

It is our right, as citizens of this country and participants in its government, to know who our elected officials are actually working for, how their campaigns are funded, and who is funding them. By requiring open disclosures of political donations, people are better able to draw the maps and make connections to ideological sources (much like mapping any network), and therefore identify who is really serving the people as opposed to special interests.

Comments provided by :

Anderson, Patrick

The American public deserves to know where every dollar comes from. Our government is based on participation by educated voters. Laws that aim to hide information about candidates and the money they receive do not fit with the ideals this country was founded on.

Comments provided by :

Frost, Aaron

It is imperative that ALL contributions to politicians be made public!

Comments provided by :
jackson, Christine

I believe that there should be complete transparency in all campaign contributions. The people have a right to know who's money is potentially influencing our political candidates.

Comments provided by :
Johnson, Karen

Please allow disclosure of all funds to politicians.

Comments provided by :
moyer, justin

I support disclosure of donor information.

Comments provided by :
Weddington, Cindy

There can be no accountability for elected officials if there is no disclosure of financial investment by wealthy interests. Democracy is only a facade if elected officials are getting huge amounts of money from interests that they recognize but are hidden from the rest of us. Voters need to know where the money comes from in order to fairly evaluate the job being done by their elected officials.

Comments provided by :
Weed-Nichols, Pam

No one in America should be anonymous when they are contributing money to a political campaign. Americans have a right to know who is affecting the outcome of every election.

Comments provided by :
Abraham, Patricia

Transparency is essential to a functioning democracy. I support new rules requiring disclosure of the sources and amounts of campaign contributions.

Comments provided by :
Adler, Anthony

We must get money out of politics and the public has the right to know where every dollar is coming from in regards to candidates. We the people need to know who is behind every dollar of campaign and issue financing.

Comments provided by :
Ahearn, Carol

The USA has become a country of the corporations, by the corporations and for the corporations. This is directly due to the lack of disclosure of large campaign contributions made by corporations and the very rich. The Supreme Court majority that gave us the Citizen's United and McCutcheon decisions clearly erred toward their ideology rather than the constitution which opens with the words, "WE THE PEOPLE". Therefore, we should have complete and "as it occurs" disclosure of all large campaign donations, as well as full disclosure of who and what corporations are contributing to the Super Pacs which have an absolute influence on our elections through their many, many lobbying and advertising activities (questionably legal). It is an absolute "con" job to NOT disclose these contributions. People have a right to know who is paying for all these political ads at the time they are being aired on TV, not after the fact. **ABSOLUTE, COMPLETE and TIMELY DISCLOSURE IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.** Anything less than that will in the end result in anarchy and a revolt against a government which is becoming unconstitutional because the elected officials are NOT representing the PEOPLE.

Comments provided by :

Ahlstedt, Beth

Yes, I want full public disclosure of which interests are spending how much to win our votes.

Citizens United be da**ed!

Comments provided by :
Aizer, Linda

Nothing could be more important than understanding who are financially supporting candidates. Nothing. If we are to remain a democracy. And no, corporations are not people so why do they now carry more influence than We The People.

Comments provided by :
Albert, Jesse

Unlike voting, which has the privilege of being by secret ballot, campaign contributions are a voluntary act. These activities should be made public to reduce corruption and provide more complete information to provide a more informed electorate the ability to recognize potential conflicts of interests and identify outside influences, particularly in local elections. Information is essential to preserve the integrity of our democratic republic, to ensure our representatives are not being unduly influenced by special interests against the welfare of the public good. Any earmarks, donations, campaign contributions, contributions to political action committees and any efforts outside those currently protected by law should be open and disclosed. We the people are entitled through our constitution to know what goes on in our elections to better influence our decisions in elections.

Comments provided by :
Alldredge, Jonathan

We need a system that promotes transparency, honesty, and fairness.

From pay of the elected officials being reasonable to their cost of living requirements. The same standards applied to the elected officials should also be applied when governing.

Fixing the gerrymandering laws, removing the campaign finance corruption, we want campaigns to be about the issues, not the spin, there needs to be honesty in advertising. We need voter right laws put back in place federally, not just state by state.

We want to remove diplomatic immunity, insider trading, we want our elected officials to utilize the same laws they legislate for our population.

Comments provided by :

Allen, Pammila

Voters should have the right to know who is buying our elected officials. The amount of money in politics these days is absolutely obscene, and we deserve to know where it's all coming from and for what purposes. I want a real democracy--not an oligarchy.

Comments provided by :
Anderson, Cheryl

We must keep our democracy strong through transparency, openness, and honesty when it comes to elections. There are too many shadow organizations that are pouring millions into elections without being held accountable to the public.

Please pass legislation and regulations that mandate public disclosure of campaign money, its source, and how it is used in political campaigns and advertising.

Thank you.

Comments provided by :
Anderson, Kris

What a silly question. Of course we the public should be aware of who is paying for and buying our elections. Also we need to nullify the SCOTUS ruling declaring corporations citizens.

