

Fighting Big Money, Empowering People: A 21st Century Democracy Agenda

Questionnaire

Like every generation before us, Americans are coming together to preserve a democracy of the people, by the people, and for the people. American democracy is premised on the consent of the governed, and on the idea that we all deserve a say in the government decisions that affect our families. We stand united supporting commonsense protections that recognize the people as the ultimate check on the corrosive influence of money in politics, which is eroding the very foundation of self-government.

Members of Congress should stand with Americans across the country and commit to these five principles of democracy:

- 1.** Everyone participates;
- 2.** Everyone's voice is heard;
- 3.** Everyone knows who is trying to influence our views and our representatives;
- 4.** Everyone plays by fair, common-sense rules;
- 5.** Everyone is held accountable, with enforceable penalties to deter bad behavior.

<i>If elected, will you endorse, prioritize and work aggressively to:</i>	Yes	No
Establish a system to provide public funds that will amplify small donations to federal candidates who agree to lower contribution limits.	X	
Reduce barriers to the ballot box and increase turnout.	X	
Support meaningful contribution limits so a wealthy few cannot use their economic power to shut out ordinary citizens.	X	
Strengthen disclosure requirements for outside spending groups.	X	
Urge the Federal Election Commission to create regulations responsive to the <i>Citizens United</i> decision that would eliminate secret money contributions.	X	
Urge the Securities and Exchange Commission to require public corporations to disclose their political spending.	X	
Urge the Federal Communications Commission to require advertisers to disclose their true identity.	X	
Urge the Internal Revenue Service to more clearly define political activity so organizations cannot abuse the system to keep their donors secret.	X	
Create a new enforcement agency with real power to hold campaign violators accountable.	X	
Support a constitutional amendment to restore our ability to set common-sense rules that stop the influence of big money on our government and empower the people to fully participate and have their voices heard.	X	
Work to pass legislation to shut down individual-candidate super PACs and strengthen rules that prohibit coordination between candidates and outside spending groups.	X	

<i>For Senators and Senate Candidates:</i>	Yes	No
Commit to confirming justices who will transform the Supreme Court's approach to money in politics and revive the People's ability to protect our democracy.	X	
Commit to confirming FEC commissioners who promise to enforce existing law and an Attorney General who will prioritize addressing violations of campaign finance and election laws.	X	

Comments:
I have advocated for the passage of the "We the People Act", which is a major effort to overhaul our campaign finance system. This is the plan: (1) pass a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United; 2. institute mandatory disclosure of all special interest contributions; (3) require all contribution to federal candidates over \$1,000 to be reported within 48 hours; (4) permanently ban lobbying by former Members of Congress; (5) replace the FEC with an effective watchdog agency; and (6) reign in SuperPACs by shutting down individual candidate SuperPACs and enforcing contribution laws.

Signed: 
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Please email your completed questionnaires to agenda@commoncause.org. Questions may also be directed to FightBigMoney@commoncause.org