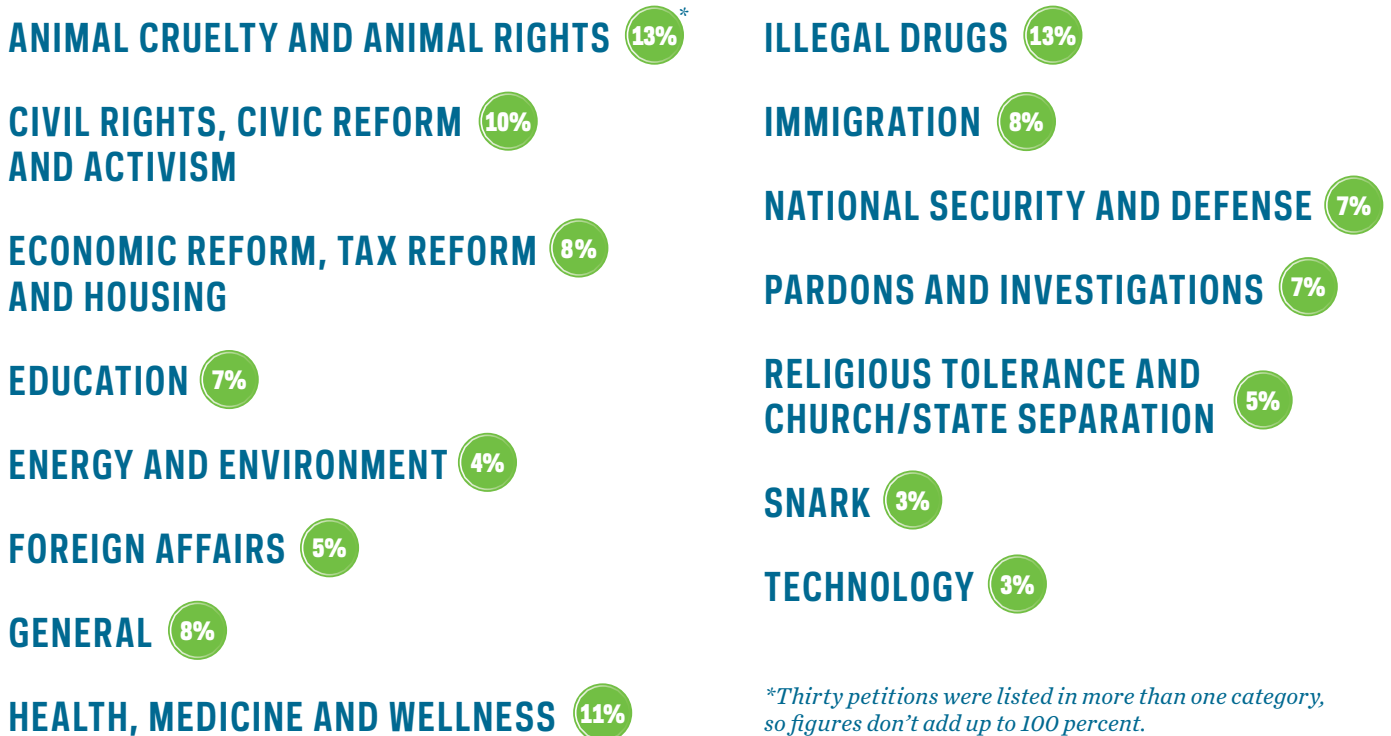


Digital Democracy

On Sept. 22, the White House launched We The People, an online platform that allows citizens to file petitions requesting action on issues important to them. As of Nov. 14, the following 119 petitions, as described by the petitioners themselves and organized by Nextgov, were in the queue. The list doesn't include petitions already answered or those lacking enough signatures within 30 days to garner a response.

