We the People... learned many valuable lessons from the 2016 election season. Paramount among those lessons is that we must defend and exercise our right to vote at every level and branch of government. From the neighborhood block club to the White House, who represents us matters.

While we kept our eyes glued to the presidential race, we glanced at our legislative race and party electors. On our ballots were names we did not recognize, even in our own parties. There were people who intentionally drafted proposal language that could, at best, be described as confusing. We must remember that non-partisanship does not equate to apolitical ideologies or values, especially when we vote for judges.

Election 20XX is an invitation, an incitement, a call-to-action to every American to educate yourself on the issues that will affect you and your family’s future. We call upon you to examine critically every candidate, to envision yourself as a leader and to be engaged deeply in transforming systems at every level of political jurisdiction. What issues matter to you? Who speaks to your issues? What is limiting your access to the American Dream? What will you do in the time between protests, rallies and marches? How many protests and protestors will it take to win what you want won?

You, your family, your organization, your coalition or network have a role and a stake in Election 20XX. What seats must be won in your community in 2017 to ensure your leaders fight for your children’s education, for keeping you safe, and provide the public services that matter to you? Who will we elect as our state’s Representatives? Who will we send to the Senate? Who will become Michigan’s next Governor in 2018? Let’s cut to the chase... what kind of President will we elect in 2020?

Let us reason together. What truths are self-evident in the age of fake news and alternative facts? What inalienable rights belong to those who reside within America’s borders whether by birth or immigration? What is the writing on the wall when our leaders challenge the very ideals of democracy and trample the civil and human rights of the American people? What is the consequence to us as Americans when elected officials scheme to privatize the government for the sake of investing our tax dollars in corporate gain?

If America belongs to all of us, these are the questions with which we must wrestle. Unequivocally, the answers must resound with justice and equality for all of humanity. We the People. The Black Americans whose blood, sweat and tears fertilized the soil upon which this nation was built.

How will you transform our neighborhoods, our communities, our schools, our regions, states, and our nation? Will you organize? Will you vote? Will you run? Will you lead? Make your pledge today. Let us take this journey together: to establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility and secure the blessings of liberty.