115TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 7306

To establish the Democracy Dollars Program under which citizens may direct the making of payments to candidates in elections for Federal office and to political committees supporting campaigns for election for Federal office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 13, 2018

Mr. Khanna introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the Democracy Dollars Program under which citizens may direct the making of payments to candidates in elections for Federal office and to political committees supporting campaigns for election for Federal office, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
- 4 (a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the
- 5 "Democracy Dollars Act".

1 (b) Table of Contents of

2 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—DEMOCRACY DOLLARS PROGRAM

Subtitle A—Availability of Democracy Dollars to Qualified Candidates

- Sec. 101. Establishment of Democracy Dollars Program.
- Sec. 102. Eligibility of individuals to participate in Program.
- Sec. 103. Eligibility of candidates and authorized committees to receive payments; use of payments.
- Sec. 104. Democracy Dollars Exploratory Fund.
- Sec. 105. Eligibility of other political committees to receive payments; use of payments.
- Sec. 106. Reports on disbursements of funds received under Program.

Subtitle B—Payments of Democracy Dollars

- Sec. 111. Amount available for eligible individuals to direct for payments.
- Sec. 112. Payments to candidates and committees from available amounts.
- Sec. 113. Limitations on amount of payments to candidates and committees.
- Sec. 114. Protecting privacy of eligible individuals.
- Sec. 115. Remitting unexpended payments.

Subtitle C—Public Outreach and Education

- Sec. 121. Public outreach and education program.
- Sec. 122. Requiring materials to be provided in minority languages.
- Sec. 123. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—DEMOCRACY FUND COMMISSION

- Sec. 201. Establishment.
- Sec. 202. Membership.
- Sec. 203. Staff.
- Sec. 204. Functions.
- Sec. 205. State responsibility for implementation of Program.
- Sec. 206. Administration of program in case of States without approved implementation plans in effect.

TITLE III—DEMOCRACY DOLLARS FUND

- Sec. 301. Democracy Dollars Fund.
- Sec. 302. Termination of Presidential Election Campaign Fund; transfer of balance to Democracy Dollars Fund.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 401. Violations and penalties.
- Sec. 402. Democracy Dollar Administrator defined.
- Sec. 403. Other definitions.

TITLE V—SEVERABILITY

Sec. 501. Severability.

1	TITLE I—DEMOCRACY DOLLARS
2	PROGRAM
3	Subtitle A—Availability of Democ-
4	racy Dollars to Qualified Can-
5	didates
6	SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRACY DOLLARS PRO-
7	GRAM.
8	In accordance with this Act, the Democracy Fund
9	Commission (as established under title Π) shall establish
10	and operate a program to be known as the "Democracy
11	Dollars Program", under which eligible individuals may
12	direct that amounts in the Democracy Dollars Fund (as
13	established under title III) be used to make payments to
14	eligible candidates for election for Federal office (including
15	the authorized committees of such candidates) or eligible
16	political committees, in accordance with subtitle B.
17	SEC. 102. ELIGIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS TO PARTICIPATE IN
18	PROGRAM.
19	(a) Eligibility of Registered Voters.—An indi-
20	vidual is eligible to participate in the Democracy Dollars
21	Program with respect to an election for Federal office if
22	the individual is registered to vote in any election for Fed-
23	eral office during the year in which the election will be
24	held, as determined on the basis of the most recent version
25	of the computerized statewide voter registration list main-

1	tained under section 303 of the Help America Vote Act
2	of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21083) by the State in which the indi-
3	vidual resides.
4	(b) Special Rule for Residents of States
5	WITHOUT VOTER REGISTRATION.—In the case of an indi-
6	vidual who is a resident of a State in which there is no
7	voter registration requirement for any voter in the State
8	with respect to an election for Federal office, an individual
9	is eligible to participate in the Program with respect to
10	an election for Federal office if the individual is eligible
11	to vote in any election for Federal office in that State.
12	SEC. 103. ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES AND AUTHORIZED
13	COMMITTEES TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS; USE
13 14	COMMITTEES TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS; USE OF PAYMENTS.
14	OF PAYMENTS.
14 15	OF PAYMENTS. (a) Eligibility.—A candidate (including the author-
14 15 16	OF PAYMENTS. (a) Eligibility.—A candidate (including the authorized committees of the candidate) is eligible to receive pay-
14 15 16 17	OF PAYMENTS. (a) ELIGIBILITY.—A candidate (including the authorized committees of the candidate) is eligible to receive payments under the Democracy Dollars Program if—
14 15 16 17	OF PAYMENTS. (a) ELIGIBILITY.—A candidate (including the authorized committees of the candidate) is eligible to receive payments under the Democracy Dollars Program if— (1) the candidate and each authorized com-
14 15 16 17 18	of payments. (a) Eligibility.—A candidate (including the authorized committees of the candidate) is eligible to receive payments under the Democracy Dollars Program if— (1) the candidate and each authorized committee of the candidate registers with the Democracy
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	of Payments. (a) Eligibility.—A candidate (including the authorized committees of the candidate) is eligible to receive payments under the Democracy Dollars Program if— (1) the candidate and each authorized committee of the candidate registers with the Democracy Fund Commission to participate in the Program;
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	of payments. (a) Eligibility.—A candidate (including the authorized committees of the candidate) is eligible to receive payments under the Democracy Dollars Program if— (1) the candidate and each authorized committee of the candidate registers with the Democracy Fund Commission to participate in the Program; (2) each such committee certifies to such Com-
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	OF PAYMENTS. (a) ELIGIBILITY.—A candidate (including the authorized committees of the candidate) is eligible to receive payments under the Democracy Dollars Program if— (1) the candidate and each authorized committee of the candidate registers with the Democracy Fund Commission to participate in the Program; (2) each such committee certifies to such Commission that it has established a Democracy Dollars