By Joseph Marks

Trending Petitions



**Thirty petitions were listed in more than one category, so figures don't add up to 100 percent.*

We The People

ANIMAL CRUELTY AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

13%

- Crack down on puppy mills.
- Stop animal homelessness at its roots.
- Ban the use of gas chambers for killing shelter companion animals. They are inhumane, expensive and dangerous to humans.
- Support a ban on horse slaughter.
- Immediately halt the cruel and unnecessary use of monkeys in Army chemical casualty management training courses.
- Protect the Dunes sagebrush lizard under the Endangered Species Act.
- Save the Dunes sagebrush lizard by protecting it under the Endangered Species Act.
- Protect wild horses and burros; reform inhumane Interior Department management program that wastes tax dollars.
- Ban the sale, trade and possession of shark and shark products, including shark fin.
- Restore humane horse slaughter to improve horse welfare, stop needless and wasteful suffering and create jobs.
- ACE's law—Animal Welfare and Rights Act.
- Fund the fight against White Nose Syndrome (a major killer of bats) in the president's Fiscal Year 2013 budget.
- End the need to euthanize millions of homeless pets in local animal control costing billions to taxpayers.
- We believe the Obama Administration should require the FDA to enforce the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act with pet food.
- Help fight for Parrot. Parrot was an innocent dog who got killed by a police officer in Washington DC.

JULY
1776

CIVIL RIGHTS, CIVIC REFORM AND ACTIVISM

10%

- Grant voters the ability to vote for the president of the United States by dissolving the Electoral College.
- Restore democracy by ending corporate personhood.
- Propose legislation that would make all federal election days national holidays to increase voter turnout.
- Change the motto of the United States to “E Pluribus Unum.”
- Strengthen our democracy by publicly financing all elections so that money cannot buy anyone a member of Congress.
- Propose an amendment to the constitution clarifying its protections as covering natural persons (not corporations) unless specified.
- Fully legalize same sex marriage across the nation.
- End discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/ expression.
- Recognize the men and women who are occupying Wall Street.
- Endorse www.the99declaration.org which is a petition for a redress of grievances.
- Repeal the Patriot Act.
Cross-listed with National Security and Defense
- End the Patriot Act.
Cross-listed with National Security and Defense

ECONOMIC REFORM, TAX REFORM AND HOUSING

8%

- Re-establish and maintain the separation between investment banks and commercial banks.
- Reinstate the tax exempt status of graduate student stipends.
Cross-listed with Education
- Remove tax exemption from churches and allow them to apply like a non-profit organization.
Cross-listed with Religious Tolerance and Church/State Separation
- Protect consumers, create jobs and generate revenue by licensing and regulating online poker.
- Take aviation user fees off the table.
- Repeal the government pension offset and the windfall elimination provision and restore [social security] fairness for public servants.
- Support Sen. Bernie Sanders' bill to fix social security by removing the cap on income subject to the SS tax.
- Announce and implement the National Economic Security and Reformation Act—NESARA.
- Stop all foreclosures and evictions; reconstruct mortgage loans with homeowners at current market value at 2 percent for 30 years.
- Restore subsidies for graduate student loans.
Cross-listed with Education

People

EDUCATION

7%

- Ensure all school libraries are properly staffed, open and available for children every day.
- Abolish abstinence-only education from U.S. public schools.
- Promote/enforce the teaching of evolution over creationism.
Cross-listed with Religious Tolerance and Church/State Separation
- Repair and modernize America's crumbling public schools.
- Extend the validity of F-1 student visas to be commensurate with the academic program or allow renewal within the U.S.
Cross-listed with Immigration
- Foreign graduates with advanced U.S. degrees (MS and Ph.D.) should get green cards. They promote innovation and job creation.
Cross-listed with Immigration
- Reinstate the tax exempt status of graduate student stipends.
Cross-listed with Economic Reform, Tax Reform and Housing
- Restore subsidies for graduate student loans.
Cross-listed with Economic Reform, Tax Reform and Housing

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

4%

- Protect children from dangerous air pollution.
- Reject the Keystone XL Pipeline.
- Curb FERC regulations, which overreach and overregulate the shorelines of its hydroelectric projects.
- Protect coal ash recycling by promptly enacting disposal regulations that do not designate coal ash as “hazardous waste.”
- Construct and enact robust, transformative energy reform now.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

5%

- Recognize the Syrian National Council.
- Not veto Palestine's application to be a member of the United Nations.
- Support an international investigation into war crimes and other human rights abuses committed in Sri Lanka.
- List the Syrian National Council as a terrorist group.
- Stop sending tax money to the government of Mauritania until it ends slavery and persecution of its black population.
- Put more pressure on the government of China for the end of the border control Dr. Zhicheng Hu so he may come home.



