JANELLE STELSON FOR CONGRESS

Fighting Washington Corruption Priorities

You learn a lot about a place when you spend decades telling its stories. As a journalist in Central Pennsylvania I have witnessed joys, heartbreak and resilience. I have also spent decades asking tough questions of politicians. My job was not to answer to a political party. It was not to defend the rich and powerful. It was to shine a light on the truth and hold those on the other side of my microphone accountable on behalf of the community that relied on me to get answers. What I've learned is that Washington's biggest problem is a lack of transparency and career politicians who put themselves ahead of the people they are supposed to serve. I am running for Congress because it is time someone holds their feet to the fire.

Washington has a corruption problem — and it is fueled by career politicians who stay too long, get too comfortable, and start serving themselves instead of the people they represent. Too many lawmakers get rich trading stocks while writing the laws. Too many leave office and immediately cash in as lobbyists using the special access reserved only for former members of Congress. Too often the powerful and the elites seem to operate under a different set of rules. When politicians enrich themselves, shield their friends and avoid consequences, communities like ours are left behind.

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Washington is broken and our Congressman Scott Perry is a big part of what is wrong. Perry has been a politician for decades. That is too long and it has become clear that Scott Perry is not on our side.

Last year Perry voted for a bill gutting healthcare for millions of Americans, all to pay for massive tax give-aways to corporations and billionaires — at the expense of the middle class. It also adds $4 trillion dollars in new debt, mortgaging our children's future. Perry shows what he thinks of us, the taxpayers, his bosses, by refusing to hold an in-person town hall since 2019.

Our campaign is not about a party, or a side. It is about ending a culture in Washington where politicians stay too long, get too comfortable and begin to serve the system instead of the people. Public office should never be a pathway to personal profit, special treatment, or lifetime power. Whether you are a farmer in Central Pennsylvania, a small business owner working to thrive, or a veteran who understands service and sacrifice, you deserve leaders who play by the same rules you do. Below is my plan to confront Washington corruption directly and restore accountability.

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Fight Washington Corruption Agenda:

- **Limit terms to 12 years.**

  Even if Congress will not act to require term limits, I will limit my own terms and will not serve more than 12 years. We do not need more career politicians, we need fewer.

- **Age limits for Members of Congress.**

  Like many Pennsylvanians, I am concerned by seeing too many politicians in both parties who use their power to stay in office when they are too old to get the job done. 24 Members of Congress are in their 80s or 90s — it is wrong, and it does not have to be this way. The Constitution restricts people who are too young from serving in federal office — we should amend the Constitution to add age limits, so we can get fresh blood in Washington. Public office is not a lifetime gig.

- **Ban members of Congress and their immediate families from trading individual stocks while in office so they cannot profit from insider information.**

  I sold my individual stocks prior to running and will not own or trade individual stocks when in office. If you are elected to serve, you should not be allowed to profit from insider information. It is against the law, Congress should play by the same rules.

- **Lifetime ban on members becoming lobbyists after serving in the House: no cashing-in on your service.**

  If you want to get a job with a lobbying firm that's asking you to vote for or against a bill, that's a recipe for bad decisions. Former politicians should not be able to cash in on their previous positions and votes. I support a lifetime ban.

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Fight Washington Corruption Agenda:

- **Cut the perks of first class flights, Congressmembers' perks are out of control.**

  Members of Congress should not be flying first class on taxpayer dollars while families struggle with rising costs. Public office is not a luxury service. It is public service.

- **A constitutional amendment to end or significantly curb the President's pardoning power.**

  No one is above the law, not even the President or his or her family. President Clinton pardoned a financier who donated to his Presidential library and President Bush pardoned a former White House staffer. President Biden pardoned his son. Even more dangerous are the pardons issued by President Trump to criminals who have gone on to commit more violent crimes. Enough is enough. Presidents should no longer have the power to pardon political allies or family.

- **Pass a constitutional amendment to reverse the Citizens United decision and block unlimited and untraceable spending on campaigns.**

  We must confront the role of money in our politics. When corporations and wealthy individuals can spend without limits, Pennsylvanians lose their voice.

- **Create a truly independent Congressional Ethics Agency with the power to investigate members for wrongdoing, so members of Congress no longer regulate themselves.**

  No more politicians investigating politicians.

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Fight Washington Corruption Agenda:

- **Strengthen the Federal Election Commission (FEC) so it has more power to hold candidates and public officials who break campaign finance laws accountable.**

  Rules without enforcement protect the powerful. Everyone answers to someone, so should our politicians.

- **Reconstitute the FBI's public corruption unit to ensure members of Congress are thoroughly investigated when they betray public trust, and fully fund the Justice Department's public integrity unit to prosecute corrupt government officials.**

  No one is above the law.

- **End Prediction Market Corruption.**

  Federal elected officials, political appointees, executive branch employees, and congressional staff should be banned from buying, selling, or exchanging prediction market contracts tied to government policy, government action, or political outcomes when they possess material, nonpublic information or could reasonably obtain such information through their official duties. Public officials should never be able to make money by wagering on the very decisions they influence or the political outcomes they help shape. If you serve the public, your job is to act in the public's interest—not to place bets for your own benefit.

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