

Raja

for Illinois



RAJA'S EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACCOUNTABILITY AGENDA

*HOLDING TRUMP ACCOUNTABLE AND PROTECTING
OUR DEMOCRACY FROM OVERREACH*



A LETTER FROM RAJA



My fellow Illinoisans,

Where we are today: In the opening months of Donald Trump's second term, he has pushed the limits of presidential power to the brink, expanding power for himself and his allies, all while undercutting the rights, freedoms, and due process of Americans. He has deported citizens and violated your data privacy. He has targeted his political enemies and pardoned his insurrectionist supporters. He has profited off of the presidency. And now he is threatening our Constitution by hinting at pursuing a third term and demanding Republican governors redraw election maps to erase Democratic districts. My plan outlines how, as Illinois' next U.S. Senator, I'll use every tool in my toolbox to limit the damage he can do to this country and its citizens — while making sure a Trump-like White House — one without deference for the rule of law, due process, and civil rights — never happens again.

What we can, should, and are doing NOW: In the days following Trump's second inauguration, it became clear that this term would be worse than the last. Much worse. As a Member of Congress, I made a plan of action and have dedicated myself to holding Trump accountable every single day — all in the hopes of limiting the damage. In the days and months since, I have been laser-focused on:

- **Shining light on the damage:** Whether it's speaking on the House floor about Medicaid cuts or calling out Trump's illegal freezing of federal funds, I am always going to speak up when Trump hurts Illinoisans.
- **Pursuing litigation and conducting oversight:** An "inside-outside" strategy is key to fighting Trump every step of the way. "Inside" Congress, I am holding Trump officials accountable by questioning them in hearings, just like I did when Sec. Pete Hegseth sent classified war plans in an insecure messaging app. "Outside" Congress, I am supporting key litigation to fight the Trump Administration in court, such as a lawsuit challenging Trump's illegal blanket tariffs, and exercising my right as a Member of Congress to visit ICE facilities, as I recently attempted to do.

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- **Utilize any and all levers to fight back:** With Trump in the White House, every vote in Congress matters. I am committed to going to the mat and doing whatever I can to fight with my vote – even if it means driving cross-country to try to do it.
- **Hold people accountable:** When the powerful go after everyday, working people, I promise you, Illinois, I will always hold them accountable. Whether it's Marjorie Taylor Greene using her insider knowledge to boost her stock portfolio or Donald Trump passing a budget that could potentially force our rural hospitals to close, I will stand up and fight back. As we gear up towards 2026 and look to retake the House and the Senate, this fight is more important than ever, and I will be right there with you every step of the way.

Where we go from here: It is time for a 2025 Executive Branch Accountability Plan, similar to the post-Watergate reforms that helped to rein in the presidency following Nixon's blatant abuses of power. The following plan is my prescription for making sure a Trump-like presidency – one that ignores the Constitution and puts profit and power above the people – never happens again. It's ambitious. It's aspirational. Most importantly, it's essential. Donald Trump is destroying every piece of the fabric of this nation that made my story possible. One of legal immigration and naturalized citizenship. One of public housing, public school, and food stamps. I may not be able to accomplish everything in this agenda, but as your next U.S. Senator, I will never stop trying. Because the future of this country depends on it.

Sincerely,

Raja Krishnamoorthi

OVERREACH, GRIFT, AND GREED: DONALD TRUMP IS ABUSING THE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENCY AND UNDERMINING THE RIGHTS OF AMERICANS – ALL WHILE ENRICHING HIMSELF.



IT IS TIME FOR CONGRESS TO HOLD HIM ACCOUNTABLE AND PREVENT FUTURE ABUSES.

Donald Trump's first six months of his second term have made it clear: he will do anything for money and power, even if it means ripping away the rights of American citizens. And he has provided a roadmap for future administrations who may wish to do the same.

Never has it been more urgent for us to create the guardrails to prevent this from ever happening again.



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1. **RAJA** HAS A PLAN TO STOP POWER-HUNGRY CHIEF EXECUTIVES LIKE TRUMP FROM INFRINGING ON **AMERICANS'** FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.

The Trump Problem: In the last six months, Donald Trump has abused his position as commander-in-chief, including by weaponizing the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security to conduct arbitrary immigration raids and deport individuals, including citizen children, without due process.

