



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# North Country Farmer Blake Gendebien Announces Reforms to Fix Corruption and Restore Trust in Washington

**LISBON, N.Y.** — North Country dairy farmer and small business owner Blake Gendebien, candidate for New York's 21st congressional district, has announced a series of congressional reforms aimed at rooting out corruption in Washington and restoring trust in government.

Instead of showing up to do the work taxpayers have sent them to do, Congress routinely leaves Washington while critical issues stall, trades stocks while designing laws that move the economy, and escapes the consequences of shutdowns that hurt working families and servicemembers. As a result, Americans' [disapproval rating](#) of Congress has grown to 79%.

A lifelong resident of the North Country, Gendebien's straightforward reforms will ensure members of Congress focus on delivering for and reflecting the communities they represent, not putting profits over people.

"Serving in Congress is a great privilege and responsibility, not a tool for self-enrichment," **said Gendebien.** "This job is about listening to the people you represent, showing up every day to fight for them, and delivering real results. I'm running for Congress because the North Country deserves a representative who works as tirelessly as they do, lives by the same rules, and never forgets who they're accountable to. I'll always answer to my neighbors, because true leadership is rooted in humility, accountability, and a genuine commitment to public service."

## In Congress, Gendebien would propose or support the following reforms.

1. **Ban members of Congress and their families from trading individual stocks.** In 2025 alone, members of Congress from both parties made a total of [more than \\$635 million in trades](#), all while working families struggled with rising costs. Public service isn't a profit center, and that's why [86% of Americans support](#) banning members from trading individual stocks.

2. **End the presidential pardon power.** As pardons become more and more politicized for personal benefit, a majority of [Americans believe the power should be limited](#).
3. **Require a five-day work week for members of Congress.** Average Americans work five days a week, yet the House of Representatives only worked 105 [voting days](#) in 2025 – even despite having 136 scheduled session days. It's time for Congress to get to work and deliver, not let lawmakers leave when policy stalls.
4. **Establish term limits of three House elections.** [87% of Americans support term limits](#) for members of Congress. *That's why Gendebien [signed](#) the U.S. Term Limits pledge.*
5. **Suspend congressional pay during government shutdowns.** While members of Congress cause shutdowns, public servants and servicemembers have their pay withheld and suffer the most. If families lose paychecks because Congress can't work together effectively, members should, too.
6. **Require members to live in the district they represent.** Representation starts at home.

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*Born and raised on a farm in the North Country, Blake and his wife Carmen have raised their three sons on the Twin Mill Farm in Lisbon, growing the farm to 500 head of cattle. Blake and Carmen also started The Jules of Life Foundation, which provides resources and support to North Country families battling pediatric cancer. For the past 10 years, Blake has served as the Vice Chair of the Cooperative Board of Agri-Mark where he represented the interests of farmers from across the region. He is a former member of the Lisbon Central School Board, and was a longtime junior varsity basketball coach.*