Comments provided by :
Andridge, Douglas

I want to know the corporations that are making contributions to particular political parties, candidates for office, elected officials. In addition, I want to know the dollar amount of these contributions.

Comments provided by :
Angellis, Cathy

I want to know the names of private sector companies in this country and globally that are spending significantly more than the legally-stipulated amount in support of issues facing Congress and prior to elections.

In addition to the names of the lobbying corporations, I want to know the names of chief corporate officers authorizing spending at the companies.

I would also like to know the names of the lobbying firms, ad agencies, PR agencies, and their principal officers, conducting, placing advertising on behalf of client companies.

Finally, I believe it is critical that the general public, myself included, know exactly what the ad buys are during the election season, i.e., markets selected, media purchased, precise ad schedules, amount of funds spent on issue, candidate advertising.

Comments provided by :
Aptekar, Richard

the public deserves to know who is buying their government.

Comments provided by :
Arehart, Mary

Disclosure and transparency of campaign funds must be available to all voters to ensure our democracy.

Comments provided by :

Arkeat, Marianne

As a voter, and as the granddaughter of a woman who marched for women's suffrage in the 1910's, I want to know exactly which persons and corporations are contributing money to political campaigns of any kind. Better yet, I want corporations (which are not really persons, as you well know) not to be able to make political contributions of any kind. Our government is no longer a democracy, except on the level of very local elections. Federal elections are ruled by "big money" and this should stop, if we wish to have the representative government we are supposed to have.

Comments provided by :

Ashford, Janet

Elections at the federal level should be publically funded.

Contributions to the fund can come from individuals, PACs, corporations, or foreign entities and could be in any amount. The funds would then be distributed equally to qualifying candidates and could be used by the candidate in any manner.

Comments provided by :
Augenstein, Michael

Yes, if folks are spending money on elections, they **MUST** be open and public about it. That is what Democracy is about. That way there is not any doubts about improper contributions

Comments provided by :
Babbie, Frederick

Corporations and individuals have for years sought favors from government officials. If an oil and gas corporation, for example, would like better access to the oil buried under the Gulf of Mexico, they will send lobbyists to the U.S. Congress to advise them to pass specific legislation. That legislation might open up new territory or lessen regulations in an attempt to save the corporation money. This process had historically been well documented, but Supreme Court decisions like Citizens United have made it possible for corporations and individuals to influence government officials through anonymous campaign contributions and to influence voters through PACs. It's important that these influences are documented and made publicly transparent so that voters know how and when they occur. If a particular official seems particularly susceptible to lobbying, for example, the voters might choose not to re-elect him or her.

Comments provided by :
Babcock, Neal

I think that it is vitally important to know where the money is coming from for elections. The "dark money" is destructive to our democracy. I really believe that transparency is very important, especially in light of the Citizens United decision which has unleashed an ungodly amount of money being spent these days. My understanding of Citizens United DOES allow for disclosure, and I think it is really important!

Thank you, Tamara Bailey

Comments provided by :
Bailey, Tamara

Complete campaign funding disclosure is only a first step. Complete decoupling of money and politics is the only way to true representation of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Comments provided by :
Baker , Mark M

Rules must change to make as easily accessible as possible all information concerning who finances campaigns. Without such changes, public confidence in and respect for our government and its laws will continue to erode.

Comments provided by :
Balcom, Jan

As a voter, I want to know who has made financial donations to the candidates. It allows me to make an informed decision when I know whom the candidate is more likely to serve, regardless of what their stump speeches may say. For example, if a candidate states that they are for developing renewable energy resources, developed locally and managed by the community, I would likely vote for that candidate. But, if that candidate has also accepted donations from the fossil fuel industry, I would consider that a conflict of interest. Having that knowledge would change my vote. There is a direct correlation here. This is not rocket science. We all know what's going on. An informed citizen is a requirement in a Republic or a Democracy and this shadow funding allows only a few to have all the knowledge. So, if CEO Daddy Oilbucks donates secretly to a PAC, even though we both have heard the stump speeches, he also has the added knowledge that the candidate has accepted his donation. I also need that information to be make an informed choice. This is very basic and it is an embarrassment to have to spell it out to the powers that be.

Comments provided by :
Barabasz, Mark

All amounts and their contributors should be publicly identified. The information should include employer or other affiliation that is important, such as political action committee. All funds contributed through PACs should include name and address of the PAC's members and contributors, as well as their employees names and addresses, whether paid or volunteer.

Comments provided by :
Barco, Vincent

I believe it is very important that the public know who is funding these campaigns very important

Comments provided by :

Barker, Robert

I believe that all donors either directly to political candidates, to Political Action Committees and to private and public organizations of any description that then make contributions to candidates or express opinions on issues to be answered on ballots or express opinions on candidates that they support or oppose. If you give money you should take ownership of that act openly and completely. No anonymous contributions period. And equal limitations, I as an individual can only give so much, if corporations are people then they should be limited to the same amount as me., after all, they are a single entity under the law.