All the while, Trump let billionaire crony Elon Musk and his DOGE agents rifle through sensitive personal data, eroding privacy. It's un-American, and it's illegal. Meanwhile, he's packing our courts with radical judges who are loyal to Trump and the MAGA agenda, not the Constitution and **demanding mid-decade redistricting in Republican-leaning states in an effort to shore up the 2026 midterm elections.**



Raja's Record: Raja has already introduced legislation to block the deployment of the military against peaceful protestors and, as a member of Congress, demanded accountability for ICE as Trump's Administration dodges oversight.



The Fixes: To rein in Trump and ensure no future President can repeat his abuses, Raja would:



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- **End Executive Orders That Target Political Enemies:** Trump is targeting his enemies with executive orders that deny them funds and subject them to investigation. As Raja wrote in an op-ed earlier this year, this is something straight out of an authoritarian country, not America. Raja will introduce legislation creating a rebuttable presumption that executive orders targeting individuals or specific entities are invalid, so Americans can once again enjoy the rule of law. The burden should be on the government, not targeted Americans, to show that executive orders that single them out have a lawful basis.
- **Block Trump's Attempt to De-Naturalize American Citizens:** Amid threats from Trump to denaturalize American citizens – including public figures ranging from Elon Musk and Zohran Mamdani – Raja will introduce legislation giving anyone targeted by the Department of Justice for denaturalization the right to a jury trial, the right to counsel, and place on the government the same evidentiary burden they'd face in a criminal trial. Right now, the life-altering act of stripping away someone's citizenship – and their ability to live in America – merely requires a civil lawsuit from the government.
- **Un-Mask ICE:** Raja will lead the effort to pass legislation to restrict ICE agents from wearing masks or concealing their identities to prevent abuses of power, intimidation tactics, and even copycat attacks from bad actors posing as law enforcement.
- **Maximum ICE Oversight:** With ICE positioned to be the highest-funded federal law enforcement agency under Trump's newly-passed "Large Lousy Law," Raja is calling for ICE to be subject to robust oversight, including a dedicated congressionally-housed Inspector General's Office to ensure it is following the law and respecting the Constitution, including in its retention of private contractors. After Trump fired most of the independent IGs earlier this year, Raja will make sure any dismissal of this IG must be approved by Congress.
- **Defend Illinois Courts from Being Packed With Radical Trump Judges:** Trump is putting pressure on Senators to give him unchecked authority to pack federal courts in Illinois and across the country with his handpicked MAGA radicals. Raja will use his "blueslip" privilege (effectively a right of first refusal on home-state judicial appointments) as a U.S. Senator to block every Trump-nominated, radical judge from sitting on the federal bench in Illinois.
- **Ensuring Uniform Justice and Accountability for All:** In his first term, President Trump stacked the Supreme Court with new Justices, who are now helping him make it nearly impossible for Americans to stop his unconstitutional actions. Recently, they struck down the "nationwide injunctions" that were used by lower courts to block Trump's unconstitutional executive order on birthright citizenship. Instead of one person being able to sue on behalf of everyone, Trump wants each person denied their constitutional rights to have to bring their own lawsuit. Raja will introduce legislation to restore nationwide injunctions and restore courts' ability to hold the Administration accountable, including by blocking Trump's effort to strip away citizenship from children born in our country.
- **Protect Your Data From Getting DOGED:** Raja believes we need to prohibit government overreach, like what we saw with DOGE, in the use of your data. To do so, Raja will crack down by updating the **Privacy Act** for the digital age. This includes expanding protections for location data, limiting the amount of time the government can store your data, mandating that the government is only able to collect data that is relevant and necessary to accomplish a legally authorized purpose, and banning the Administration from trying to force states to hand over data they have for invalid purposes, like targeting immigrants. In addition, right now, the government is fined as little as \$1,000 for misusing your data, which Raja believes should be increased substantially to ensure compliance with the law.

