

# A CONTRACT WITH THE VOTER

## THE LOUGHRY PLAN TO REFORM WEST VIRGINIA POLITICS

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a candidate for political office in West Virginia, do hereby form this contract with \_\_\_\_\_, a voter, as well as all other citizens eligible to vote for this political office in the upcoming election. I fully recognize that West Virginia has had an unseemly history of political corruption and I promise to be a part of the solution and not a part of the problem. As such, I will do everything in my power to seek the implementation, introduction, and passage of the following reforms or I agree not to seek re-election.

- 1. I will support a constitutional convention as well as a special session of the State Legislature to deal exclusively with enacting comprehensive and fundamental reforms designed to overhaul West Virginia's political system.
- 2. I will support legislation providing that a public official who knowingly uses his or her office in a corrupt manner shall lose all of his or her State pension benefits.
- 3. I will agree to support specific legislation prohibiting any public official from purchasing or distributing thinly veiled re-election trinkets that are paid for by the state, such as magnets, key chains, cups, pens and pencils; by placing his or her name on State vehicles, and believe that such action should constitute a felony and result in removal from office for misuse of State funds.
- 4. I will support legislation placing restrictions on the Governor's Contingency Fund preventing millions of dollars from being spent for shameless political purposes and require that the monies set aside in that fund be used only during times of State disasters or as otherwise specifically prescribed by the State Legislature.
- 5. I agree to support legislation providing for a complete audit of the annual Budget Digest or its equivalency, as well as providing that the passage of the Digest occur during the sixty-day legislative session and only after a full and fair debate by the entire Senate and House of Delegates.
- 6. I agree to support legislation prohibiting any secret legislative accounts and any such violation shall be punishable as a felony.
- 7. I will support a law providing for a lifetime ban from running for office in West Virginia for individuals who have been convicted of a felony.
- 8. I will support a law providing for a lifetime ban on the return of a law license or admittance to the State Bar of any public official who commits a felony.
- 9. I will support state and federal constitutional amendments making it easier for the State of West Virginia to control spending in political elections.
- 10. I will support serious reform of the State's Ethics Commission allowing for a complete overhaul of the Ethics Act or will vote to disband the current and ineffective agency.

- 11. I will support changing West Virginia's multiple types of voting machines and will seek legislation providing for a uniform system of voting with sufficient safeguards put in place to prevent fraud.
- 12. I will support legislation making vote-buying and vote-selling punishable as felonies which include imprisonment, a significant fine, and a lifetime ban from voting or participating in West Virginia politics.
- 13. I will support legislation strengthening truth in campaign laws providing that any individual who knowingly uses false statements about a candidate in a campaign advertisement would be guilty of a felony punishable by strict penalties.
- 14. I will support legislation making any election fraud committed by any public or private individual a felony punishable by imprisonment, fines, and a lifetime ban from voting or participating in West Virginia politics.
- 15. I will support specific legislation outlawing the practice by any individual or group of paying money to be listed on political slates which are used to buy votes and make any such violations a felony punishable by imprisonment, fines, and a lifetime ban from voting or participating in West Virginia politics.
- 16. I will support legislation making any act of voting the dead, voting more than once, or knowingly casting any false ballot a felony punishable by imprisonment, fines, and a lifetime ban from voting or participating in West Virginia politics.
- 17. I will support legislation to further purge the county voters' registration rolls in hopes of ending West Virginia's sad tradition of voting under the names of the dead.
- 18. I will agree to a "one strike and you're out" rule for felony election or political-related violations of West Virginia's laws.
- 19. I will support legislation providing that individuals convicted of election or political felonies for defrauding the State shall be forced to pay the full cost of their incarceration and prosecution against them.
- 20. I will push for the enactment of a law granting the Attorney General of the State of West Virginia independent prosecutorial power to enforce the election laws of the State and to pursue public officials who commit frauds related to their public office.
- 21. I will push for the enactment of laws granting expanded enforcement mechanisms to the West Virginia Secretary of State to handle election-fraud investigations and will make sure that the office is adequately funded to pursue such political criminals.
- 22. I will agree to support immediate impeachment proceedings against any public official who is convicted of a felony.
- 23. I fully support reducing the sheriffs' pistol permit fees to amounts strictly sufficient to cover administrative costs and provide that any such excess money collected shall immediately be transferred to the county commissions to be placed in their general revenue funds thereby prohibiting slush funds for county sheriffs which are used as campaign re-election tools.