Comments provided by :
Barry, Thomas

It is already bad enough that a person with more money in our country has more of a voice to be heard when trying to talk to elected individuals than a economically poor citizen like myself. How dare they believe they have a right to further not have to disclose that they are giving money to a candidate or representative as well as hiding how much they are giving. **THIS IS ANTI-AMERICAN** plain and simple. Money should NOT have a voice in politics the way it currently does. Again at the very least if you are to use money as your voice then stand behind it a show how much you give, to who, and for what causes.

Comments provided by :
barthold, chris

The general public needs to know each candidates monetary resources - who they are, why they have donated, how much they have donated, how long they have been donating, political affiliation and party affiliation of that donor. PERIOD. No hiding behind legal jargon, no corporate special rules. Just be completely clear, not just transparent, but clear.

Candidate: Jane Smith, Democrat

Donor, affiliation, corporation, how long, how much

John Doe, Republican, Big Corporation Name, 10 years, \$10 million/year,

Comments provided by :

Barthuly, Dean

The public should know which interests are spending money on elections and by how much. This information should be reasonably accessible, complete, and provide disclosure to identify significant contributors, as related to earmarking, affiliation, and joint contributions. Thank you.

Comments provided by :
Bartlett, Jason

We should have the right I know who is donating to out politicians, as their interest should be to represent the people who voted for them, not any other interests.

Comments provided by :
Bartz, Shannon

Unlimited, unidentified money supporting political candidates is corrosive to Democracy. As a citizen and voter I want to know who is funding candidates and to what amounts. Thank you.

Comments provided by :
Barzin, Leon

Any money used to influence the outcome, directly or indirectly, of any public election **MUST** be transparently identified with its source. Anything else else is simple corruption of the democratic process.

Comments provided by :
Bass, Vance

Hello,

My name is Eric Bauer and I am from the state of Iowa. As you all know, Iowa was at the center of a heated senate race this last election. Extremely large amounts of money came in from special interests NOT based from our state. This is a problem. These special interests think they know what's best for our state, when in reality, it's Iowans who know what's best. An article I had seen stated that the Koch brothers had given over \$20 MILLION to help Joni Ernst's campaign.

The disappointing thing is that their money worked. Their money bought them a senator. It's known there are ties between the Koch brothers and Ms. Ernst. I am worried because they had practically bought her a seat in the Senate, she will work on their behalf rather than the behalf of Iowans. Too often do we see this happening. A democracy depends on the people and their voices, not the voices of the few rich and powerful. corporations are NOT people. The Citizen's United ruling is one of the worst rulings made by the Supreme Court and needs to be reversed. Disclosing who gives how much to each member of Congress is just the beginning. This needs to happen.

Thank you,

Eric Bauer.

Comments provided by :
Bauer, eric

ALL campaign dollars need to be evenly distributed from or by the federal/state/county/city government. Money is NOT speech!

Election day needs to be a national holiday so all people have an opportunity to vote.

Voter ID laws need to be illegal.

People who vote should get an income tax deduction or cash at the poll.

ALL political money should have a trail that is public record.

Any and ALL money/gifts to any elected official need to be limited to \$50 per year and reported to the public.

Comments provided by :
beckemeyer, barry

To whom it may concern,

As an American citizen I want to know from whom and how much money is being provided to candidates for election campaigns in order for Americans to be informed and make valued decisions when we vote. This is a reasonable and fair request for public information and could possibly help to dispel the lack of trust and growing malaise that Americans are developing with the electoral system and the candidates who do run for elections.

Please consider changing/adopting rules and regulations that would assist in making an informed electorate and fair elections.

Thank you very much,

Robert Becker

Comments provided by :
Becker, Robert

The job of the government is to protect their people and provide basic services. Before this action is taken to POSSIBLY prevent infringements of safety (none the less violating a constitutional right); let us consider that constitutional-friendly projects with direct results that can be observed by anyone are being disregarded. What would seem more rational? Obviously a rhetorical question is created and strange enough, being answered incorrectly. Thus, this proposal clearly frustrates the American people and should be disposed of.

Comments provided by :

Belding, Jack

Full disclosure of who is funding what initiative or person is imperative to a thoughtful election.

Comments provided by :

Bell, Peter

Disclosure is the only ethical option.

Comments provided by :
Bernadzikowski, Anthony

Until we have campaign finance reform, citizens have a right to know who is contributing to political campaigns and how much.

Comments provided by :
Berrie, Chris

I really don't think the government should be available for sale to the highest bidder. But if you, the FEC feel it should be, at least allow us, the American voters to know to whom, and for how much it is being sold to industry and corporations for their ability to choose the direction of America.

Comments provided by :
Berry, R

Citizens united needs to be overturned, or an amendment to the constitution should be passed. It takes very little thought to see that a corporation is not a person. It is even more abhorrent that a corporation can enjoy all the rights of an individual, and cannot be held legally responsible as an individual. This occurs when ever a law is broken by a corporate enterprise. No corporation has ever been jailed for breaking laws of the state or federal government. Repeal the patriot act. This should have never been passed. It erodes our constitutional rights. Stop detaining any humans with out due process as stated by the constitution of America. Stop ordering drone attacks by executive order. No life should ever be taken with out a full debate by our elected representatives.

