



Policy Proposal: Close the Revolving Door

Published: April 7, 2026

Serving in Congress is a privilege, not a profit opportunity. When former elected officials become lobbyists, voters lose faith in the fairness of the system.

What changes do we need?

- Former members of the House and Senate should be permanently banned from lobbying either house of Congress after having served.
 - o The current law prohibits Senators from lobbying for two years after leaving and House members are banned for only one year.
- Senior staffers should be banned from lobbying Congress for six years after they leave office.
 - o The current law generally prohibits lobbying for one year.
- Lobbyists or foreign agents who have had significant interaction with a congressional office or committee should be banned from being hired by that office/committee for six years.
 - o No similar restriction exists today.
- Lobbying firms should have to disclose any employees who were former Senators/Representatives or senior staffers
- Penalties for violating the rules on lobbying disclosure should be increased.

How big of a problem is this?

As one data point: "Out of the 61 lawmakers who left office in January 2017, 19 of them found jobs in lobbying shops, though often with titles such as "strategic adviser" to avoid breaking the rules, according to data from the Center for Responsive Politics."

How do we get those changes?

The Close the Revolving Door Act of 2025 was introduced in the House in May 2025 - with a similar bill introduced in the Senate - and would accomplish all of the above.

I support the Close the Revolving Door Act of 2025 - Rep. Clarke has not cosponsored the bill.



Sources include:

<https://publicintegrity.org/politics/liberals-and-conservatives-agree-ex-congressmen-should-put-brakes-on-lobbying-careers/>