Cordova for President

Moving Forward Together

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The United States Constitution

Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution imposes only three eligibility requirements on persons serving as president, based on the officeholder's age, time of residency in the U.S., and citizenship status:

U.S. Constitution – Presidential Candidate Eligibility

"No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States."

Small Business Support Program

Preamble

In the United States, small businesses are not merely a segment of the economy—they are its heartbeat. They represent the innovation, determination, and resilience that have defined our nation for generations. Today, however, this vital sector faces unprecedented challenges. Private equity (PE) firms and corporate control have increasingly monopolized markets, stifling competition, inflating prices, and eroding opportunities for smaller enterprises. This imbalance has left too many entrepreneurs without the tools they need to succeed and driven consumers to bear the burden of inflated costs and limited choices.

To move this country forward quickly and effectively, we must empower those who aspire to build, create, and innovate. Small businesses have the potential to reignite local economies, generate jobs, and restore balance in a system that increasingly favors consolidation over competition. This program recognizes that the future of America's prosperity lies not in monopolies but in the diversity, ingenuity, and ambition of its people. By providing comprehensive support—from financial relief to mentorship—we aim to level the playing field, ensuring that every entrepreneur has the opportunity to succeed.

This initiative is not just about economic growth; it is about restoring fairness and fostering a new era of opportunity. By balancing the unchecked power of private equity and corporate monopolies, we create a space where small businesses can thrive alongside larger entities, driving innovation and progress for all Americans.

Program Objective: To create a transformative, inclusive, and sustainable economic ecosystem by empowering small businesses and startups through comprehensive financial relief, operational support, and mentorship. This program aims to:

- Remove traditional barriers to entrepreneurship by waiving credit, collateral, and startup costs.

- Foster long-term economic growth by boosting public purchasing power through federal minimum wage increases and task force-driven inflation control.
- Enhance GDP by stimulating job creation, increasing local economic activity, and ensuring equitable access to resources.
- Establish transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement as foundational principles, ensuring continuous improvement and measurable outcomes.

Through these efforts, the program seeks to solidify small businesses as the backbone of the U.S. economy while advancing resilience, equity, and national prosperity.

Core Program Components

PE and Corporate Buyout Restrictions

To uphold the mission of this program and ensure long-term, independent growth for small businesses, restrictions are placed on private equity (PE) firms and corporate buyouts. This approach ensures that we prevent a corporate takeover of the small business ecosystem and safeguard the integrity of businesses vital to our local economies. Private equity firms have increasingly consolidated control across multiple industries, leading to inflated prices, reduced competition, and diminished opportunities for small businesses. This program aims to counter these trends and restore balance to the market.

The following policies apply:

- **PE Firm Restriction**: Private equity firms are permanently restricted from acquiring any businesses that have received support from this initiative. This prevents further consolidation of power and ensures that businesses remain focused on their communities and missions.
- **Time-Limited Corporate Buyout Restriction**: Businesses supported by this program, whether startups or existing small businesses, are prohibited from corporate buyouts for a period of 15 years after receiving program support. This ensures that businesses have the opportunity to establish themselves, contribute to their local communities, and grow independently before considering acquisition offers.
- **Public Interest Clause**: Exceptions to the corporate buyout restriction may be granted if the acquiring corporation can demonstrate significant public benefits. Examples of public benefits include:

  - Retention of at least 90% of existing jobs for a minimum of five years post-acquisition.
  - Direct reinvestment into the local community, such as infrastructure development or educational programs.
  - Expansion of the business's operations to underserved or economically disadvantaged areas.
  - Maintenance or enhancement of the original business mission to support social, environmental, or community goals.
- **Incentives for Existing Businesses**: Existing small businesses may voluntarily enroll in the program to access benefits such as grants, low-interest loans, and tax breaks. In exchange, they agree to the same buyout restrictions applied to startups. This voluntary approach ensures businesses receive support while aligning with program objectives.
- **Approval Mechanism** To ensure transparency, community engagement, and alignment with public values, decisions related to the Public Interest Clause will include public participation and voting as a critical component. The process for approving exceptions to the corporate buyout restriction is as follows:

1. **Initial Proposal Review**:
   - The oversight board evaluates the corporation's proposal for acquisition to ensure it meets all baseline requirements for the Public Interest Clause.
   - The proposal must include detailed evidence of public benefits, such as job retention plans, community reinvestment commitments, and alignment with the original business mission.
   - A summary of the proposal, including potential benefits and risks, is published for public review.
2. **Public Input and Voting**:
   - The public is invited to vote on whether the acquisition aligns with community values and provides sufficient public benefits.
   - **Voting Platforms**:
     - A secure online platform with multi-language support, accessibility features for disabled voters, and identity verification to prevent fraud.
     - In-person town hall meetings for communities most affected by the decision, ensuring inclusivity for those less comfortable with digital platforms.
   - **Threshold for Approval**:
     - A minimum of 60% public approval is required for the acquisition to proceed.