JULY
★ 1776

GENERAL**8%**

- Revisit its decision on the retired Space Shuttle Enterprise and award it to National Museum of the USAF in OH.
- Reform the coinage system.
- Federally recognize the United Houma [American Indian] Nation.
- Stop using homeland security funds to seize imported vehicles and change the DOT/EPA exemption to 15 years.
- Ban the use of tear gas on citizens.
- Support HR 822, the national Right to Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011.
- Legalize mixed martial arts in New York.
- Keep the Air National Guard bands that are scheduled to be cut on Oct 1, 2013.
- Create international child abduction prevention programs including a departure screening list for potential abductors.
- Recognize the contribution of Flemish Americans to the establishment and settlement of America.

HEALTH, MEDICINE AND WELLNESS

11%

- Require all genetically modified foods to be labeled as such.
- Fund a clinical trial to determine the effectiveness of high-dose cannabis extracts for the treatment of cancers.
Cross-listed with Illegal Drugs
- Allow United States disabled military veterans access to medical marijuana to treat their PTSD.
Cross-listed with Illegal Drugs
- Antineoplastons, cancer drugs in FDA trials since 1995, results publicly audited by Congress, to gain final FDA approval.
- Prohibit all federal agencies from promoting, endorsing or funding fluoridation of the public drinking water.
- Legalize raw milk sales on a federal level.
- Recognize electronic cigarettes as an effective alternative to smoking and support job creation in this new industry.
- Keep kids alive. Allocate more funds to childhood cancer research.
- Ensure that brain injury survivors have access to the same quality of rehabilitative care that Gabby Giffords received.
- In memory of MCD, youth suicide prevention as in training should be mandatory in all school systems.
- Reform the care system of people with developmental disabilities to prevent additional tragedies.
- Classify Autism as an epidemic and allocate proportional federal research funds to early identification and treatment.
- Provide more funding to research a cure for Scleroderma.

A large, faint, stylized graphic of the word "WORLD" in a decorative, calligraphic font, positioned at the bottom of the page.

ILLEGAL DRUGS

13%

- Allow industrial hemp to be grown once again in the U.S.
- End the destructive, wasteful and counter-productive war on drugs.
- Regulate alcohol and tobacco in the same manner as marijuana.
- Allow United States disabled military veterans access to medical marijuana to treat their PTSD.
Cross-listed with Health, Medicine and Wellness
- Fund a clinical trial to determine the effectiveness of high-dose cannabis extracts for the treatment of cancers.
Cross-listed with Health, Medicine and Wellness
- Respond to the marijuana legalization petition with an argument that doesn't also apply to alcohol.
- Open for debate the full legalization, taxation, and regulation of marijuana and not simply deny the people that debate.
- Offer a response to marijuana legalization petitions that isn't written by someone legally required to oppose them.
- Respond to each of the 7 marijuana related petitions individually instead of one canned response.
- Regulate cigarettes and alcohol in a similar manner to alcohol since they are more dangerous to your health.
- Publicly request the resignation of Gil Kerlikowske (director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, who wrote the administration's response to several petitions dealing with legalizing marijuana).
- Regulate alcohol and tobacco in a manner similar to marijuana.
- Regulate alcohol and tobacco in a manner similar to marijuana and other currently illegal substances.
- Replace Gil Kerlikowske.
- Pardon Jason Spyrer, an Illinois inmate serving a 30 year (now on 9th year) sentence on a marijuana charge.
Cross-listed with Pardons and Investigations
- Release all non-violent drug offenders. Release all inmates who are incarcerated for cannabis-related crimes.
Cross-listed with Pardons and Investigations