1	accordance with section 104, the aggregate amount
2	of qualified contributions that it has accepted, or
3	that it will accept, to such Democracy Dollars Ex-
4	ploratory Fund is equal to the applicable threshold
5	under such section;
6	(4) each such committee certifies to such Com-
7	mission that it will maintain a separate account for
8	payments received under the Program; and
9	(5) each such committee certifies to such Com-
10	mission that it will meet the applicable requirements
11	of this title, including the requirements of subsection
12	(c) (relating to restrictions on the source of the con-
13	tributions the candidate and committees may accept
14	and the expenditures the candidate and committees
15	may make).
16	(b) Exclusive Use of Democracy Dollars Pay-
17	MENTS FOR AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES.—
18	(1) Authorized campaign expenditures of
19	CANDIDATE.—
20	(A) In general.—Except as provided in
21	paragraph (2), a candidate (including an au-
22	thorized committee of the candidate) may use a

payment received under the Program only for

otherwise authorized expenditures in connection

with the campaign for Federal office of the can-

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didate, and may not convert the payment to personal use.

(B) APPLICATION OF RULES APPLICABLE
TO CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES UNDER
FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACT OF 1971.—
For purposes of this paragraph, section 313 of
the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52
U.S.C. 30114) shall apply to the use of a payment under the Program in the same manner
as such section applies to the use of a contribution or donation described in such section.

A candidate (including an authorized committee of a candidate) may use a payment received under the Program to make a contribution to the authorized committee of another candidate, except that the aggregate amount of contributions made to such a committee using such payments with respect to an election may not exceed the limit on the amount of contributions which may be made to such a committee with respect to the election under section 315(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30116(a)).

(c) Democracy Dollars Payments as Exclusive
 Source of Contributions and Expenditures.—A

- 1 candidate (including an authorized committee of the can-
- 2 didate) receiving a payment under the Democracy Dollars
- 3 Program with respect to an election may not accept any
- 4 contributions or make any expenditures in connection with
- 5 any election occurring during the election cycle for the of-
- 6 fice involved other than the following:
- 7 (1) Payments made under the Democracy Dol-8 lars Program.
- 9 (2) Amounts accepted and deposited in the can10 didate's Democracy Dollars Exploratory Fund under
 11 section 104, so long as such amounts do not exceed
 12 the applicable threshold for the candidate under
 13 such section.
- 14 (3) Personal funds (including personal funds of 15 the candidate or any immediate family member of 16 the candidate) in an amount that does not exceed an 17 aggregate amount of \$50,000 for all such elections.
- 18 (d) Permitting Certification by Candidates
- 19 AND COMMITTEES ACCEPTING EXCESS CONTRIBUTIONS
- 20 TO DEMOCRACY DOLLARS EXPLORATORY FUND.—A can-
- 21 didate (including an authorized committee of the can-
- 22 didate) which has accepted an aggregate amount of quali-
- 23 fied contributions to a Democracy Dollars Exploratory
- 24 Fund under section 104 which is greater than the applica-
- 25 ble threshold under such section shall be considered to

meet the requirements of paragraph (3) of subsection (a) if, not later than 5 business days after the date on which the aggregate amount of qualified contributions deposited 4 into such Fund was first equal to such applicable thresh-5 old, the candidate provides the Democracy Fund Commis-6 sion with— 7 (1) a statement of the amount of contributions 8 in such Fund; and 9 (2) a certification that the candidate or com-10 mittee returned all contributions accepted after such 11 date to the persons who made such contributions. 12 SEC. 104. DEMOCRACY DOLLARS EXPLORATORY FUND. 13 (a) REQUIRING ESTABLISHMENT AND MINIMUM Balance as Condition of Eligibility.—As a condi-14 15 tion of eligibility to receive payments under the Democracy Dollars Program, a candidate (including the authorized 16 committees of a candidate) shall— 18 (1) establish a separate account to be known as 19 the "Democracy Dollars Exploratory Fund"; 20 (2) accept a qualified contribution (as described 21 in subsection (b)) from a number of individuals 22 equal to or greater than the applicable donor thresh-23 old described in subsection (c); and 24 (3) deposit into Democracy Dollars Exploratory

Fund an aggregate amount of qualified contribu-

1	tions accepted by the candidate or the committee
2	which is equal to the applicable dollar threshold de-
3	scribed in subsection (d).
4	(b) QUALIFIED CONTRIBUTION DESCRIBED.—In this
5	section, a "qualified contribution" means a contribution
6	to a candidate or an authorized committee of a candidate
7	which does not consist of any personal funds of the can-
8	didate and which is made by an individual who is not a
9	member of the immediate family of the candidate, except
10	that such term does not include a contribution made to
11	the candidate or committee by another candidate (or an
12	authorized committee of such a candidate) using a pay-
13	ment received under the Program, as described in section
14	103(b).
15	(c) Applicable Donor Threshold Described.—
16	In this section, the "applicable donor threshold" with re-
17	spect to a candidate or authorized committee is—
18	(1) 125 individuals, in the case of a candidate
19	for a House election;
20	(2) 250 individuals, in the case of a candidate
21	for election for the office of Senator; or
22	(3) 500 individuals, in the case of a candidate
23	for election for the office of President or Vice President
24	dent.