        - If public participation falls below a predefined minimum voter turnout threshold, the oversight board will initiate additional engagement efforts, including extended voting periods and targeted community outreach.
3. **Exceptional Merit Clause**:
    - If the public vote opposes the acquisition but the oversight board determines the proposal has exceptional merit, the board must:
        - Provide detailed documentation of the extraordinary public benefits that justify the override.
        - Publish the rationale publicly to ensure transparency and accountability.
    - Examples of exceptional merit include:
        - A corporation committing to create substantial new jobs in economically disadvantaged areas.
        - A multi-million-dollar reinvestment plan targeting infrastructure or community programs.
        - Innovations that directly align with public health, sustainability, or other critical social goals.
4. **Post-Acquisition Monitoring with Public Reporting**:
    - Approved corporations are required to submit annual reports demonstrating compliance with the public benefit commitments outlined in their proposals.
    - Reports must include:
        - Job retention statistics.
        - Evidence of reinvestment or community contributions.
        - Updates on how the acquisition aligns with the original business mission.
    - These reports will be publicly available for community review, and public feedback will be incorporated into ongoing monitoring.
5. **Real-Time Feedback During Voting**:
    - During the public review and voting phase, citizens can submit questions or comments alongside their votes. These inputs will be considered by the oversight board during the final decision-making process.

Transparency and Accountability: This public participation model ensures that the interests of communities are at the heart of decisions affecting their local economies. By empowering citizens to vote on acquisitions and incorporating real-time feedback, the program fosters trust, prevents exploitation, and strengthens the connection between businesses and the communities they serve. To ensure transparency, community engagement, and alignment with public values, decisions related to the Public Interest Clause will include public participation and voting as a critical component. The process for approving exceptions to the corporate buyout restriction is as follows:

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- The proposal must include detailed evidence of public benefits, such as job retention plans, community reinvestment commitments, and alignment with the original business mission.
- A summary of the proposal, including potential benefits and risks, is published for public review.

2. **Public Input and Voting**:
   - The public is invited to vote on whether the acquisition aligns with community values and provides sufficient public benefits.
   - Voting can occur via:
     - A secure online platform providing detailed information about the proposal.
     - In-person town hall meetings for communities most affected by the decision.
   - A minimum threshold of public approval (e.g., 60%) is required for the acquisition to proceed.
3. **Final Decision by Oversight Board**:
   - The oversight board considers the public vote as a critical factor in the final decision-making process.
   - If the public vote opposes the acquisition but the board determines the proposal has exceptional merit, the board must provide a detailed explanation justifying its decision to override the vote.
4. **Post-Acquisition Monitoring with Public Reporting**:
   - Approved corporations are required to submit annual reports demonstrating compliance with the public benefit commitments outlined in their proposals.
   - These reports are made publicly available for community review.
   - Public feedback is incorporated into ongoing monitoring, ensuring continued accountability and alignment with program values.

Transparency and Accountability: This public participation model ensures that the interests of communities are at the heart of decisions affecting their local economies. By empowering citizens to vote on acquisitions, the program fosters trust, prevents exploitation, and strengthens the connection between businesses and the communities they serve.: Any business seeking acquisition by a corporation during the restricted period must submit a detailed proposal for review. The proposal should include:

- Evidence of significant public benefits.
- A transition plan for maintaining business operations and employee welfare.
- Documentation of community investment plans.

- Assurance that the acquiring corporation aligns with the values of the program.

Proposal Review Process:

- Proposals will be reviewed by a dedicated oversight board composed of program administrators, economic experts, small business representatives, and community representatives. The diverse composition of the board ensures decisions are fair, practical, and aligned with program objectives.
- Reviews will be completed within 90 days of submission to avoid unnecessary delays.
- Approved corporations will be recognized as **Program Partners**, signifying their commitment to ethical acquisitions and community-focused contributions.

