

# Our Open Office Plank

**"When citizens speak, their Representative must listen completely. Across our land, the so-called "Representatives" have not troubled to listen to We the People, and this is a key reason our country is in such dire straits today." - Jake Towne**

Ever call or write your representative or senator? Ever wonder exactly how much effect it really had? Were you the only person who called, or were there hundreds more? Sure, the staffer might have tallied your call, but was your call really considered by your politician? The truth is stark. First, most of the time you truly have no real idea. Second, like it or not, your Democratic and Republican politician likes it this way.

When Establishment politicians talk "accountability" and "transparency," these are often just empty buzzwords. As a servant of the people, I've come up with this simple yet novel concept, which I've nicknamed "Our Open Office."

The key benefits of my proposal are:

- **Citizen Empowerment**

- Each resident has a ***real public voice*** – to comment, vote, debate, and criticize
- Each constituent will have a way to publicly demand I address their ideas and concerns by submitting bills online
- Citizens can summon me to an "On Demand" town hall by reaching a threshold level on topics they feel I am not addressing timely enough or to their satisfaction
- By incorporating the feedback of specialists in different fields and interests, particularly with the bill submission ability, our office will be far more efficient with better ideas than other districts because our work force will be larger and more specialized. Those "working" outside of my office will be working voluntarily on issues that have the highest priority for them, empowering the individual citizen.

- **Accountability and Transparency**

- All residents can receive a monthly report from my office detailing each house floor vote taken, each bill introduced, and each bill co-sponsored. Feedback from the forum will be summarized into this report. Most importantly, I, the representative, will be forced to outline WHY I voted each way.
- My office's budget report will be publicized and readily available on the website so citizens can see how their tax dollars were spent.
- Empowering citizens to public discourse and enabling open, visible criticism and dissent of my actions makes me more accountable to the people.

Our Open Office consists of four simple parts: Online Public Feedback & Debate Forum, Monthly Reports, On-Demand "Towne" Halls, and Online Bill Submissions. The vast majority of people in our district are fed up with economic ruin the Establishment has caused with their havoc on economic and civil liberties. Almost everyone believes their representatives are no longer accountable to them, and they are correct. This concept will cure this ill!!! For more details, please visit <http://towneforcongress.com/mission/our-open-office>

Jake Towne is running for US Congress in Pennsylvania's 15th District in the 2010 election as a citizen unaffiliated with any political parties. Jake plans to implement a novel "Our Open Office" form of accountable and transparent government when elected to give each resident a public voice. Visit [TowneForCongress.com](http://TowneForCongress.com) to learn more. Jake can be reached at [TowneForCongress@gmail.com](mailto:TowneForCongress@gmail.com).