



Blacks In Government®
2019 National Delegates Assembly
Dallas, Texas



RESOLUTION

**BIG SUPPORTS ‘THE DEMOCRACY REFORM TASK FORCE’ AND
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS URGING U.S. SENATE PASSAGE OF
S. 949, FORMALLY U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (H.R) 1**

“FOR THE PEOPLES ACT OF 2019” *

WHEREAS, the National Organization of Blacks In Government (BIG), was incorporated in 1976, as a 501[c]3 non-profit organization to, educate and advocate on behalf of Federal, State and Municipal government employees and today, BIG seeks to represent 2.5 million public and private civil servants by continuing to address discrimination in the workplace and its effect on public service; and

WHEREAS, On March 8, 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R.) passed H.R.1 along party lines 234-197, sponsored by Democrat Representative John Sarbanes for Maryland's 3rd Congressional District and Chair of the ‘Democracy Reform Task Force’ calling for sweeping changes in U.S. voting laws amongst other legislative concerns and the same Bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) on March 28th, 2019 pending passage (visit <https://democracyreform-sarbanes.house.gov/>); and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1, represents the first time in a very long time that Congress is prioritizing democracy reform legislation and commentators have noted, the bill number is itself significant by customs, the first 10 bill numbers are reserved for the most important priorities of a House majority and this is the first priority of the 116 Congress incoming Democratic majority in the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, H.R.1 expands access to the ballot box by taking aim at institutional barriers to voting, such as patchwork and cumbersome registration systems, disenfranchisement and limited voting hours, which create major roadblocks to a more participatory democracy and will create automatic voter registration across the country; ensure that individuals who have completed felony sentences have their full rights restored; expand early voting and simplify absentee voting; and modernize the U.S. voting system; and

WHEREAS, H.R.1 shines a light on dark money in politics by upgrading online political ad disclosure and requiring all organizations involved in political activity to disclose their large donors. H.R. 1 also breaks the so-called ‘nesting-doll’ sham that allows big-money contributors and special interests to hide the true funding source of their political spending; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1 gives political power to everyday Americans, creating a multiple matching system for small donations, thereby allowing the American people to exercise their due influence in our politics. This new 21st century system of citizen-owned elections will break special interests’ stranglehold on Congress and lay the groundwork for an agenda that serves the American people. H.R. 1 also reaffirms that Congress should have the authority to regulate

money in politics, pushing back on the wrong-headed *Citizens United* and *Buckley* decisions by the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1 ensures that there are cops on the campaign finance beat that will enforce the laws on the books. H.R. 1 tightens rules on super PACs and restructures the Federal Election Commission to break the gridlock and enhance its enforcement mechanisms. It also repeals Mitch McConnell's riders that prevent government agencies from requiring commonsense disclosure of political spending; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1 breaks the influence economy in Washington and increases accountability by expanding conflict of interest law and divestment requirements, slowing the revolving door, preventing Members of Congress from serving on corporate boards and requiring presidents to disclose their tax returns; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1 gives teeth to federal ethics oversight by overhauling the Office of Government Ethics, closing loopholes for lobbyists and foreign agents, ensuring watchdogs have sufficient resources to enforce the law and creating a code of ethics for the Supreme Court.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

In furtherance of its advocacy mission, BIG endorses H.R.1 and S.649 – For The Peoples Act of 2019 (Legislative Bill > <http://bit.ly/2Ix7N4y>):

1. The National President of Blacks In Government will write a letter to Bill Sponsor Honorable John Sarbanes (D/MD,) House of Representatives; Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Speaker; and Senator Tom Udall (D-NM), thanking all (3) three for sponsoring and supporting this powerful legislation and, specifically to advise the Democracy Reform Task Force Chairman Sarbanes to add BIG's endorsement, as a leading grassroots advocacy organization in America, for H.R.1 on his webpage, <https://democracyreform-sarbanes.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/leading-grassroots-advocacy-organizations-endorse-house-democrats-once-in-a> *; and that
2. The National President of Blacks In Government will write the Chairman for the U.S. Senate, the Honorable Mitch McConnell, asking him to support S. 649, the Senate version of H.R.1

Submitted by:

Matthew F. Fogg

Dr. Matthew F. Fogg
BIG National 2nd Vice President
BIG Region XI - Heritage Chapter President
Chief Deputy United States Marshal, ret.
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Some of the language in this Resolution is verbatim from the Democracy Reform Task Force webpage