Comments provided by :
Best, Donald

Transparency in election contribution is vital to understanding the candidates' support base and the influence it will have on his/her future votes. I wish to know that my choice is a good one and will vote as I would were I in office. The candidate must represent the living breathing people of his or her district or we the voters have effectively lost our voice in government. Special interest group influence must be brought to light to ensure our voices can be heard over theirs.

Comments provided by :
Best, Susan

For any annual contribution amount of \$5,000 or more, contributors should be publicly identified. The identification should include employer, political affiliation if any, with political action committees, trade groups, or other special interest group. All funds contributed through PACs should include name and address of the PAC's members and contributors, as well as their employees names and addresses, whether paid or volunteer.

Comments provided by :

Biram, Dan

This seems like an obvious choice. Transparency is incredibly important for a successful democracy, and with economic gains going only to the very top, it's important to know who's controlling lawmakers through lobbying and campaign donations. Citizens United has created a dangerous situation which has led to unprecedented money in politics. People should vote based on issues, not how much advertising they see. A more informed citizenry is the key to making our government work, and we're headed in the wrong direction fast.

Comments provided by :
Bishop, C

The public is no longer an informed group making informed decisions. Instead, we are lied to and manipulated by special interests who pour large sums of money into campaigns to help their cause, their agenda. I absolutely believe we have the right to know who is trying to buy our elections. There is only one reason to keep the public uninformed: knowledge is power. The people who have the power, the super rich or 1%, don't want to let go of that power. Do not deny us knowledge! If you deny us knowledge, you deny us power and power should be held by the public, not by the few super rich. Please, do what our Founding Fathers would do and give us the knowledge we so desperately want, the power we so desperately need to make this country great again!

Comments provided by :
Black, Curtis

At this point, most Americans, including myself, believe that the Congress is bought and paid for. Their decisions do not appear to be made with the interests of the electorate as a priority. While we all understand that it takes money to get a candidates ideas and opinions across so that we can make an edcated decision - campaign advertising has hit an all time low - mudslinging, sarcasm and insults make up just about all of the messages with which we are bombarded and any relevant information is drowned out. Obviously candidates can no longer gain public office based on their own expertise because they are overshadowed by huge multi-million dollar campain contributors who appear anonymously for their own ends. We want to know who is making the contributions and how much are they putting in the coffers. Until these individuals and Corporations can no longer insult, libel and publish duplicitous lies all behind a veil of anonimity, the American public will continue to doubt, disbelieve and fail to harbor any level of respect for the intentions of candidates elected to public office. It is painfully obvious that a successful candidate has little to do with their capabilities or even their own desire to do the job... it all depends on which campaign spent the most money and where that money came from ...something that continues to be a big secret, kept that way by Congress and local government that doesn't want us to know.

Comments provided by :
Blackwell, Patricia

The congress is being run by corporations. This INjustice system needs to end now. The citizens have a right to know. Please make available campaign supporters.

Comments provided by :
Blosser, Ashley

If you believe in a transparent and open government and the Supreme Court says unlimited financing of campaigns is legal then why are we not being open about who contributes what. What we've created is a way for the 1% to buy government with no accountability. Shouldn't the public know who is actually running the government?

Comments provided by :
Boehme, Thomas

Voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes!

Comments provided by :
Boekelman, Cindy

None

Comments provided by :
Bonneau-White, Pat

We need full disclosure and a more transparent process in order to maintain a representative democracy.

Comments provided by :
Bordelon, Janet

Our democratic process is buried in waves of money, and is squarely in the hands of corporations, special interests and the wealthy. If you can't reverse this terrible trend, at least let us see how much they're spending and on who!

Comments provided by :
bouren, Cache

I would like as much information as possible about candidates before I vote. Any and all information related to how a candidate may be influenced to vote and govern in a particular manner or situation should be publicly available.

Comments provided by :
bovaird, david

Disclosure - all political contributions should be publicly disclosed, in a timely fashion. Anonymous (dark) contributions prevent citizens from understanding and evaluating political speech. Corporate limitations, along with contributions from citizens to any single candidate should be capped at some appropriate level, a level chosen so as to not distort the "speech" of those who can afford to donate more at the cost of those who cannot donate much, or cannot donate anything. Inequality in economic status should not be allowed to create inequality in representation. Citizens United was a horrid mistake, as the past election has shown - and which was predicted by many (though not by the SCOTUS).

Comments provided by :
Bozak, David

I believe all but very small amounts of campaign contributions should be disclosed. I'm especially concerned with mystery groups mentioned in TV ads and mailings, and social welfare groups that actually engage in political activities. All citizens need to know who's behind an ad in order to make educated choices!

Comments provided by :
Brady, Ellen

We need to remove public funding of candidates.

Comments provided by :
Bramble, Chad

With the ever-increasing amount of money being spent to influence voters, there should be more transparency to allow the voting public to make a more informed decision by seeing potential conflicts of interest candidates might have based on their campaign funding.