1	(d) Applicable Threshold Described.—In this
2	section, the "applicable dollar threshold" with respect to
3	a candidate or authorized committee is—
4	(1) $$50,000$, in the case of a candidate for a
5	House election;
6	(2) \$500,000, in the case of a candidate for
7	election for the office of Senator; or
8	(3) \$1,000,000, in the case of a candidate for
9	election for the office of President or Vice President
10	SEC. 105. ELIGIBILITY OF OTHER POLITICAL COMMITTEES
11	TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS; USE OF PAYMENTS.
12	(a) Eligibility.—A political committee which is not
13	an authorized committee of a candidate is eligible to re-
14	ceive payments under the Democracy Dollars Program
15	if—
16	(1) the committee registers with the Democracy
17	Fund Commission to participate in the Program
18	and
19	(2) the committee certifies that it will maintain
20	a separate account for payments received under the
21	Program.
22	(b) Exclusive Use of Democracy Dollars Pay-
23	MENTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES AND
. .	OWNED AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES

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(1) In general.—A political committee which is not an authorized committee of a candidate may use a payment received under the Democracy Dollars Program only to make a contribution to the authorized committee of a candidate, except that a political committee of a political party may also use a payment received under the Program for otherwise authorized expenditures in connection with the campaigns for Federal office of candidates who are members of the political party, so long as the payment is not converted to personal use. For purposes of this paragraph, section 313 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114) shall apply to the use of a payment under the Program in the same manner as such section applies to the use of a contribution or donation described in such section.

(2) Limit on amount of contributions made by a committee under this section to the authorized committee of a candidate using payments received under the Democracy Dollars Program with respect to an election may not exceed the limit on the amount of contributions which may be made to such an authorized committee with respect to the election under

- 1 section 315(a) of the Federal Election Campaign
- 2 Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30116(a)).
- 3 SEC. 106. REPORTS ON DISBURSEMENTS OF FUNDS RE-
- 4 CEIVED UNDER PROGRAM.
- 5 (a) Requiring Committees To File Reports.—
- 6 Each authorized committee of a candidate or other polit-
- 7 ical committee which receives payments under the Democ-
- 8 racy Dollars Program shall file reports with the Democ-
- 9 racy Fund Commission listing the name and address of
- 10 each person who has received any disbursement from the
- 11 separate account maintained by the committee for pay-
- 12 ments received under the Program (and, if applicable,
- 13 from the Democracy Dollars Exploratory Fund established
- 14 pursuant to section 104) in an aggregate amount or value
- 15 in excess of \$200 during the period covered by the report,
- 16 together with the date and amount of any such disburse-
- 17 ment.
- 18 (b) Timing of Reports; Period of Coverage.—
- 19 A committee shall file a report required under this section
- 20 with respect to an election at the same time as the com-
- 21 mittee files a report required under section 304(a) of the
- 22 Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C.
- 23 30104) with respect to that election, and each report filed
- 24 under this section shall be complete as of the same period

- 1 applicable to the report the committee files at that time
- 2 under section 304(a) of such Act.

- 3 (c) Electronic Filing; Public Availability.—
- (1) Mandatory electronic filing.—In accordance with regulations promulgated by the Democracy Fund Commission, a committee shall file each report required under this section in electronic form accessible by computers.
 - (2) Public availability.—The Commission shall make a report filed under this section available for inspection by the public in the offices of the Commission and accessible to the public on the internet not later than 24 hours after the Commission receives the report.
 - (3) METHODS FOR VERIFICATION.—In promulgating regulations under this subsection, the Commission shall provide methods (other than requiring a signature on the document being filed) for verifying reports filed under this section. Any document verified under any of the methods shall be treated for all purposes (including penalties for perjury) in the same manner as a document verified by signature.

1	Subtitle B—Payments of
2	Democracy Dollars
3	SEC. 111. AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS
4	TO DIRECT FOR PAYMENTS.
5	(a) In General.—Effective on the first day of each
6	odd-numbered year (beginning with 2019), an eligible in-
7	dividual may direct the Democracy Dollar Administrator
8	to make payments with respect to elections for Federal
9	office held in the following year (or, in the case of special
10	elections, an election held in either such odd-numbered
11	year or the following year) in an aggregate amount equal
12	to the sum of the following:
13	(1) A House election share of—
14	(A) for 2019, \$10; or
15	(B) for 2021 and each subsequent odd-
16	numbered year, the amount established under
17	this paragraph for the previous odd-numbered
18	year increased by the adjustment percentage for
19	House elections (as described in paragraph (1)
20	of subsection (b)) for the year.
21	(2) If a regularly scheduled election for the of-
22	fice of Senator will be held during the following year
23	in the State in which the individual resides, a Senate
24	election share of—
25	(A) for 2019, \$15; or

1	(B) for 2021 and each subsequent odd-
2	numbered year, the amount established under
3	this paragraph for the previous odd-numbered
4	year increased by the adjustment percentage for
5	Senate elections (as described in paragraph (2)
6	of subsection (b)) for the year.
7	(3) If an election for the office of President and
8	Vice President will be held during the following year
9	a presidential election share of—
10	(A) for 2019, \$25; or
11	(B) for 2023 and each fourth year there-
12	after, the amount established under this para-
13	graph for the previous odd-numbered year in-
14	creased by the adjustment percentage for presi-
15	dential elections (as described in paragraph (3)
16	of subsection (b)) for the year.
17	(b) Adjustment Percentages Described.—
18	(1) House elections.—The adjustment per-
19	centage for House elections for an odd-numbered
20	year is the greater of 100 percent or the percentage
21	(if any) by which—
22	(A) the aggregate amount of contributions
23	made to authorized committees of candidates
24	for House elections in the previous year from

1	sources other than payments under the Democ-
2	racy Dollars Program; exceeded
3	(B) the aggregate of amount of contribu-
4	tions made to such authorized committees for
5	such elections that consisted of payments under
6	the Program, including payments made to such
7	authorized committees by other political com-
8	mittees using payments under the Program (as
9	described in section 105(b)).
10	(2) Senate elections.—The adjustment per-
11	centage for Senate elections for an odd-numbered
12	year is the greater of 100 percent or the percentage
13	(if any) by which—
14	(A) the aggregate amount of contributions
15	made to authorized committees of candidates
16	for elections for the office of Senator in the pre-
17	vious year from sources other than payments
18	under the Democracy Dollars Program; exceed-
19	ed
20	(B) the aggregate of amount of contribu-
21	tions made to such authorized committees for
22	such elections that consisted of payments under
23	the Program, including payments made to such

authorized committees by other political com-

- 1 mittees using payments under the Program (as 2 described in section 105(b)).
 - (3) Presidential elections.—The adjustment percentage for presidential elections for a year is the greater of 100 percent or the percentage (if any) by which—
 - (A) the aggregate amount of contributions made to authorized committees of candidates for the most recent election for the office of President from sources other than payments under the Democracy Dollars Program; exceeded
 - (B) the aggregate amount of contributions made to such authorized committees for such election that consisted of payments under the Program, including payments made to such authorized committees by other political committees using payments under the Program (as described in section 105(b)).

