

Issues- Government Reform

Government Reform

Congresswoman

Slaughter is a long-time champion of campaign finance reform. One of her top priorities is to reform the laws that control the money that goes into federal campaigns. She is a strong supporter of legislation to close the loophole that allows corporations to give millions of dollars to political parties and candidates without disclosing the amount or the source of the money. Congresswoman Slaughter also supports measures to modernize the nation's election machines and address the problems that surfaced during the 2000 presidential election.

Reforming Campaign Finance

Signed on as an

original cosponsor of the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, which would close the "soft money" loophole which allows corporations to give millions of dollars to political parties and candidates. It would also prohibit corporations, unions, and other interest groups from funding "issue advocacy" advertisements in the final weeks before an election.

Voted against a

complicated, controversial parliamentary procedure that was specifically designed to impede the passage of the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act. Both Democrats and Republicans voted against the procedure, which was ultimately defeated. The Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Bill was never debated in the House because a majority of members believed that the ground rules for debate were unfair.

Authored the

Fairness in Political Advertising Act, which would reduce the cost of elections and level the playing field by requiring broadcasting stations to provide free political advertising time to qualified candidates in even-numbered years. Candidates would submit unedited segments where they speak directly into the camera. The bill would prohibit the license renewal of television broadcasters that fail to comply with the requirements.

Addressing the Problems of our Electoral System

Signed on as

original cosponsor of the Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act, which would require states to adopt uniform and non-discriminatory statewide standards for

election machinery. It would end the use of outdated punch-card balloting and protect voters from being disenfranchised by faulty machinery. The Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act would provide an "early bird" program for states that wish to start election reform early enough for the 2002 elections.

Cosponsored the Federal Elections Review Commission Act, which creates a non-partisan commission of legal, electoral, and historical experts to analyze a broad range of reform proposals and make recommendations to Congress. The Commission would study the Electoral College, voter registration, polling place operations, voting technology, absentee balloting, and rules for debates, primaries, and various other aspects of the political process

Ensuring an accurate
Census in 2010

Rep. Slaughter is very interested in ensuring a complete and accurate census in 2010. The Census is a constitutionally mandated obligation of incomparable significance to the preservation of our democracy, representative fairness, and the equitable distribution of an estimated \$300 billion in federal funds. A great deal of funding has been provided to the Department of Commerce for planning an execution, but serious mismanagement and contractual issues are adding billions to the process.

Recently, the Congresswoman has expressed these concerns to the Secretary in a letter from 66 Members of Congress. The letter urges the Secretary to provide all means necessary to allow the Census Bureau to conduct the census in the most practical and basic ways to ensure the most accurate count. It also demands regular and timely progress reports as well as updates on major decisions regarding contracts, regional census infrastructure, fingerprinting plans and any other problems that arise. It goes on to shun the use of gimmicks and unproven ideas and implores the Department to focus on the fundamental tasks of raising awareness, compiling accurate and complete lists and getting the highest possible response rate. The Census is simply too important for failure.

Rep. Slaughter is supportive of a number of legislative measures that could help guarantee the success of not only the census, but the Congressional districts that it will help determine. She supports H.Res.1262, a sense of the House that recommends that the Secretary of Commerce should use all reasonable measures to ensure that every person is counted in the 2010 census. She also supports H.R. 543 and H.R. 2248, both bills that limit states from carrying out more than one Congressional redistricting after a census and if it is necessary to do so, requires it to be conducted through independent commissions.

