

## Citizens United Resolution Fact Sheet

### Summary:

This resolution calls on the [insert party name here] to support the Democracy For All Constitutional Amendment which would overturn the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision.

### The Problems:

The 2010 case of *Citizens United v. FEC* removed any limits to campaign spending from sources outside of a candidate's campaign, most notably SuperPACs. This decision has had devastating effects on the ability of regular citizens to have their voice heard.

In the first year after *Citizens United*, outside campaign spending by super-PACs and other sources rocketed from \$8,856,113 in 2009 to \$300,978,067 in 2010 according to analysis by the Center for Responsive Politics. In the 2012 two-year campaign cycle, independent spending took another quantum leap to \$1,038,736,977 – a sum unimaginable in 2008. Many believe this trend will only increase the prevalence of corruption in our political system and drown out the voice of everyday Americans.

From the 2012 election:

- Nearly 60% of Super PAC funding came from just 159 donors contributing at least \$1 million. More than 93% of the money Super PACs raised came in contributions of at least \$10,000—from just 3,318 donors, or the **equivalent of 0.0011% of the U.S. population.**
- The top 32 Super PAC donors, giving an average of \$9.9 million each, matched the \$313.0 million that President Obama and Mitt Romney raised from all of their small donors combined—that's at least 3.7 million people giving less than \$200.
- Super PACs accounted for more than 60% of outside spending reported to the FEC.

Every elected official and every aspiring politician who hopes to hold office must now think about the financial impact of his or her position on virtually every issue. A vote cast in support of a big contributor's position may guarantee the official will have more than enough money to ensure reelection; a "wrong" vote may trigger the financing of a crippling campaign of negative ads.

This resolution addresses a nonpartisan issue. The power of big money undermines the ability of all candidates and elected officials to act on their conscience, to worry much less about fund raising, and to put in more of their time doing the people's work.