(c) Treatment of Special Elections.—

(1) House elections.—If an eligible individual is a resident of a congressional district in which a special House election will be held, the House election share amount set forth under para-

- graph (1) of subsection (a) for the individual shall be increased by \$10.
- 3 (2) Senate elections.—If an eligible indi-
- 4 vidual is a resident of a State in which a special
- 5 election will be held for the office of Senator, the
- 6 Senate election share amount set forth under para-
- 7 graph (2) for the individual shall be increased by
- 8 \$15.
- 9 (d) No Carry-Over of Amounts.—On the last day
- 10 of each even-numbered year, the amount available under
- 11 this section with respect to an eligible individual shall be
- 12 reduced to \$0, and no further payments may be made
- 13 under this Act with respect to elections held in such year.
- 14 (e) Indexing of Amounts.—In any calendar year
- 15 after 2019, section 315(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Election
- 16 Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30116(c)(1)(B)) shall
- 17 apply to each amount described in this section in the same
- 18 manner as such section applies to the limitations estab-
- 19 lished under subsections (a)(1)(A), (a)(1)(B), (a)(3), and
- 20 (h) of such section, except that for purposes of applying
- 21 such section to the amounts described in this section, the
- 22 "base period" shall be 2019.
- 23 (f) Prohibiting Paying Individuals To Direct
- 24 PAYMENTS TO CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEES.—It shall
- 25 be unlawful—

- 1 (1) for any person to provide money or any2 thing of value to an eligible individual, or to make
 3 an express promise to provide money or anything of
 4 value to an eligible individual, in exchange for the el5 igible individual directing the Democracy Dollar Ad6 ministrator to make payments to a candidate or
 7 committee under the Democracy Dollars Program;
 8 or
- 9 (2) for an eligible individual to solicit money or 10 anything of value from another person in exchange 11 for the eligible individual directing the Democracy 12 Dollar Administrator to make payments to a can-13 didate or committee under the Democracy Dollars 14 Program.

15 SEC. 112. PAYMENTS TO CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEES 16 FROM AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.

- 17 (a) REQUESTS BY ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—An eligi18 ble individual may submit to the Democracy Dollar Ad19 ministrator a request to make a payment from the amount
 20 available to the eligible individual under section 111 to an
 21 eligible candidate or political committee identified by the
- 22 eligible individual, in such amount as the eligible indi-23 vidual may specify.
- 24 (b) PAYMENTS BY DEMOCRACY DOLLAR ADMINIS-25 TRATOR.—Upon the expiration of the 5-day period which

- 1 begins on the date the eligible individual submits a request
- 2 under subsection (a), the Democracy Dollar Administrator
- 3 shall make a payment to the eligible candidate or political
- 4 committee identified by the individual in the request, in
- 5 the amount specified in the request, unless during such
- 6 5-day period, the individual notifies the Administrator
- 7 that the individual cancels the request.
- 8 (c) Statement of Balance of Amounts Remain-
- 9 ING.—After making a payment to an eligible candidate or
- 10 political committee at the direction of an individual, the
- 11 Democracy Dollar Administrator shall transmit to the in-
- 12 dividual (as promptly as the Administrator determines to
- 13 be feasible, in accordance with regulations promulgated by
- 14 the Commission) a statement of the amount remaining for
- 15 the individual to use for payments under the Democracy
- 16 Dollars Program during the year.
- 17 SEC. 113. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS TO CAN-
- 18 **DIDATES AND COMMITTEES.**
- 19 (a) Limitations Based on Type of Election.—
- 20 The total amount of payments made at the direction of
- 21 an eligible individual to candidates and the authorized
- 22 committees of candidates may not exceed—
- (1) in the case of candidates for House elec-
- 24 tions, the House election share amount set forth
- 25 under paragraph (1) of section 111(a);

- 1 (2) in the case of candidates for election for the 2 office of Senator, the Senate election share amount 3 set forth under paragraph (2) of section 111(a); and
- 4 (3) in the case of candidates for election for the 5 office of President, the presidential election share 6 amount set forth under paragraph (3) of section 7 111(a).
- 8 (b) Special Rule for Certain Presidential
 9 Elections.—In the case of elections for the office of
 10 President held in a year in which the incumbent is a can11 didate—
 - (1) the total amount of payments made at the direction of an eligible individual to candidates and the authorized committees of candidates in primary elections for such office may not exceed 40 percent of the presidential election share amount set forth under paragraph (3) of section 111(a); and
 - (2) the total amount of payments made at the direction of an eligible individual to candidates and the authorized committees of candidates in the general election for such office may not exceed 60 percent of the presidential election share amount set forth under paragraph (3) of section 111(a).

