

BASIC TRAINING

Prepare for your meeting about the Free & Fair Elections Resolution

Before the Meeting

- Confirm the meeting one or two days in advance
- Visit the legislator's website to see what issues they care about
- Print out your packet ahead of time (found in the Volunteer Toolbox)
- Get to the statehouse early (sometimes parking can be tough!)
- Be friendly with everyone you see; legislators, staffers, security people, etc.

During the Meeting - Make a Positive Impression!

- Be friendly, ask him/her about themselves - why did they run for office?
- Find common ground on the need to make our elections work better for the average American.
- If you're nervous, own it. You're a volunteer and no one expects you to be an expert.
- Never be afraid to say "I'm not sure, I'll get back to you".

Opening: The Problem

Keep it simple!

I'm here because I don't believe my federal representatives in Washington, D.C. are representing me anymore, and I believe it's because of our broken campaign finance system in America.

Members of Congress must go across the street in call centers for a huge portion of their day to dial for dollars, rather than legislating and doing the work of the people as they were sent there to do.

It's out of control and not what our founders had in mind.

The Solution

This problem has become so systemic that only an amendment to the U.S. Constitution can solve it. An amendment will solve this problem for generations to come, and can protect state and local laws.

- There are two ways to propose an amendment
 - 1: 2/3 of Congress can propose
 - 2: A convention called by 2/3 of the states can propose

Any amendment, whether proposed by Congress or the States, must then be ratified by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the states (currently 38 states)

The Solution

- The Free and Fair Elections Resolution applies for a limited convention to address our broken campaign finance system
- The resolution does not dictate the language of the amendment, it simply calls for a national conversation on the subject
- It's a proven strategy, as the majority of our amendments have included a convention campaign from the States - these applications put pressure on Congress to act
- This legislation gives me hope that we can still make a difference working with our state legislators

What about this idea of a “runaway” convention?

The idea of a “runaway” convention is a myth and not a real possibility. All you have to do is read Article V to see that it’s crystal clear in the Constitution that a convention would only have the power to **propose**. The ratification of 75% of our states ensures that only the most reasonable and cross-partisan proposals become part of our Constitution.

What people are incorrectly implying when they use the term “runaway” convention is that the Constitution can be changed right there at a convention, and that is simply not true. You’ll only find this misguided theory in opinion editorials. You can read some quotes from the conclusions of **peer-reviewed** legal reports done about the convention process in the packet I’ll leave with you.

I'm concerned this will infringe on the 1st amendment

- The 1st amendment is our most cherished amendment.
- Remember, all we're asking for is a national conversation around this issue. We're not dictating the outcome, any amendment would have to be approved by 3/4 of the states to become part of the Constitution.
- 85% of Americans believe we need fundamental changes to our campaign finance system - do you think there is anything that could be improved to make our elections work better for the average American? (good answer, you'd be a great delegate to this convention!)
- One possible solution, that 75% of our states might agree on, is that the States should have the right to choose their own campaign finance laws. Montana, for example, had over 100 years of common sense campaign finance laws until the Supreme Court overreached by telling them they can no longer choose their own laws. In the very least, the States should have control over their own election laws.

After the Meeting

- Ask the legislator if we can count on his/her support for this legislation
- If possible, take a picture with the legislator and send to community@wolf-pac.com
- Always leave on good terms and with the intention of keeping in touch
- Thank any staffers who were helpful in setting up the meeting
- Enter the notes from your meeting into the Legislative Contact Record
- Follow up via email with the legislator to thank him/her for the meeting

Let's review

- Make a positive impression
- Say these main points out loud before the meeting - if you say something out loud 7 times it sticks!
- Print out the packet to leave with him/her after the meeting
- Leave detailed notes in your state's Legislative Contact Record
- Connect with your state team both before and after the meeting



You are now a part of this historic movement to secure representative democracy in America.

Forward!