broadcasting is biased for both parties, and used to influence who the American public should elect to Congress and the Office of the President. These commentaries are treated as news, but routinely take information out of context; are composed of half-truths; and present the opinions of the individuals participating in the broadcast as fact.
- 5) Advances in computing and communication technology created an environment where the in days leading up to the election and on Election Day the media, using the results of past elections and exit polls publicly announces who they believe won the election before the majority of the votes are counted.
- 6) Most Americans are unaware of how well their Congressional Representatives and the President actually perform in office. There is no effort by the media to objectively summarize what Federal Legislation is proposed, who authored the legislation, what amendments are included in the legislation, who benefits from the amendments, and how your Congressman voted and why.
- 7) Americans have no knowledge of the annual cost for the Office of the President and the White House staff; and a single Congressional Representative and his/her staff. This includes salaries, office space, travel and contacts for outside support.

Proposed Solutions: What can you, as Governor of your state do to encourage more Americans to vote and believe their vote is important? You and your State Legislature need to work together to pass legislation to counter the voters' concerns. My specific recommendations are:

- 1) Reduce the influence of outside organizations on local and state elections. The solution is to submit legislation to your State's Legislature to make it illegal to for political parties, political action committees, lobbyist organizations, corporations individuals and other organizations located outside your State to make campaign donations to candidates and their party running for office in all local, state and federal elections (excluding Presidential candidates); or for running political adds in any media within your state. *Congress will not act on this as they like the funding and power provided by the status quo.*
- 2) Establish residency requirements and term limits for all federally elected officials. The solution is to submit legislation to your State's Legislature to: 1) require all candidates for Federal Office be United States Citizens before they are placed on the election ballot; 2) require all candidates for Federal Office be a full time resident of your state for at least six years immediately prior to running for election; 3) limit the length of time a United States Congressman from your state can serve in Federal Office to four terms or a total of 12 years whichever is less, including time served representing another state; and 4) a formal process to verify their State residency and United States citizenship. *Congress will not act on this as the political parties like the status quo.*
- 3) You were elected by majority vote and everybody's vote counted. I believe everybody's vote should also count when electing the President of the United States. The solution is to submit legislation to your State's Legislature to change how your state allocates its Electoral votes. Your state has the legal right to determine how you allocate your Electoral Votes. If your state uses

the "winner takes all" approach to allocating your Electoral Votes, the solution is to submit legislation to your State's Legislature to allocate your Electoral Votes based on the percent of votes received by each candidate. Congress will not act on this as the political parties like the status quo because they can focus their campaigns on selected areas of the United States.

- 4) The Press has the right to select what they broadcast, however as a citizen of the United States I believe the Press must provide the same level of transparency as they expect from the United States Government. The solution is to submit legislation to your State's Legislature to require all media broadcasting political news, commentary and campaign advertisements from and within your State to: 1) identify what candidates and/or party they endorse and how much they contribute to every candidate, campaign, political action committee and political organization; and 2) give equal time to all candidates and parties on all issues presented so their audience has an opportunity to hear opposing positions. The lack of objective and honest reporting prevents the American people from making an educated and objective decision when they vote. Congress will not act on this as the political parties use the media to promote and support their positions.
- 5) You have a responsibility to assess the performance of the President of the United States and the State's representatives to the United States Congress. The solution is to submit legislation to your State's Legislature to establish a Web site to: 1) post a complete and final copy of all Federal Legislation including amendments and information on who authored the legislation, what amendments are included in the legislation, who benefits from the amendments, and how your Congressman voted and why; 2) list the number of days your State's representatives to the United States Congress were supposed to be in session in Congress; the number of days they actually were present in Congress; the number of days they spent traveling (excluding back to their home district), where they went and why; 3) the number of days they spent campaigning and for whom; 4) the total detailed annual budget and expenditures for each Congressman and their staff. Congress will not act on this issue, like the President they do not want transparency in Government, this is why there are so many closed hearings and why politicians deflect questions they do not want to answer.

Impact on the Election Process: My recommendations are meant to support the sovereign rights of the 50 states, and to empower the American people to conduct free, objective and legal elections. I believe these recommendations will have the following impact:

- 1) Limit the ability of organizations outside of your state to influence the outcome of future local and state elections, allowing third party candidates to have an opportunity to get elected by placing the power back in the hands of the state's residents.
- 2) Ensure candidates for Congressional Federal elections are United States Citizens and residents of the community they are campaigning to represent, eliminating the ability of political parties to nominate a professional politician from out of state on your state's election ballot.
- 3) Limit the length of time an individual Politician can represent your state and your residents, helping to place their focus back on the needs of the state and its residents, not on what they need to do to stay in office indefinitely. This would help break the gridlock in Washington.
- 4) Make elected United States Congressmen accountable for supporting and implementing the promises they made during their campaign.
- 5) Ensure everyone's vote counts, encouraging increased voter participation.
- 6) Provide an opportunity for independent third party candidates, breaking the monopoly held by the Democrats and Republicans, and helping to reduce the gridlock in the Federal Government.
- 7) Limit the ability of the Media to predict election results until all the votes are counted.

- 8) Require candidates for the Office of President of the United States to focus his or her campaign on all Americans, not just the key areas that produced the Electoral votes for the current winner take all approach.
- 9) Allow people to be more aware of the bias in the Press and to encourage voters to demand more objectivity in media reporting.
- 10) Understand what the President and their Congressional representatives have accomplished, and what it cost you as an American taxpayer to support them and their staff.

I'm not a politician, or a political expert. I'm just a concerned citizen. These recommendations don't solve all the problems with the United States Government, but they are a start. These are legal, non-partisan recommendations and helps return the power back in the hands of the sovereign States and the American People. And finally this is an opportunity to demonstrate to the elitist in Washington and the American people that the Governors and State Legislatures have the power and ability to act on their behalf. Please take the time to objectively evaluate of my recommendations, not for me, but for all Americans.

Thank you for taking a few moments to hear what I had to say.



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