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1 SEC. 114. PROTECTING PRIVACY OF ELIGIBLE INDIVID-

- 2 UALS.
- 3 (a) No Treatment of Payments as Contribu-
- 4 TIONS MADE BY INDIVIDUALS TO CANDIDATES OR COM-
- 5 MITTEES.—A payment made to a candidate or committee
- 6 under the Democracy Dollars Program at the direction of
- 7 an eligible individual, as described in this subtitle, shall
- 8 not be treated as a contribution made to the candidate
- 9 or committee by the eligible individual for purposes of the
- 10 Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101
- 11 et seq.).
- 12 (b) Ensuring Anonymity of Individuals Direct-
- 13 ING PAYMENTS TO CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEES.—In
- 14 making payments to candidates and political committees
- 15 under this section at the request of an eligible individual,
- 16 the Democracy Dollar Administrator shall take all prac-
- 17 ticable steps to ensure that no information relating to the
- 18 identity of the individual who requests that the payment
- 19 be made to the candidate or committee is disclosed or oth-
- 20 erwise made known to the candidate or the committee, in-
- 21 cluding through the use of blind trusts or similar devices.
- 22 SEC. 115. REMITTING UNEXPENDED PAYMENTS.
- (a) REMITTANCE REQUIRED.—Not later than the
- 24 date that is 10 days after the date on which a candidate
- 25 withdraws from an election or no longer qualifies to be
- 26 on the ballot for an election, any authorized committee of

- 1 the candidate to which payments were made under the
- 2 Program shall remit to the Democracy Dollars Fund
- 3 under section 301 any amounts in the separate account
- 4 established by the committee for payments received under
- 5 the Program (as described in section 103(a)(3)) which re-
- 6 main unexpended as of such date.
- 7 (b) Reallocation to Amounts Available for
- 8 Payments at Direction of Eligible Individuals.—
- 9 To the greatest extent practicable, the Democracy Dollar
- 10 Administrator shall increase the amounts available under
- 11 this subtitle for an eligible individual to make payments
- 12 under the Democracy Dollars Program to take into ac-
- 13 count the remittance of unspent amounts under this sec-
- 14 tion by an authorized committee that were attributable to
- 15 payments made at the request of the eligible individual,
- 16 and shall allocate such increase—
- 17 (1) to the House election share set forth for the
- individual under paragraph (1) of section 111(a), in
- the case of an authorized committee of a candidate
- for a House election;
- 21 (2) to the Senate election share set forth for
- 22 the individual under paragraph (2) of section
- 23 111(a), in the case of an authorized committee of a
- candidate for election to the office of Senator; and

1 (3) to the presidential election share set forth
2 for the individual under paragraph (3) of section
3 111(a), in the case of an authorized committee of a
4 candidate for election to the office of President or
5 Vice President.

Subtitle C—Public Outreach and Education

8 SEC. 121. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

- 9 (a) Program Required.—As part of carrying out
- 10 the Democracy Dollar Program, the Democracy Dollar
- 11 Administrator, in consultation with the Democracy Fund
- 12 Commission and such other persons as the Administrator
- 13 determines to be appropriate, shall develop and carry out
- 14 a State-based public outreach and education campaign to
- 15 increase public awareness regarding the ability of eligible
- 16 individuals to direct that payments to be made to can-
- 17 didates and committees under the Program.
- 18 (b) Grants Authorized.—In carrying out the pub-
- 19 lie outreach and education program under this subtitle,
- 20 the Democracy Dollar Administration may make grants
- 21 to local election officials and nonprofit organizations (in-
- 22 cluding organizations described in section 504(c) of the
- 23 Internal Revenue Code of 1986) to carry out appropriate
- 24 outreach and education activities, under such terms and
- 25 conditions as the Administrator considers appropriate.

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- 1 (c) Website.—In carrying out the public outreach
- 2 and education program under this subtitle, the Democracy
- 3 Dollar Administrator, in consultation with the Democracy
- 4 Fund Commission and such other persons as the Adminis-
- 5 trator determines to be appropriate, shall develop, estab-
- 6 lish, and update as necessary, a single State-sponsored
- 7 public website through which the public may obtain, in an
- 8 easy to understand and user-friendly format, information
- 9 about the Democracy Dollar Program, including the abil-
- 10 ity of eligible individuals to direct payments to be made
- 11 to candidates and committees under the Program.
- 12 (d) Social Media.—The Democracy Dollar Admin-
- 13 istrator may use publicly available social media platforms
- 14 to supplement the public outreach and education program
- 15 under this subtitle and to support the operation of the
- 16 pubic website developed and established under subsection
- 17 (c).
- 18 SEC. 122. REQUIRING MATERIALS TO BE PROVIDED IN MI-
- 19 NORITY LANGUAGES.
- As part of carrying out the Democracy Dollar Pro-
- 21 gram, the Democracy Dollar Administrator shall ensure
- 22 that forms, materials, and information relating to the Pro-
- 23 gram are provided in the applicable language of language
- 24 minority groups, as defined in section 203 of the Voting
- 25 Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503).

1 SEC. 123. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

- 2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
- 3 this subtitle such sums as may be necessary for each of
- 4 the fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

5 TITLE II—DEMOCRACY FUND

6 **COMMISSION**

- 7 SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT.
- 8 There is hereby established the Democracy Fund
- 9 Commission (in this Act referred to as the "Commis-
- 10 sion"), which shall be responsible for administering the
- 11 Democracy Dollars Program under this Act.
- 12 SEC. 202. MEMBERSHIP.
- 13 (a) Appointment.—
- 14 (1) In General.—The Commission shall be
- 15 composed of 5 members appointed by the President
- with the advice and consent of the Senate.
- 17 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual is eligible
- to serve as a Member of the Commission if the indi-
- vidual is a retired judge of the United States.
- 20 (3) Restrictions on outside employ-
- 21 MENT.—A member of the Commission may not en-
- 22 gage in any other business, vocation, or employment.
- Any individual who is engaging in any other busi-
- 24 ness, vocation, or employment at the time of the in-
- dividual's appointment to the Commission shall ter-

- minate or liquidate such activity no later than 90
 days after such appointment.
- 3 (4) VACANCIES; NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY OF
 4 REMAINING MEMBERS.—A vacancy in the member5 ship of the Commission shall be filled in the same
 6 manner as the original appointment, and shall have
 7 no effect on the authority of the remaining members
 8 of the Commission to carry out their duties under
 9 this Act.