Comments provided by :
Braun, Jonathan

EVERY political contribution for the purposes of elections, lobbying and backing a particular social issue should be 100% transparent. The names of contributors and their interests should be clear* and easy to find. (*not obscured by vague names such as the Committee for a Better America)

Comments provided by :
Braune, Judy

We need action on this issue. I don't see a downside. I vote.

Comments provided by :
Brazell, Melinda

All amounts and their contributors should be publicly identified. The information should include employer or other affiliation that is important, such as political action committee. All funds contributed through PACs should include name and address of the PAC's members and contributors, as well as their employees names and addresses, whether paid or volunteer.

Comments provided by :
Broekman, Marinus

The First Amendment of The Constitution EXPLICITLY Protects Free Speech- That Includes ALL Speech & Opinion of every kind. Any Attempt to limit political speech on the internet is a Blatant Breach of The Constitution & First amendment rights of every American. The fact the FEC is even attempting this is just another example of an overreaching ever expanding government that restricts liberty instead of maintaining it. As an American I find it disturbing that we have government agencies that completely go against The Constitution, bypass Congress and pass their own laws

Comments provided by :
Brooks, Joe

I am tired of elections being bought by the super rich. I want more transparency in politics and want to know which politicians cater to the highest bidder.

Comments provided by :
Brown, Ashley

Full disclosure on political donations over \$100!
Regulations on "religious" and "social" group donations!

Comments provided by :
Brown, Randall

I am convinced that allowing unlimited contributions to fund elections of individuals and causes adversely affects my ability as a legal citizen of the United States of America to receive effective representation in the government of our nation. I believe that to make the elections most representative that they should be funded solely by public funds.

I believe that the Supreme Court decisions which allow unlimited contributions by individuals and corporations to elections which allow the contributor's name or organization to be hidden are inappropriate and should be reversed via legislation. If election funding is to remain private, the public has the right to know exactly who is providing significant funding amounts. The action of taking deliberate efforts to obscure this information tends to call into question the true motivation of the individual or organization that is providing the funds.

Campaign finance reform will go a long ways to restore proper function of our government.

Comments provided by :
Buchholz, Steven

Voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes.

Comments provided by :
Burch, David

ALL campaign finance monies **MUST** be totally and completely transparent. The open buying and selling of representation in government needs to be ended **NOW**.

Comments provided by :
Burr Jr, Ronald

All monies raised/donated by PACs, Lobbyists, or wealthy individuals for an election campaign (local or national) should be disclosed. Better yet, these types of contributions should not be allowed. Most of our elected representatives only represent whoever bought them. It's time to tighten up the rules and level the playing field. We need to change the way our elections are funded. If there is any hope for the poor and middle class in this country, we must pass a constitutional amendment to strike down Citizens United. Those so opposed to "big government" have no problems being governed by big business and corporations.

Comments provided by :
Busko, Suzie

All monies applied to political campaigns, as well as their sources, should be public information.

Comments provided by :

Butler, Gregory

The people of the United States should know where the money comes from that is used to get their representatives elected. More and more it's who has the most money that determines who wins an election. Anything to stop this trend is a step in the right direction.

Comments provided by :
Butry, Paul

Voters should absolutely know who is responsible for backing which candidates and definitely how much they have spent to do so.

Comments provided by :
Cabre, Jaime

We need to have direct access to not only the corporations, but the individuals who are spending money in support of candidates, elections and policy.

Money should not be an influencing factor in public policy and elected officials should be held to the highest standard of transparency, declaring any possible conflict of interest.

People who violate these standards should be prohibited from holding office.

Comments provided by :
Cadwell, Jeffrey

We need full disclosure of election contributions. Too much money trying to buy our representatives. We can't allow our democracy to be bought!

Comments provided by :
Cahill, Diane

I think campaigns should be publicly funded and only a limited number of no-cost ads (tv, radio, etc.) should be allowed. No ads for any political campaign should be paid ads.

Any and all contributions to political campaigns need to be disclosed both by the donor and donee.

K Street should be shut down. Lobbyists have too much power.

No Senator or House Rep. should be allowed to accept jobs working for lobbyists upon leaving their political office.

Get money out of politics.

Citizens United needs to be repealed. It has ruined our country.

Comments provided by :
Callowy, Clara

I would like it to be recorded that I support stricter rules which make the public disclosure of campaign contributions mandatory, and in fact I support federally funded campaigns rather than privately funded as they are now. Please help protect the democratic process of electing our members of congress from the moneyed interests that dominate the political scene today. Thank you.

Comments provided by :
Camarena, Issac

Our republic is under siege by the emerging economic oligarchy. The cost of running for public office has skyrocketed in no small measure as a result of Citizens United. We need to take steps to address the imbalance. The fact that presidential candidacies are now possible due to funding of only one or a handful of rich donors is troubling, that nearly a billion dollars was spent in the last congressional election puts a lie to the old adage that we have the best government money can buy. Its time for this agency to due its job and protect the public interest by insuring, since we cannot limit, that donations be publicly declared, that we the people can easily tabulate the influences each of the fat cats has on our political process.

