<u>**OVERVIEW**</u>

This compromise democracy reform proposal improves access to the ballot for eligible voters, advances commonsense election integrity reforms, and protects our democracy from emerging threats. Importantly, this compromise reflects feedback from state and local election officials to ensure that the people responsible for implementing these reforms are able to do so with minimal burden, borrowing insight and expertise from those who ultimately administer our elections – including County Clerks in West Virginia. The legislation also elevates the voices of American voters by addressing partisan gerrymandering and rooting out the undue influence of special interest money in our politics.

<u>**VOTER ACCESS & ELECTION ADMINISTRATION**</u>

This section advances voter access and election administration reforms, while balancing concerns and challenges for state and local election administrators. These reforms are modeled on successful election administration policy working in the states, including West Virginia.

- **Narrowly Tailored Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) & Internet Registration: Institutes** AVR system for each state, requiring only DMVs serve as AVR agencies, thereby limiting significant implementation challenges for state and local election administrators and other state agencies lacking implementation capacity.

- **Election Day Holiday:** Make Election Day a public holiday.

- **Limited Same Day Registration (SDR):** Provides voters access to SDR but ensures special treatment for rural communities to reflect unique implementation challenges (e.g. lack of broadband) – a challenge of particular consequence in West Virginia. State election officials would also have significant flexibility in implementing same day registration, with opportunity to delay implementation via optional waiver to 2026.

- **Nationwide Voter Identification:** Promote voter confidence by requiring a uniform national standard for states that require identification for in-person voting. This reform is modeled on the successful voter identification regime working in West Virginia.

- **Strengthen Voter List Maintenance Standards:** Allow for maintenance of voter rolls by utilizing information derived from state and federal documents. Prohibits the use of returned mail sent by third parties to remove voters, so-called voter caging. The same restrictions, however, are not applied to State election administrators.

- **Counting of Provisional Ballots:** Require provisional ballots to count for all eligible races regardless of which precinct they were cast in at a county-wide level.

- **Uniform Early Voting:** Ensure at least 15 consecutive days of early voting for federal elections (including 2 weekends).

- **Strikes Ballot Collection Provisions:** Eliminates S.1's provisions allowing for third-party ballot collection – so-called "ballot harvesting."

- **Federal Minimum Standards on Optional Vote by Mail:** Permit all registered voters to vote by mail, should they request a mail-in ballot, but does not require any jurisdiction to automatically mail ballots or ballot applications. Include dedicated funding to support states in implementing ballot tracking programs.

- **Expanded Voting Access Protections for the Disabled, Native Americans, Military, Overseas Voters & Underserved Communities:** Targeted protections to promote accessible voting to communities facing unique challenges. This section corrects original S.1 provisions that presented challenges for military voters.

- **Voting Rights Restoration for Formerly Incarcerated Persons.** Restore the right to vote in federal election for people who have served their time for felony convictions after they are released from prison.

ELECTION INTEGRITY

This section includes election integrity measures to promote confidence in elections, stop partisan election subversion, and protect against election interference, both foreign and domestic.

- **Preventing State Election Subversion:** Establish a limited set of federal protections to insulate nonpartisan election administration from undue partisan interference or control.

- **Protecting Election Records, Election Infrastructure and Ballot Tabulation:** Strengthen protections for Federal election records and election infrastructure, stopping reckless actions by election officials or any other person that endanger the preservation and security of cast ballots, among other reforms.

- **Upgrading Voter-Verified Paper-Ballots and Voting System:** Require states to use voting systems that use paper ballots that can be verified by voters, promoting individual trust in the election process, and affording the opportunity for accurate audits. Provide grants for states to purchase more modern voting systems.

- **Recruiting & Training Non-Partisan Election Officials:** Empower the Election Assistance Commission to develop model training programs to recruit a new generation of election workers in light of attrition due to harassment and threat of legal action. Provide dedicated grants for training and recruitment.

- **Comprehensively Protecting Election Security:** Require election vendor cybersecurity standards, post-election audits, and U.S. assembly of voting systems, among other key security measures.

- **Establishing Duty to Report Foreign Election Interference:** Create a reporting requirement for disclosing reportable foreign contacts.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION & EMPOWERMENT

This section reforms the partisan manipulation of the redistricting process, establishes uniform disclosure standards for money in politics, and empowers states to make critical investments in their election systems.

- **Non-Partisan Redistricting Reform:** Require states to abide by specific criteria for congressional redistricting and make judicial remedies available for States' failure to comply. Allow states to choose how to develop redistricting plans, including the option of having an independent redistricting commission.

- **Disclosure of Dark Special Interest Money (e.g., DISCLOSE Act & Honest Ads Act):** Require super PACs, 501(c)(4) groups, and other organizations spending money in elections to disclose donors and shuts down the use of transfers between organizations to cloak the identity of the source contributor.

- **State Election Assistance & Innovation Trust Fund:** Establish a self-sustaining trust fund to finance critical investments in state-led innovations for our democracy and election infrastructure. The fund would be financed through an additional lawbreaker surcharge. States would be allotted an annual distribution for eligible democracy and election related investments and would have discretion on how to use their full distribution, a partial distribution or roll-over their distribution for future use.

- **Strike Mandatory Public Financing:** Eliminates S.1's provisions requiring public financing of federal campaigns, leaving the decision up to the states.

- **Nonpartisan Oversight of Federal Election Law:** Improve ability of the FEC to carry out oversight and enforcement responsibilities while maintaining its current structure.

- **Stop Illicit Super PAC Coordination:** Create "coordinated spender" category to prevent single-candidate super PACs to operate as arms of campaigns.