(b) TERM OF SERVICE.—

- (1) SINGLE 10-YEAR TERM.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), a member of the Commission shall serve for a term of 10 years, and may not be reappointed to an additional term, except that an individual may serve after the expiration of that individual's term until a successor has begun serving as a member of the Commission.
- (2) STAGGERING OF INITIAL TERMS.—Of the members first appointed to the Commission—
- (A) one (as designated at the time of appointment) shall serve for a term of 2 years;
- 22 (B) one (as designated at the time of appointment) shall serve for a term of 4 years;

- 1 (C) one (as designated at the time of appointment) shall serve for a term of 6 years; 3 and
- (D) one (as designated at the time of appointment) shall serve for a term of 8 years.
- 6 (3) Permitting individuals serving initial 7 STAGGERED TERM TO BE REAPPOINTED TO A FULL 8 TERM.—An individual who is one of the members 9 first appointed to the Commission to serve for an 10 initial term of 2 years under subparagraph (A) of 11 paragraph (2) or to serve for an initial term of 4 12 years under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) may 13 be appointed subsequently to serve a term of 10 14 vears under paragraph (1).
 - (4) Vacancy.—An individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring in the membership of the Commission before the expiration of the term for which the individual's predecessor was appointed shall serve only for the remainder of that term.
- 20 (c) Compensation.—Each member of the Commis-21 sion shall receive compensation at a rate equivalent to the 22 most recent rate of compensation applicable to the indi-23 vidual as a judge of the United States.
- 24 (d) PROCESS IN EVENT OF DEADLOCK.—If a vote 25 by the members of the Commission on any matter results

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- 1 in a tie, the vote of the longest-serving member (or, in
- 2 the case of members first appointed to serve for initial
- 3 terms under paragraph (2) of subsection (b), the vote of
- 4 the member appointed for the longest term) shall prevail.
- 5 (e) Conforming Amendment to Executive
- 6 Schedule Level IV Positions.—Section 5315 of title
- 7 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
- 8 the following:
- 9 "Member, Democracy Fund Commission.".
- 10 SEC. 203. STAFF.
- 11 (a) AUTHORITY TO APPOINT STAFF.—The Commis-
- 12 sion may appoint and fix the pay of such personnel as
- 13 the Commission considers appropriate.
- 14 (b) Applicability of Certain Civil Service
- 15 Laws.—The personnel of the Commission may be ap-
- 16 pointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United
- 17 States Code, governing appointments in the competitive
- 18 service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions
- 19 of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that
- 20 title relating to classification and General Schedule pay
- 21 rates, except that an individual so appointed may not re-
- 22 ceive pay in excess of the annual rate of basic pay in effect
- 23 for grade GS-15 of the General Schedule.
- 24 (c) Experts and Consultants.—The Commission
- 25 may procure temporary and intermittent services to the

- 1 same extent as is authorized by section 3109(b) of title
- 2 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not to
- 3 exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay
- 4 in effect for grade GS-15 of the General Schedule (5
- 5 U.S.C. 5332).
- 6 (d) Staff of Federal Agencies.—Upon request
- 7 of the Commission, the head of any Federal department
- 8 or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the
- 9 personnel of that department or agency to the Commission
- 10 to assist it in carrying out its duties.
- 11 SEC. 204. FUNCTIONS.
- 12 The Commission shall administer the Democracy
- 13 Dollars Program under this Act. In administering the Pro-
- 14 gram, the Commission shall carry out the following:
- 15 (1) The Commission shall promulgate regula-
- tions to carry out the Democracy Dollars Program,
- including regulations applicable to State implemen-
- tation plans under section 205, and shall review the
- regulations not less frequently than every 4 years.
- 20 (2) The Commission shall solicit and review ap-
- 21 plications from States for the approval of State im-
- plementation plans under section 205(b).
- 23 (3) In the case of States whose implementation
- plans are approved under section 205(b), the Com-

1	mission shall monitor and audit the performance of
2	such States in carrying out such plans.
3	(4) In accordance with section 206, the Com-
4	mission carry out the Democracy Dollars Program
5	with respect to States that do not have an approved
6	implementation plan in effect.
7	(5) The Commission shall carry out such other
8	activities as the Commission considers appropriate to
9	administer the Democracy Dollars Program.
10	SEC. 205. STATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION
11	OF PROGRAM.
12	(a) Responsibility for Administration of Pro-
13	GRAM.—Except as provided in section 206, each State
14	shall administer the Democracy Dollars Program with re-
15	spect to individuals who are residents of the State, in ac-
16	cordance with a State implementation plan approved by
17	the Commission under subsection (b).
18	(b) Approval of State Implementation
19	Plans.—
20	(1) APPROVAL BY COMMISSION.—Each State
21	shall submit its plan for administering the Democ-
22	racy Dollars Program to the Commission, who shall
23	approve the plan if the Commission finds that the

plan meets each of the following conditions:

1	(A) The plan includes such provisions and
2	safeguards as are necessary to ensure the effec-
3	tive administration of the Program in the State
4	in a nonpartisan and competent manner.
5	(B) If the plan permits the use of private
6	financial intermediaries to assist in the proc-
7	essing of requests made by eligible individuals
8	to make payments to candidates and political
9	committees under subtitle B of title I—
10	(i) to the greatest extent feasible, the
11	State uses a competitive bidding process to
12	select such intermediaries for participation
13	in the implementation of the plan; and
14	(ii) the plan requires these inter-
15	mediaries to meet the requirements of sec-
16	tion 114(b) (relating to ensuring the ano-
17	nymity of such individuals) and to take ac-
18	tions to deter fraud and abuse.
19	(C) The plan is overseen by a certified au-
20	thority designated by the State.
21	(D) The plan meets such other require-
22	ments as the Commission may by regulation re-
23	quire.
24	(2) Period for which approved plan is in
25	EFFECT.—If the Commission approves a State plan

under this subsection, the plan shall be in effect for a 4-year period, and the Commission may extend the plan for additional 4-year periods at the request of the State if the Commission finds that the plan continues to meet the conditions set forth in paragraph (1).