Comments provided by :
Camfield, Joseph

Hello,

My vote has been going downhill ever since the Supreme Court said that donors to political campaigns don't have to be revealed. I want to be an informed voter, but if I don't know who is giving me the information, how can I vote intelligently. Please do what you can to change this so our elections will see the light of day and our government will continue to be of the people.

many thanks, Charles Canfield
2016 Sweetwater Trail
Cool, CA 95614

Comments provided by :
Canfield, Charles

I believe the only way for us to have elected officials that truly represent the people is to implement the following reforms:

1. All corporate donations to political campaigns should be outlawed.
2. All PACs should be eliminated.
3. Political campaign donations should only be allowed from individuals at current maximum amounts.

This will be a good start to re-instilling a belief by voters that our elected officials aren't corrupt and are in office to serve the public.

Comments provided by :
Carey, Joseph

All interest group donations should be public for everyone to see, as this isn't private information, and should not be concealed from the public.

Comments provided by :
carlson, andrew

As a citizen and voter, I feel I have the right to know whose political "speech" I am being subjected to when bombarded with constant, sometimes patently false, electioneering propaganda via the US Mail, television, radio, print publications, or the internet. Allowing donors to remain anonymous, hiding behind "educational non-profit" organizations, obviates any possibility of considering the source of any claims made in these communications when evaluating the plausibility of their message.

I feel that any person or organization participating in something as important as the election process should do so openly, revealing ALL their funding sources. Organizations which hide the identity of their donors should not be allowed to participate, nor to donate to any of the participants.

Comments provided by :

Carrick, Robert

Voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes! I am asking for full public disclosure!!!

Comments provided by :
Carrillo, Stevie-marie

I am for full disclosure of campaign funds

Comments provided by :
Carroll, James

I strongly believe that voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes.

Comments provided by :
Carson, Maureen

As a retired county elections director (thirty years), I watched as voters became less and less interested in casting their vote and more and more convinced that their vote did not matter anyway because whichever candidate spent the most money was going to win anyhow. I do not know the answer to voter apathy but I do know it is NOT to allow unlimited contributions to come in from millionaires and large corporations. It is my belief that turnout would be better and government would be more honest if our leaders were truly elected By The People.

Comments provided by :
Carter, Lucille

It is my right to know the specifics of who is funding campaigns, their interests, and all other information

Comments provided by :
Carvelas, Peter

It is important for there to be transparency in our election process. Part of that transparency is to know where the candidate or the backers of an initiative are getting funding. Hiding the source of campaign money strongly suggests there is dishonesty on both funding providers and the recipients.

Hiding funding sources has been a consistent problem with our elections process and was at its worst during the Tammany Hall period at the turn of the 20th century. Gains have been made to make the elections more open and transparent but it is time to declare where campaign money comes from and what the donors purposes are, for making the donation.

I am not an attorney but I do understand that non-disclosure of campaign information and funding is a real threat to our democracy and the Republic.

Big business, corporations and American citizens have the right to donate to their causes, however when comes to our elections, they have to disclose their contributions. It is time to insist on transparency in our election process. It is time for the citizens to have access to this information so they can make solid and informed choices for our country's future.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my point of view.

Comments provided by :
Case, Rosanne

Disclosure of this information is vital to the continuation of our democracy and to ensure for future generations that we don't fall into an oligarchy. The more disclosure, the better. Otherwise, candidates are forced to respond to attack ads that are funded by supports and groups affiliated with their opponents, but the opponent can claim lack of knowledge, which is likely fraud or less than true. It would help everyone to have full disclosure of information and more transparency. Both and all parties, all candidates.

Comments provided by :
Cefalu, Amanda

Dear Commissioners,

To know the source of campaign contributions is vital to the interests of the electorate. An informed citizen is a better citizen; better citizenship prompts more voter participation--something, I'm sure you'd agree--the FEC wants to encourage.

I strongly urge you to adopt this measure.

Sincerely,

Gregory Cerio

Comments provided by :
Cerio, Gregory

Regarding public disclosure of campaign money:

All voters (citizens) should know (and it should be a fundamental right) which interests are spending how much money to influence the way (which candidates) we vote for in elections.

Comments provided by :

Childress, Janet

All details about a funder should be available. Individuals should be disclosed as members of a group or PAC that is funding and it should be easy for the general public to see how much in total an individual has given in an election year.

Comments provided by :
Chin, Jennifer

Re: Campaign Disclosure Rules

I would like to see a requirement that political ads show the source and amount of campaign contributions. We need to know just how much Corporations are paying towards "owning" our Senators and Congresspersons.

Comments provided by :

Cizmich, Peter

The Supreme Court's Citizens United decision is a travesty. We should all have the right to know who is financing any candidate for office. Who knows if foreign interests, the Mafia, the KKK, or other disreputable organizations are interfering in elections of our government officials? Keeping that information secret keeps me from making an informed choice about who I want representing me in government office.

Comments provided by :
Clark, Richard

We need to know where campaign money is coming from!

Comments provided by :
Clinch, Jon

All campaign contributions above \$1000 should be public knowledge.