Post-Acquisition Monitoring:

- Approved acquisitions will be subject to annual reporting requirements to ensure delivery on promised public benefits. Reports should include:
  - Job retention statistics.
  - Evidence of reinvestment or community contributions.
  - Updates on how the acquisition aligns with the original business mission.
- Non-compliance may result in penalties or loss of **Program Partner** designation.

Periodic Review of Restrictions:

- The 15-year restriction on corporate buyouts will be reviewed every five years to assess its effectiveness and relevance. Adjustments will be made based on economic conditions and program outcomes to ensure continued alignment with program goals. To uphold the mission of this program and ensure long-term, independent growth for small businesses, restrictions are placed on private equity (PE) firms and corporate buyouts. The following policies apply:
- **PE Firm Restriction**: Private equity firms are permanently restricted from acquiring any businesses that have received support from this initiative.
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    - Assurance that the acquiring corporation aligns with the values of the program.

Proposal Review Process: Proposals will be reviewed by a dedicated oversight board composed of program administrators, economic experts, and community representatives. The board will ensure transparency and fairness while evaluating the alignment of the proposed buyout with program objectives. Decisions will be made within 90 days of submission to avoid unnecessary delays. To uphold the mission of this program and ensure long-term, independent growth for small businesses, restrictions are placed on private equity (PE) firms and corporate buyouts. The following policies apply:

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- **Public Interest Clause**: Exceptions to the corporate buyout restriction may be granted if the acquiring corporation can demonstrate significant public benefits, such as job preservation, community investment, or maintaining the original mission of the business.
- **Approval Mechanism**: Any business seeking acquisition by a corporation during the restricted period must submit a proposal for review, detailing how the buyout aligns with program values and benefits the local community.

PE Firm Restriction

To uphold the mission of this program and ensure long-term, independent growth for small businesses, private equity (PE) firms are restricted from acquiring any businesses that have received support from this initiative. This restriction aims to protect the integrity of the program, foster fair competition, and ensure that supported businesses remain dedicated to their communities and missions.

1. Waived Credit and Collateral Requirements

- **Eligibility**: Open to new businesses with a detailed and vetted business plan.
- **Purpose**: Enable startups and small businesses to access capital without traditional financial barriers.
- **Implementation**: Use alternative metrics such as business viability, market demand, and community impact for loan approvals.

2. Interest-Free First Loan

- **Loan Details**:
  - Capped at $50,000–$100,000.
  - Interest-free for the first loan term (up to three years).
- **Funding Source**:
  - Primary: Congressional appropriations.
  - Supplementary: Recovered funds from tax loopholes, natural resource royalties, and public-private partnerships.
- **Safeguards**: Require progress reports and link subsequent funding to milestone achievements to minimize risk of misuse.

3. Waived Tax Requirements

- **Details**:
  - Federal income taxes waived for the first three years.
  - Collaboration with states to waive state taxes (e.g., sales tax, franchise fees) during the same period.
- **Conditions**: Businesses must reinvest a percentage of profits into growth or job creation and provide transparency through reporting.

4. Waived Startup Costs

- **State Collaboration**:
  - Waive business registration fees, licensing costs, and regulatory filings for the first three years.
  - Streamline the startup process through a centralized online portal.

5. Wage Support Program

- **Purpose**: Help new businesses manage payroll costs and encourage job creation.
- **Details**:
  - **Year 1**: Government covers up to 75% of wages.
  - **Year 2**: Covers up to 50% of wages.
  - **Year 3**: Covers up to 25% of wages.
  - Wage support capped per employee to ensure fairness.
- **Conditions**:
  - Businesses must retain employees for at least one year.
  - Regular reporting on job creation and business progress required.
  - Safeguards in place to ensure accountability and proper use of funds.

Supplementary Components

6. Mentorship and Nonprofit Support

- **National Small Business Mentorship Network**:
  - Pair businesses with mentors from nonprofits like SCORE, SBDCs, and local chambers of commerce.
  - Provide guidance on financial management, marketing, and operations.
- **Continuous Support**:
  - Nonprofits assist with real-time problem-solving and crisis management.

- **Access to Capital for Nonprofits**:
  - Nonprofits with a proven track record of supporting small business success will have access to capital without traditional requirements. Safeguards, such as performance tracking and accountability measures, will be in place to ensure funds are used effectively.