TACKLING THE FIVE ALARM REDISTRICTING FIRE HEAD-ON

2: RAJA'S PLAN TO PREVENT PRESIDENT-DIRECTED MID-DECADE REDISTRICTING FOR POLITICAL GAIN:

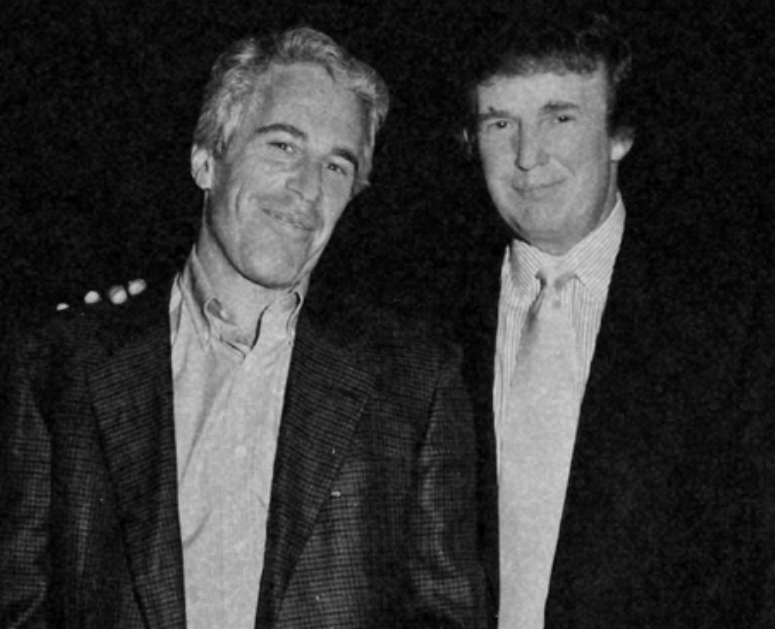
- **End Mid-Decade Redistricting and Empower Independent Commissions:** For years, Raja has been fighting to stop exactly what President Trump and Texas Republicans are trying to do now by banning mid-decade redistricting, allowing courts to strike down blatantly partisan districts, and requiring states to use independent commissions or three-judge panels for redistricting. Passing the **Freedom to Vote Act** is an essential first step towards preventing the political gainsmanship that Trump is participating in today. In the Senate, Raja will continue the fight to ensure redistricting is about protecting democracy, not entrenching partisanship.
- **Stop Federal Agents From Arresting State Legislators:** As Texas Democrats stand up for democracy by denying the Texas Governor a quorum to redraw maps mid-decade at Trump's command, they have sought refuge in Illinois. In response, the Texas Governor is threatening to send law enforcement to arrest them. While Illinois state law enforcement will never participate in this lawlessness, many fear President Trump might deploy federal law enforcement to Illinois to arrest the Texas Democrats. To prevent this possibility in the future, Raja will introduce legislation to ban federal agents from arresting state legislators merely for not attending legislative sessions or leaving their state.
- **Penalize States That Don't Play By the Rules:** Trump and the Texas Governor have unleashed a vicious cycle: if Republican-run states rig their districts, Democratic-run states that have adopted redistricting reforms will be forced to respond. States that unleash such chaos should face consequences. While continuing to advocate for more comprehensive solutions, Raja will introduce legislation denying federal election grants and funding to states that trigger cycles of mid-decade redistricting for partisan purposes – halting redrawing of maps across the board. This legislation would also direct the FCC to end its preferential political advertising rates in those states that engage in mid-decade redistricting.



3. **RAJA** HAS A PLAN TO STOP TRUMP'S EXPANSION OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER TO HEAD OFF SIMILAR POWER GRABS AND PREVENT **ANOTHER JANUARY 6.**

The Trump Problem: Trump has constantly pushed the limits of our Constitutional framework, testing support for blatantly unconstitutional actions ranging from serving an illegal third term to claiming he can pardon himself. On January 6th, Trump showed a willingness to put the Republic itself in jeopardy.

Now, Trump is moving to protect himself by openly discussing pardons to cover up his potential role in the Epstein scandal, underscoring the dire need for pardon power reform.



Raja's Record: Raja has spent years calling out Donald Trump's abuse of power and working to hold him accountable. He was a key player during Trump's first impeachment, working to keep the President's corrupt schemes in check. After January 6th, Raja called for Trump to be removed from office via the 25th Amendment, recognizing the existential threat Trump poses to the very survival of our democracy. He has also led the ***Presidential Pardon Transparency Act*** to mandate that Presidents justify their pardons and notify the public within a three-day timeframe to enhance transparency. He also just introduced a Congressional Resolution to try to preempt a Trump pardon of convicted sex trafficker Ghislaine Maxwell in exchange for false testimony about the Epstein scandal.