(c) Payment of Costs of Implementation.—

- (1) AUTHORIZATION TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS.—
 A State whose implementation plan under this subtitle is approved and in effect with respect to a year may receive payments from the Commission to cover the costs of carrying out the plan during the year, in the form of advance payments in accordance with paragraph (2) or reimbursement in accordance with paragraph (3), at the option of the State.
- (2) ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE ADVANCE PAY-MENTS.—A State is eligible to receive advance payments under this subsection with respect to a year if the State submits to the Commission, at such time and in such form as the Commission may require, an application containing—
 - (A) a statement of the reasonable and necessary costs the State expects to incur in carrying out its implementation plan under this subtitle during the year; and

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1	(B) such other information and assurances
2	as the Commission may require.
3	(3) Eligibility to receive reimburse-
4	MENT.—A State is eligible to receive reimbursement
5	under this subsection for the reasonable and nec-
6	essary costs the State incurred in carrying out its
7	implementation plan during a year if the State sub-
8	mits to the Commission, at such time and in such
9	form as the Commission may require, an application
10	containing—
11	(A) a statement of the reasonable and nec-
12	essary costs the State incurred in carrying out
13	its implementation plan during the year; and
14	(B) such other information and assurances
15	as the Commission may require.
16	(4) Authorization of appropriations.—
17	There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
18	as are necessary for payments under this subsection.
19	(d) REVOCATION OF APPROVAL; RECAPTURE OF AD-
20	VANCE PAYMENTS.—If the Commission determines that
21	the implementation plan of a State whose implementation
22	plan under this subtitle is approved is no longer in compli-
23	ance with the applicable requirements for such a plan, or
24	if the Commission determines that the State is admin-

25 istering the plan in a biased or incompetent manner—

1	(1) the Commission shall revoke the approval of
2	the plan; and
3	(2) the State shall repay the Commission for
4	any advance payments made under subsection (c)
5	with respect to any period during which the plan
6	was not in compliance with such requirements or
7	was administered in a biased or incompetent man-
8	ner.
9	SEC. 206. ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM IN CASE OF
10	STATES WITHOUT APPROVED IMPLEMENTA-
11	TION PLANS IN EFFECT.
12	(a) Administration by Commission Author-
13	IZED.—If a State does not have an approved State imple-
14	mentation plan in effect with respect to a year under sec-
15	tion 205, the Commission shall administer the Democracy
16	Dollars Program during the year with respect to individ-
17	uals who are residents of the State, in accordance with
18	a Federal implementation plan for the State that meets
19	the requirements of subsection (b).
20	(b) Availability of Federal Receivership in
21	Case of Revocation on Grounds of Bias or Incom-
22	PETENCE.—
23	(1) Receivership.—If a State does not have
24	an approved State implementation plan in effect be-
25	cause, in accordance with subsection (d) of section

- 205, the Commission revoked its approval of a State implementation plan on the grounds that the State administered the plan in a biased or incompetent manner, the Commission may file an action to appoint a receiver to administer the Democracy Dollars Program in the State.
 - (2) PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION OF RE-QUEST FOR RECEIVERSHIP.—In any action brought by the Commission to appoint a receiver under this subsection, the following rules shall apply:
 - (A) The action shall be filed in the appropriate district court of the United States and shall be heard by a 3-judge court convened pursuant to section 2284 of title 28, United States Code.
 - (B) A final decision in the action shall be reviewable only by appeal directly to the Supreme Court of the United States. Such appeal shall be taken by the filing of a notice of appeal within 10 days, and the filing of a jurisdictional statement within 30 days, of the entry of the final decision.
 - (C) It shall be the duty of the appropriate district court of the United States and the Supreme Court of the United States to advance on

the docket and to expedite to the greatest ex-
tent possible the disposition of the action and
the appeal.
(c) Federal Implementation Plan De-
SCRIBED.—A Federal implementation plan for a State
meets the requirements of this subsection if—
(1) the plan meets the conditions described in
paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 205(b) which
would apply to a State implementation plan of the
State under such section;
(2) to the extent that the Commission requests
information and assistance from the State in order
to carry out the plan, the plan provides for a method
by which the Commission may reimburse the State
for the costs incurred in providing such information
and assistance; and
(3) the plan meets such other requirements as
the Commission may require.
TITLE III—DEMOCRACY
DOLLARS FUND
SEC. 301. DEMOCRACY DOLLARS FUND.
(a) Establishment.—There is established in the
Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the
"Democracy Dollars Fund" (hereafter referred to as the
"Fund").

1	(b) Uses of Fund.—Amounts in the Fund shall be
2	used—
3	(1) for payments to candidates and political
4	committees under subtitle B of title I;
5	(2) for advance payments and reimbursements
6	to States under section 205;
7	(3) for payments to States as described in para-
8	graph (2) of section 206(b); and
9	(4) for the administration of the Democracy
10	Dollars Program by the Democracy Fund Commis-
11	sion.
12	(c) Contents of Fund.—The Fund shall consist
13	of—
14	(1) amounts appropriated or transferred to the
15	Fund under law, including amounts transferred
16	under section 9006(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue
17	Code of 1986;
18	(2) repayments made by States under para-
19	graph (2) of section 205(d);
20	(3) unspent payments under the Program which
21	are remitted under section 115;
22	(4) civil penalties assessed under section 401;
23	and
24	(5) interest earned on balances of the Fund.