Comments provided by :
Colbert, David

Yes! Please change the rules to REQUIRE disclosure of who is donating money to political causes!

Comments provided by :
Collier, Kellie

Since the Supreme Court's decision regarding Citizen's United, unbelievable amounts of money have been contributed by corporations and individual donors under the veil of secrecy. We, as American citizens and donors ourselves, do not know who is donating to candidates. Well over 80% of Americans polled want to end secret money donations. We have a right to know who and how much donations are. This information should include name and address of the PAC's members and contributors, as well as their employees names and addresses, whether paid or volunteer. As a donor, I have had to disclose this information when I donated to a political candidate.

It is under this policy and manipulation the IRS classification of Social Welfare Groups that allows this, and make no mistake, it is the buying of elections. Just this election cycle, reports claim billions of dollars were spent.

Fixing Gerrymandering laws, needs to be included in any ruling by the FEC on our elections. Especially since the recent court ruling.

I also need to comment on the fact that while donators of this money is hidden, but for me to make a comment on it, I have to disclose personal information.

Comments provided by :
Collins, Ann

Of course the public should decide. We must have a say, otherwise it no longer serves the public good, but the economic elite. A democracy must have a free flow of ideas, not constrained by squeezing bandwidth. That gives one group a louder, more powerful voice, and puts a price on the free press, making it no longer free. If we are not free to decide, then we are no longer a democracy, and one step closer to revolution.

We must be an informed public. That means knowing where funding comes from.

Comments provided by :
Conegliano, Gianmarco

We must know where funding is coming from so we know who is trying to influence elections. Secret funding is corrosive to democracy.

Comments provided by :
Conegliano, Gianmarco

I believe that any money that may influence in any way, an election by the people of the United States should be in the full light of day, how much, who gave, and all affiliations the donor or "person/corporation" has with any politician or anyone associated with anything on the ballot. Failure to do so is tantamount to fraud and corruption.

Comments provided by :
conway, John

Political advertisements have no benefit for our Republic, serving only to dilute democracy, and mislead citizens. Political advertisements should be completely nullified from our airwaves and television screens.

Let the country vote using what they know of the candidates. The candidates stump and speak in public, debate in public, on public airwaves (Channel 10 and 36, here in Milwaukee, Wisconsin).

No more PACs, no more "Paid for by Citizens for a Better Whatever", no more systems set in place to prop up a certain number of political parties.

Money is not speech. Money in politics is corruption.

Comments provided by :
Cook, David

Please do whatever is possible to insure COMPLETE transparency in our political process. Specific measures must include FULL disclosure of ALL contributions to ANY organization engaged in ANY type of political advocacy!

Comments provided by :
Cosby, William

Let the people know who are buying our politicians. They spend crazy amounts on these campaigns so they can buy favor from them, why shouldn't the public know who is doing it?

Comments provided by :
Cottrell, Jeffrey

I strongly believe lobbyists and their organizations should not be allowed to fund election campaigns or commercials of any kind.

Strong campaign finance legislation was put into place as a result of Watergate but has been watered down to the point of being non-existent now. It is simply unforgivable for the United States to have such embarrassing elections, procedures and funding.

Comments provided by :
Cowling, Rebecca

I support any measure that would add transparency to the money that is spent on campaigns.

Comments provided by :

Cox, Steve

As an American citizen I deserve to know who is buying our elections. And we need to know if any of those buying our elections are in fact not American Citizens.

Comments provided by :
Cozatt, Elizabeth

All monies spent on political campaigns should be limited. Each candidate should only receive and spend a set amount of money and no more. I think each state and the federal government should have a fund that gives each political candidate a set amount of money and have regulations on how that money can be spent. There should be no dirty advertising and only constructive goals the candidate would work toward if elected.

The amount of money wasted on campaigns is obscene. If someone wants to make a donation, it should be toward improving the United States, like helping others get out of poverty or provide a better education for all children.

Also, we should ban lobbying money or favors that is given to a candidate or political office holder.

Comments provided by :
Crale, Debbi

Companies are NOT voters. Please see that we stop the influence peddling that is crippling our democratic process.

Comments provided by :
Cunningham, Susan

McCutcheon poses a critical threat to the functioning of our democracy. If we are to continue as a republic governed through citizen representation, transparency and reasonable regulation of campaign finance play a crucial role. Representatives should be beholden to their constituents, not their campaign contributors. To say that campaign contributions ought to be considered protected free speech is to effectively create a minority class of elites with unchecked political power. There are no second class citizens in the United States. Our elections should be free, transparent, and publicly funded. We deserve to elect candidates based on the merit of their platforms, not the size of their campaign funds.

Comments provided by :
Curl, Ian

There is something nakedly Orwellian in our current political discourse, where proposals designed to limit consumer choice and benefit corporations are presented as "freeing" for the consumer. Because of the rampant doublespeak, it is more important than ever to have the transparency afforded by disclosure. Citizens must be able to determine who is pulling the strings and paying the bills.