The Fixes: To rein in Trump and make sure future Presidents don't exploit the same playbook, Raja would:



- **Prevent Another January 6th:** To prevent another January 6th, Raja is calling on Congress to build on the ***Electoral Count Act*** reforms it passed in 2022 by requiring presidential transition teams to cooperate with each other and further limit the ability of a sitting President to interfere with the transition process.
- **Propose TWO Constitutional Amendments, including:**
 - **1. Reining in Abuses of the Pardon Power:** Raja's "***Pardon Power Accountability Amendment***" would establish three clear and targeted limits on the power including: (1) No Self-Pardons. (2) No Pardons for Obstruction of Justice. (3) A requirement for specificity to outline the particular criminal statutes for which the pardon is granted, preventing pardons such as Trump's sweeping and unspecific pardons of 1,500 January 6th insurrectionists.
 - **2. No Illegal Third Terms:** MAGA Loyalists are openly scheming to give Trump a third term, exploiting an alleged loophole in the 22nd Amendment, which they claim only prohibits a President from being elected more than twice, not that a President could not serve more than two terms. Accordingly, they argue that if JD Vance was elected President and Trump was elected as VP, but then Vance agreed to step down, Trump would gain a third term. Raja's "***Presidential and Vice Presidential Eligibility Clarification Amendment***" would close the alleged "Vice President loophole" and prohibit any former President who has served two terms from being elected as Vice President. It would also prohibit any person in the line of succession ineligible to be President from being "acting" President, preventing an ex-President from becoming Speaker of the House or cabinet secretary and asserting presidential power.
- **Stopping Pay-for-Play Pardons:** DC insiders and donors have found their latest corrupt money grab: pay-for-play pardons. Convicted criminals and fraudsters are donating to Trump or paying friends of the Administration millions of dollars to get pardons — which not only lets the guilty go free, but perverts our system of justice. To rein in such corruption, Raja will introduce legislation, modeled on the ***Foreign Agents Registration Act***, that will require public disclosure any time someone seeks a pardon from the President, including details of any donations or pardon-related lobbying, and bring these corrupt deals out from the shadows.



**4. TRUMP HAS SHAMELESSLY USED THE
PRESIDENCY FOR HIS PERSONAL PROFIT.
RAJA WILL FIGHT TO PREVENT FUTURE
PRESIDENTS FROM GRIFTING AS TRUMP HAS.**

The Trump Problem: Trump and his family have supercharged their quest to enrich themselves at the expense of the American taxpayer.

Between constant profiteering off of the presidency and avoiding all transparency, there must be enhanced safeguards to stop Trump – and any future president – from using the highest office in the land as a personal slush fund.



Raja's Record: Before Trump's 2024 election, Raja cosponsored legislation to empower Congress to enact a blanket ban on the executive branch accepting foreign emoluments. As a member of the House Oversight Committee, Raja worked to uncover the extent of Trump's corrupt dealings during his first term.



The Fixes: To rein in Trump and prevent future presidents from profiting off the White House, Raja would:



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- **Block Presidents from Hiding Their Financial Interests from the American People:** Raja believes that the ***Ethics in Government Act*** should be amended to require the President, Vice President, and all cabinet-level nominees to publicly disclose their certified federal income tax returns for the five years preceding their nomination and for every year they are in office. Current disclosure forms lack sufficient detail and are not subject to independent financial audit, rendering them insufficient for true transparency. Publicly available tax returns and detailed business disclosures are essential tools for Congress, the press, and the public to identify and scrutinize potential corruption and conflicts. As a U.S. Senator, Raja would also have the power to force Donald Trump's Cabinet nominees to come before his committees and testify. Until Raja's ethics reforms become law, he would demand that each of these nominees share their tax returns with him.
- **Stop the Grift – No More Profiting Off Public Service:** Raja is looking to implement guardrails so that after leaving office, former Presidents and Vice Presidents cannot: (1) lobby their former administration, (2) represent foreign governments, or (3) use classified information for private gain. Any violations of these lifetime oversights would trigger a clawback of post-presidency benefits.
- **Banning Presidential Stock Trading:** Raja has long championed legislation to ban Members of Congress from trading individual stocks, tackling rampant corruption head-on. The same should go for the Chief Executive, his family members, or senior members of the administration. No one, including the President, should be able to pad their stock portfolio because of their proximity to power.

