



Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 2, 2022

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

As you confront a busy year-end schedule, we urge you to pass the *Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act* (S. 4573), either as a standalone measure or in a broader legislative package. A thriving nonprofit sector requires a stable democracy, and this legislation takes key steps to shore up the foundation of our democracy: the peaceful transition of power.

Independent Sector is a national membership organization founded in 1980 made up of nonprofits, foundations, and corporate giving programs nationwide. Working together, our approximately 500 member organizations and their networks reach every state and district and touch the life of every American in one or many ways. They range from some of the largest charities in the world to all-volunteer organizations, and from major philanthropic institutions to small foundations, academic centers, community-based organizations, and more.

Organizations working in civil society cannot effectively meet the needs of communities that are torn apart by an unstable political system. Furthermore, they will fail to adequately lift the voices of their communities if basic structures are not in place to hear them. Because democracy is prerequisite to the work of our sector, the Independent Sector board of directors has adopted [principles](#) for evaluating election and voting policies. We are proud to support this legislation for the various ways in which it would “Protect Elections to Ensure Trust”. These include provisions:

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The Honorable  
**John W. Gardner (1912-2002)**  
Founding Chair

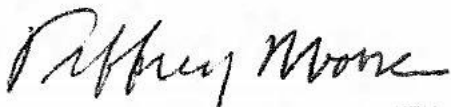
**Brian O’Connell (1930-2011)**  
Founding President and President Emeritus

- limiting frivolous challenges to the counting of electoral votes by raising the threshold for objections;
- eliminating the potential for a state legislature to invalidate its citizens' votes by declaring a "failed election";
- stipulating that the Vice President's role in counting electoral votes is purely ceremonial; and
- allowing more than one candidate to access presidential transition resources while there is a contested election.

While these changes to the counting of electoral votes are deeply urgent, they will be insufficient unless Congress also acts to protect the right to vote for every U.S. citizen. We look forward to working with you and any other legislator to advance this work.

As we have seen in stark relief over the last few years, no matter the challenge, America's nonprofits are always ready to serve their communities. A healthy and effective nonprofit sector requires a flourishing democracy in which citizens are voting without any impediment and adequate systems are in place to ensure the will of the voters, by way of trusted elections, is secure. For these reasons, we urge you to pass the *Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act* as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Moore  
Chief Strategy Officer

[CC Senator Joe Manchin, Senator Susan Collins, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Roy Blunt]