



February 19, 2008

Dear Presidential Candidate:

As representatives of the Midwest Democracy Network, we are writing to respectfully request your written answers to a set of important questions regarding federal political and government reform. This questionnaire was originally circulated in September, at which time we received responses from Senators Obama and Edwards. With the important primaries in Texas and Ohio upon us, we believe that it is critically important that you share your stance on these issues with voters.

The Midwest Democracy Network is a new and fast-growing alliance of state-based civic and public interest groups, scholars, and respected policy and legal experts. Although the policy goals and priorities of the Network's state affiliates vary, we all believe that certain enduring democratic values and principles—especially those that speak to honesty, fairness, transparency, accountability, citizen participation, competition, respect for constitutional rights and the rule of law, and the public's need for reliable information—must be continuously reinforced and jealously protected against those who see politics as little more than a vehicle for promoting narrow interests rather than the common good.

We ask you to complete and return the enclosed questionnaire to the Midwest Democracy Network by no later than **February 26, 2008 to www.Midwestdemocracynetwork.org or by fax to 312-335-1067.**

Also included is a background and briefing paper on the issues highlighted. The questions touch on five broad subject areas: (1) federal campaign finance; (2) government ethics and lobbying regulation; (3) federal communications policy; (4) election administration and voting rights; and (5) congressional redistricting. Our organizations, it should be noted, come to a number of these issues with quite different points-of-view, and in some cases the groups we represent have not staked out any formal policy positions. However, we all agree that voters deserve to know where you stand on these important matters.

Four final points. First, we intend to communicate your answers fully, accurately, and without edits, including spelling and grammar errors. Second, the Network will not publicly critique, comment on, or editorialize about your or any other candidate's answers; the job of evaluating, comparing, contrasting and judging responses to the questionnaire will be left entirely to individual voters, readers, journalists and opposing candidates. Third, if you fail to submit a completed questionnaire or leave certain questions unanswered, those omissions will be noted in a neutral way in the Network's published and web-based reports and press materials. And finally, we ask that you respect

the word limits specified in the questionnaire's "comment" sections as determined by the word count feature of your computer software.

We wish to thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation. We hope you and other presidential candidates will take full advantage of this opportunity to layout for the American people your reform goals and priorities. If you or your staff have questions about the Midwest Democracy Network, the content of the questionnaire, or our plans for disseminating the candidates' responses, we would encourage you to direct your inquiries to Cindi Canary, Executive Director of Illinois Campaign for Political Reform. She can be reached at (312) 335-1767 or cindi@ilcampaign.org. However, we all stand ready to be of assistance, so please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director
Illinois Campaign for Political Reform

Mike McCabe
Executive Director
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

Dan McGrath
Executive Director
TakeAction Minnesota

Jay Heck
Executive Director
Common Cause in Wisconsin

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