7. Partnerships with States and Private Sector

- **State Collaboration**:
  - Partner with states to align resources and ensure local-level support.
  - Offer incentives for state participation, such as matching federal funds.
- **Public-Private Partnerships**:
  - Encourage corporations to sponsor mentorship programs and provide in-kind support.
  - Offer tax breaks for contributions to the program.

8. Emergency Funding Reserve

- **Purpose**: Provide additional financial support during economic downturns or crises.
- **Funding**: Use unallocated federal grants, annual budget surpluses, and a small percentage of recovered funds from other initiatives.

Implementation Framework

1. Administration

- Use existing federal programs like the SBA, MBDA, and Department of Labor to administer components.
- Establish a centralized online portal for applications, mentorship matching, and resource access.

2. Pilot Program

- **Test Regions**: Launch in areas with high unemployment or underrepresented entrepreneurs.
- **Evaluation Metrics**:
  - Business survival rates.

    - Job creation.
    - Revenue growth.

3. Nationwide Expansion

- Scale the program based on pilot results, refining processes for efficiency and impact.
- Target underserved industries and regions to ensure inclusivity.

Funding Strategy

1. Congressional Appropriation

- Secure primary funding through Congress as part of economic recovery and job creation bills.

2. Secondary Revenue Sources

- Allocate leftover funds from:
    - Closed corporate tax loopholes.
    - Royalties from natural resource extraction.

3. Public-Private Partnerships

- Encourage contributions from corporations and philanthropic organizations with incentives such as tax breaks.

Monitoring and Accountability

1. Transparent Reporting

- Publish an annual impact report detailing:
    - Funds allocated.
    - Jobs created.
    - Economic impact by region and industry.

2. Safeguards

- Implement regular audits and clawback provisions for businesses that fail to meet program conditions.
- Use AI tools to monitor applications and detect fraud.

3. Feedback Mechanisms

- Collect input from businesses and nonprofits to continuously improve the program.

Expected Benefits

1. Economic Growth and GDP Impact

- **Increased GDP**: By empowering small businesses and fostering job creation, this program is projected to significantly boost the GDP. Historically, small businesses contribute nearly 50% of the GDP, and increased support will amplify their economic output.
- **Job Creation**: Supporting wages and reducing startup costs will lead to higher employment rates, directly impacting consumer spending and economic activity.
- **Multiplier Effect**: Each dollar invested in small businesses generates multiple dollars in economic activity through local spending and reinvestment.

2. Evidence of Success:

- Studies show that small businesses account for 64% of new jobs created in the U.S. By reducing barriers to entry and providing wage support, this program capitalizes on this trend.
- Countries with similar programs, such as Germany's Mittelstand model, have seen sustained economic growth driven by small and medium enterprises.

3. Inclusivity

- Lowers barriers to entry for underserved communities and minority entrepreneurs.
- Promotes equitable access to resources.

4. Long-Term Impact

- Creates a robust small business ecosystem.
- Reduces dependence on large corporations, fostering economic balance.

Final Statement

We have millions of people in the United States with the talent, knowledge, and experience to refine this program and make it work effectively. To ensure its success, we invite small business owners, community leaders, and experts from all walks of life to share their insights, challenges, and innovative ideas. Whether it's identifying gaps, proposing solutions, or sharing real-world experiences, your input is invaluable.

Please share your thoughts and suggestions by leaving a comment at **public@vincentcordova.com** . To ensure timely action, we aim to review and incorporate feedback into the program over the next year. Updates on progress and implemented changes will be shared regularly to maintain transparency and accountability.

Together, we can create a program that not only empowers small businesses but also drives the United States toward a stronger, more equitable future. We have millions of people in the United States with the talent, knowledge, and experience to refine this program and make it work effectively. So, let's do it together. Please share your thoughts and suggestions by leaving a comment at **public@vincentcordova.com** . To ensure the success of this program, we recognize that public purchasing power is a critical component. As part of this initiative, we will increase the federal minimum wage and deploy our **Task Force on Inflation, Wages, and Corporate Accountability** to work in the background, ensuring a balanced approach to economic growth and fairness.

Conclusion: This comprehensive program lays the foundation for a transformative shift in the U.S. economy by empowering small businesses and startups to succeed. Through financial relief, mentorship, and operational support, it ensures sustainable growth and prosperity for entrepreneurs and their communities while driving GDP growth and advancing the nation's economic resilience.

Vincent Cordova

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