- 24. I will support legislation providing that inaugural contributions shall be prohibited from corporations; that such contributors must follow the same rules that candidates follow in political campaigns; that such contributions must be used specifically for inaugural festivities; and that all excess inaugural funds must be returned pro rata to the contributors of that money and cannot be spent by governors in any other manner.
- 25. I will support legislation prohibiting the rental of the Governor's Mansion.
- 26. I will support legislation extending a State Supreme Court Justice's term of office from twelve to sixteen years.
- 27. I will support expanding the State Supreme Court from five to seven Justices.
- 28. I will support legislation banning special interest groups from financial sponsorship of legislative interim meetings or any other legislative meetings.
- 29. I will support legislation banning the private legislative receptions provided by special interest groups during the legislative session.
- 30. I will support legislation that prevents State Senators and Delegates from voting on or directly providing for State funding that goes to their employers, or to an event, property, or anything in which they receive a direct or indirect benefit.
- 31. I will support legislation ensuring that all military personnel shall receive every accommodation in casting a ballot and that any obstacles making it difficult for a service member to vote absentee shall be immediately removed.
- 32. I will support legislation providing sentencing enhancement penalties for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and all members of the elected judicial branch.
- 33. I will support a law making change of venue motions easier to obtain for prosecutors in politician-related criminal trials.
- 34. I will support legislation providing for mandatory sentencing laws for public officials who violate any law punishable as a felony.
- 35. I will support laws mandating limits on campaign expenditures for all candidates in State elections, including those of state, county, city, and boards of education.
- 36. I will support legislation placing limitations on campaign contributions whereby individuals will only be permitted to financially support candidates located within their own election district for a particular office on the ballot.
- 37. I will support legislation completely eliminating all political action committee contributions in West Virginia elections.
- 38. I will support a study of Clean Money reform legislation and seek a legislative committee investigation and report of the potential positives and negatives on West Virginia elections.
- 39. I will agree not to support convicted felons from my political party who are chosen as keynote speakers at political events and will denounce any political party or group that supports such an activity.

- 40. I will support legislation requiring “None of the Above” to be included as a choice for every office on every West Virginia General Election ballot.
- 41. I will support legislation making convicted public officials accountable for every penny from which they have bilked the State due to their fraudulent behaviors.
- 42. I will support legislation providing for stronger Sunshine Laws.
- 43. I will support legislation providing for more lenient Freedom of Information Act laws as well as making sure all necessary affordability safeguards are in place allowing people to truly have access to government documents.
- 44. I will strongly support legislation providing for the enactment of Initiative, Referendum, and Recall.
- 45. I will support legislation to overhaul the State’s election laws eliminating confusion for individuals wishing to run for political office as well as prescribing clear and concise laws setting forth clear and specific penalties for potential violations of such laws.
- 46. I will support legislation eliminating any statute of limitations on any law dealing with election violations or fraudulent behavior by a public official.
- 47. I will support legislation whereby election contest expenses shall be paid in full by any individual convicted of election fraud surrounding the particular contested election.
- 48. I will support legislation providing for the appointment of county assessors by the State Tax Department as opposed to the partisan election of those positions.
- 49. I will support legislation allowing potential candidates for elective office in West Virginia to have the option of supplying a petition containing the signatures of a set number of registered voters in lieu of paying the filing fee for an office in which he or she wishes to seek election.
- 50. I will support legislation providing for stronger whistleblower laws in order to allow for greater protection of workers who risk their careers to expose criminal activity of corrupt public officials.
  
- I agree to support all 50 reforms.**

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Signature

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Date