1	(d) Authority To Make Payments at Request
2	OF STATE OR DEMOCRACY FUND COMMISSION.—With re-
3	spect to a payment made under the Program at the direc-
4	tion of an eligible individual pursuant to section 112, the
5	Secretary of the Treasury shall make such payment from
6	the Fund upon the request of the Democracy Dollar Ad-
7	ministrator for the individual involved.
8	SEC. 302. TERMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAM-
9	PAIGN FUND; TRANSFER OF BALANCE TO DE
10	MOCRACY DOLLARS FUND.
11	(a) Termination of Designation of Income Tax
12	Payments.—Section 6096 of the Internal Revenue Code
13	of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following
14	new subsection:
15	"(d) TERMINATION.—This section shall not apply to
16	taxable years beginning after December 31, 2016.".
17	(b) TERMINATION OF FUND AND ACCOUNT.—
18	(1) Termination of presidential election
19	CAMPAIGN FUND.—
20	(A) In general.—Chapter 95 of subtitle
21	H of such Code is amended by adding at the
22	end the following new section:
23	"SEC. 9014. TERMINATION.
24	"The provisions of this chapter shall not apply with
25	respect to any presidential election (or any presidential

1	nominating convention) after the date of the enactment
2	of this section, or to any candidate in such an election.".
3	(B) Transfer of remaining funds.—
4	Section 9006 of such Code is amended by add-
5	ing at the end the following new subsection:
6	"(d) Transfer of Funds Remaining After Ter-
7	MINATION.—Of the amounts in the fund as of the date
8	of the enactment of this subsection—
9	"(1) the Secretary shall transfer \$63,002,400
10	to the 10-Year Pediatric Research Initiative Fund
11	described in section 9008(i)(2), to be available as de-
12	scribed in such section; and
13	"(2) the Secretary shall transfer the remainder
14	to the Democracy Dollars Fund under title III of
15	the Democracy Dollars Act.".
16	(2) Termination of account.—Chapter 96
17	of subtitle H of such Code is amended by adding at
18	the end the following new section:
19	"SEC. 9043. TERMINATION.
20	"The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any
21	candidate with respect to any presidential election after
22	the date of the enactment of this section.".
23	(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

- 41 1 (1) The table of sections for chapter 95 of sub-2 title H of such Code is amended by adding at the 3 end the following new item: "Sec. 9014. Termination.". 4 (2) The table of sections for chapter 96 of sub-5 title H of such Code is amended by adding at the 6 end the following new item: "Sec. 9043. Termination.". TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS 7 **PROVISIONS** 8 9 SEC. 401. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES. (a) Improper Use of Democracy Dollars Pay-MENTS.—If the Democracy Dollar Administrator determines that any payment made under this Act to a can-
- 10 12 didate or committee was not used as provided for in this Act, the Administrator shall so notify the candidate or committee, and may impose a civil penalty on the candidate or committee in an amount equal to 500 percent of the amount of the payment that was used improperly. 17 18 (b) Improper Use of Outside Funds by Can-DIDATES AND AUTHORIZED COMMITTEES RECEIVING DE-20 MOCRACY DOLLAR PAYMENTS.—If the Democracy Dollar 21 Administrator determines that a candidate, including an authorized committee of the candidate, receiving a payment under this Act with respect to an election used amounts in connection with an election occurring in the

- 1 election cycle involved in violation of section 103(c), the
- 2 Administrator shall so notify the candidate or committee,
- 3 and may impose a civil penalty on the candidate or com-
- 4 mittee in an amount equal to 200 percent of the amounts
- 5 used by the candidate or committee in violation of section
- 6 103(c) in connection with the election.

7 (c) Criminal Penalties.—

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- 8 (1) Imposition of Penalty.—Any person who 9 knowingly and willfully commits a violation of this 10 Act which involves the making, receiving, or report-11 ing of any amounts—
 - (A) aggregating \$25,000 or more during a calendar year shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both; or
 - (B) aggregating \$2,000 or more (but less than \$25,000) during a calendar year shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.
 - (2) Referral to attorney general.—If the Democracy Dollar Administrator determines that there is probable cause to believe that a knowing and willful violation of this Act has occurred, the Administrator may refer such apparent violation to the Attorney General.

1 SEC. 402. DEMOCRACY DOLLAR ADMINISTRATOR DEFINED. 2 In this Act, the "Democracy Dollar Administrator" 3 with respect to an eligible individual is— 4 (1) in the case of an individual who is a resi-5 dent of a State with a State implementation plan 6 approved by the Democracy Fund Commission under 7 section 205(b), the official of the State who is des-8 ignated to administer the Democracy Dollars Pro-9 gram in the State under such plan; or 10 (2) in the case of an individual who is not a 11 resident of a State described in paragraph (1), the 12 Democracy Fund Commission under section 206. 13 SEC. 403. OTHER DEFINITIONS. 14 In this Act— 15 (1) each of the terms "candidate", "election", "authorized committee", and "political committee" 16 17 has the meaning given such term in the Federal 18 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et 19 seq.); (2) the term "election cycle" means, with re-20 21 spect to an office, the period beginning on the day 22 after the date of the most recent regularly scheduled 23 general election for such office and ending on the 24 date of the next regularly scheduled general election

for such office;

1	(3) the term "House election" means an elec-
2	tion for the office of Representative in, or Delegate
3	or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress; and
4	(4) the term "State" means each of the several
5	States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth
6	of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the United
7	States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the
8	Northern Mariana Islands.
9	TITLE V—SEVERABILITY

TITLE V—SEVERABILITY

10 SEC. 501. SEVERABILITY.

11 If any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act, or the application of a provision of this Act or an amendment made by this Act to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder 14 of this Act, and the application of the provisions to any 15 16 person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the hold-17 ing.

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