IMMIGRATION

8%

- Holders of valid, legal visas should be able to renew their visa without having to exit the country.
- Switching to a free online visa appointment system.
- Allow seriously backlogged EB2/EB3 beneficiaries with their I-140 approved to file I-485 and apply for EAD and AP.
- Extend the validity of F-1 student visas to be commensurate with the academic program or allow renewal within the U.S.
Cross-listed with Education
- Foreign graduates with advanced U.S. degrees (MS and Ph.D.) should get green cards. They promote innovation and job creation.
Cross-listed with Education
- Allow H-4 visa members to work legally.
- Legal, employment-based immigration petitioners help U.S. companies and should not be heavily backlogged for years.
- Stop deportations. Keep families together.
- Prohibit ICE and/or CCA from building any sort of prison facility in southwest ranches.
- Reopen MAVNI [an expedited naturalization process for foreign nationals performing vital roles in the U.S. military]—a program that enables DOD to close a critical skills gap in securing the United States.
Cross-listed with National Security and Defense



NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE

7%

- Abolish the TSA and use its monstrous budget to fund more sophisticated, less intrusive counter terrorism intelligence.
- Repeal the Patriot Act.
Cross-listed with Civil Rights, Civic Reform and Activism
- Reallocate defense funds to NASA.
- End the Patriot Act.
Cross-listed with Civil Rights, Civic Reform and Activism
- Give the National Guard a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Stop requiring Army medevac helicopters in Afghanistan to paint red crosses on their sides and go unarmed into combat.
- Reopen MAVNI [an expedited naturalization process for foreign nationals performing vital roles in the U.S. military]—a program that enables DOD to close a critical skills gap in securing the United States.
Cross-listed with Immigration
- End the military’s discrimination against non-religious service members.
Cross-listed with Religious Tolerance and Church/State Separation

PARDONS AND INVESTIGATIONS

7%

- Pardon Marc Emery.
- Free PFC Bradley Manning, the accused Wikileaks Whistleblower.
- Pardon Jason Spyras, an Illinois inmate serving a 30 year (now on 9th year) sentence on a marijuana charge.
Cross-listed with Illegal Drugs
- Release all non-violent drug offenders. Release all inmates who are incarcerated for cannabis-related crimes.
Cross-listed with Illegal Drugs
- Grant clemency to Native American activist Leonard Peltier without delay.
- Call an investigation into allegations of FBI misconduct and civil rights violations in the guard shack sting operation.
- Pardon Carmen Hammaker, a loving mother of three. Has tons of friends and family, but is so far away from all of them.
- Investigate the government's failure to investigate and prosecute Church of Scientology crime, fraud and abuse.
Cross-listed with Religious Tolerance and Church/State Separation



RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AND CHURCH/STATE SEPARATION

5%

- Promote/ enforce the teaching of evolution over creationism.
Cross-listed with Education
- End the military's discrimination against non-religious service members.
Cross-listed with National Security and Defense
- Bar courts and lawmakers from creating a "second class" religion status for minority religions like Wicca and NeoPaganism.
- Direct the U.S. Forest Service to move the devotional Jesus shrine from federal property atop Big Mountain (Montana).
- Remove tax exemption from churches and allow them to apply like a non-profit organization.
Cross-listed with Economic Reform, Tax Reform and Housing
- Investigate the government's failure to investigate and prosecute Church of Scientology crime, fraud and abuse.
Cross-listed with Pardons and Investigations

SNARK

3%

- Actually take these petitions seriously instead of just using them as an excuse to pretend you're listening.
- We demand a vapid, condescending, meaningless, politically safe response to this petition.
- Take petitions seriously.
- Stop lying.

TECHNOLOGY

3%

- Pursue software patent abolition.
- Support access to geographic information systems technology and training in local governments.
- Reform outdated broadcast television laws and regulations.
- Stop the e-parasite act.

