



REFORMING OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM TO FIGHT CORRUPTION AND BIG MONEY IN POLITICS

Corruption in Washington stands in the way of us making progress on the issues that matter to North Carolina. Right now in Washington, too many politicians answer to the corporate interests that fund elections instead of the people who vote in them -- we can't lower drug costs because of the power of big pharmaceutical companies, we can't address climate change because of the influence oil and gas companies, and we keep giving massive tax breaks to corporations instead of investing more in our schools. All the while, people across the country feel helpless because politicians are making it harder for their vote to count instead of easier. It's time we fix the corrupt system in Washington and ensure people's voices are heard, which is why Cal Cunningham is running to represent North Carolina in the U.S. Senate.

In the Army, Cal earned the Bronze Star and the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award in part for groundbreaking work prosecuting contractors for criminal misconduct. In the U.S. Senate, he won't stand for the brand of corruption that has taken hold of our political system.

Cal has a record of reform and taking on corruption. In the state Senate, Cal cosponsored the Judicial Campaign Reform Act, which created publicly funded judicial elections in North Carolina, and cosponsored legislation to ban soft money in our elections. Cal has also volunteered for voter protection efforts in previous elections and worked to expand early voting sites. And unlike Thom Tillis, Cal Cunningham won't take a dime from corporate PACs.

When Cal Cunningham is elected to the U.S. Senate, his first priority will be tackling the rampant corruption in D.C., restoring our democracy, and reforming our political system so it works better for everyone. But Senator Thom Tillis has been part of the problem -- from his time in Raleigh as Speaker of the North Carolina House to the U.S. Senate in Washington.

CAL'S PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

Getting big money out of politics. Cal has refused to accept corporate PAC money in his campaign because he believes our government ought to answer to the people it serves, not corporate special interests in Washington. That's why, first and foremost, Cal supports a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and end the flow of unlimited corporate and dark money into our elections. Because candidates for office must stand by their own ads, Cal supports greater transparency in political spending from dark money groups and Super PACs requiring them to disclose their donors. He also believes Facebook should have to disclose who is paying for political advertising on its site. Cal supports reforming the Federal Elections Commission so it can carry out its watchdog function over our elections, instead of letting the current gridlock create loopholes for those willing to violate campaign finance laws to get away with it. And Cal is proud to have earned the endorsement of the reform organization End Citizens United for his dedication to getting big money out of politics.

TILLIS' RECORD: Tillis has taken over \$2.2 million from corporate PACs like Big Pharma and oil and gas companies, and has repeatedly voted for their interests over the interests of North Carolinians.

Closing the revolving door in Washington. Former members of Congress and former cabinet members shouldn't get to use their influence and special ability to navigate Washington to lobby for corporations and special interests. That is why Cal supports a five-year ban on lobbying by former Congressional members and cabinet members. He has also personally pledged not to become a lobbyist after serving in office.

TILLIS' RECORD: As the Speaker of the North Carolina House, Tillis awarded taxpayer-funded golden parachutes to two of his staff members who resigned after being caught having inappropriate relationships with lobbyists.

Ending extreme partisan gerrymandering. North Carolinians are no strangers to gerrymandering. In fact, in 2018, even though Democrats won a majority of votes statewide, Republicans maintained a majority of the seats due to unfairly drawn maps. Time and time again, congressional and state legislative seats in North Carolina have been the subject of federal and state court cases due to gerrymandered maps. Cal believes we need to have an independent, non-partisan process for drawing districts that ensures that they represent the communities they encompass. This could include a plan by an independent commission or a district court. Cal is also proud to have taken the Common Cause "End Gerrymandering Pledge."

TILLIS' RECORD: Tillis claimed he supported an independent redistricting committee, but when he became Speaker he refused to follow through. Instead, Tillis pushed through a redistricting plan that made North Carolina one of the most gerrymandered states in the country.

Making sure every eligible voter can cast a ballot. Corrupt politicians have sought to limit access to the voting booth through voter suppression efforts meant to disenfranchise people of color. That's wrong. Voting is a fundamental right and we ought to ensure that all our citizens can make their vote count and have their voices heard. We've seen states purge eligible voters from the rolls, most notably in Georgia where Stacey Abrams has made it her mission to fight the disenfranchising of eligible voters. No one should arrive to their polling location on Election Day to find out they've been wrongly removed from the rolls. That is why Cal believes we must reinstate protections under the Voting Rights Act, so that any state or jurisdiction with a pattern of discrimination must have changes to voting practices approved by the Justice Department. We should also have automatic and same-day registration nationwide. And because long lines on Election Day leave some people out of our political process, we should have generous early voting across the United States and make Election Day a federal holiday.

TILLIS' RECORD: Back when he was the Speaker of the North Carolina House, Tillis passed voter suppression efforts including cuts to early voting and same-day voter registration. One court actually said his law "targeted African Americans 'with almost surgical precision.'"

Securing our elections. We need to pass legislation to secure our elections and fund efforts around the country to put secure, state-of-the-art voting machines at every single precinct in this country. And voters should receive a paper record of their vote. We should also pass the Stopping Harmful Interference In Elections for a Lasting Democracy (SHIELD) Act, which would require federal campaigns to report attempts by foreign governments or agents to assist in or influence their elections, and prevent foreign interference by requiring all political ads sold online to adhere to the same rules as TV or radio ads.

TILLIS' RECORD: Tillis supported Mitch McConnell blocking a vote on legislation to secure our elections.