Comments provided by :
D'Angelo, Ann

I WANT TO know how much money people like the Koch Brothers donate and to whom, as well as the political beneficiaries of their largesse. I want to KNOW whose money is working behind the scenes with superPACs to gut the EPA, deprive poor and working poor of the necessities of life, and how much groups like the oil and gas companies are spending to stifle alternative fuels, defile our great last wild places, and deny their OWN employees fair wages and decent benefits. I also support repeal any law that allows corporations and their 1% big shots to donate as much money as they want, in their quest to buy government away from the rest of us!

We at least deserve to know WHO these people are, so that we can at BOYCOTT them, and thus deprive them of the dollars they spend to be able to be more greedy, rapacious, amoral and all-consuming leeches than they already are!

And while you're at it, MORE prosecution of the banks an Wall Street ilk that sank the economy and killed our jobs!! No more taxpayer bailouts for ANY corporations, and put these guys in prison!!!

Comments provided by :
Daniels, Chris

The Internet should be largely regulation free... Especially when it comes to political speech.

Comments provided by :

Dantzer , Anthony

Until money ceases influencing politics, the public absolutely has the need and the right to know who is doing the influencing.

Comments provided by :
D'Asaro, Dennis

The public should know who is funding all political adds and the public should know the source of all political spending. The public should know where every penny comes from whether it is donated to a pac or is individually spent. Full sunshine.

Comments provided by :
Davidson, Michael

When it comes to elections in the United States of America, I believe that ALL contribution amounts along with ALL contributors' identities should be published in a form that is readily and easily available to any citizen of the U.S. When this information is hidden, you know that somebody is being unethical. If we want to have pride in our representatives, then we need to know which representatives are worthy of it.

Comments provided by :
Davis, Marie

All spending should be publicly disclosed

Comments provided by :
Diawaku , Kanietra

I am tired of nameless people and corporations getting quid pro quo for their campaign donations. We need to stop the anonymous money conveyor-belt into politicians pockets.

Please make sure that any donation above \$100 must be attributed to a person or company.

Comments provided by :
Dibble, B.

It is very important that we know who is spending money to influence our votes. Please approve this measure.

Comments provided by :

Doolittle, Robert

Please PLEASE allow citizens of this country the knowledge of who/what entity is making campaign contributions AND how much they are spending to buy off the politicians!

Comments provided by :
Drake, Vickie

Earmarking

I strongly support the Commission revisiting the manner in which it enforces earmarking regulations to encompass "implicit agreements". While contribution limits have been removed by the McCutcheon case, it is imperative for transparency for all contributions, especially those made by corporations, PACs, and large donor individuals, to be traceable back to the originating source. Corporations and individuals should not be able to hide behind one or many layers of obfuscation in getting money to select candidates.

Affiliation

I am not familiar with the details of current regulations on affiliation, but I am skeptical that they are adequate to prevent circumvention of the base limits. I encourage the Commission to revisit these regulations and make any changes necessary to 1) improve transparency of how money flows from corporations and individuals through intermediary organizations such as PACs & not-for-profits and to candidates, and 2) reduces the complexity from what is essentially political money laundering.

Disclosure

I fully support any action or regulatory change which increases transparency and full disclosure of political spending. I also support regulatory changes that would close the 501(c)(4) dark money loophole. One such regulation would be a disclosure trigger that would compel any organization to disclose donor information if it made contributions to organizations which are already required to disclose.

For example; The SuperPAC "VoteForGil" must disclose its donors. Tycoon Ty has met with Gil and knows that Gil will vote in Ty's best interest, and so wants to help get him elected. Ty doesn't want to make a large donation directly to Gil or to VoteForGil because Ty likes to avoid the appearance of corruption. Instead, Ty creates a 501(c)(4) called "TycoonWelfare" and donates tens of millions of dollars, which, in turn, makes large donations to VoteForGil. I would encourage regulation that, when TycoonWelfare donates to VoteForGil, they are now required to disclose their donors as well. The disclosure trigger should cascade up the chain to any and all other organizations that have donated to TycoonWelfare.

In the wake of Supreme Court decisions like Citizens United and McCutcheon, campaign spending by a few wealthy individuals and by corporations has skyrocketed, often through "Dark Money" organizations that hide the identity of who is truly influencing our elections. Until such cases can be reversed by a more sensible Supreme Court, regulations by the FEC that force full and complete disclosure of campaign contributions is the best way to expose the corrupting influence of special interest money.

Comments provided by :

Dugal, Daniel

All campaign spending needs to be public and capped per candidate per election. If a commercial is paid for by an outside group then it needs to be charged to a campaign. For instance, if an organization creates an ad that does not support a particular candidate, but attacks another, the opponents should have that ad tallied into their budget and it should be counted toward the capped amount. I don't think the FEC can make this change, but I would also prefer that all elections be public ally funded and limited to a max number of candidates so that anyone can truly run for office. It would force politicians to turn their paperwork in as soon as possible and limit their spending and prevent them from being beholden to outside interests (I.e. their potential constituencies have the only deciding vote).

Comments provided by :
Duvic, Stacey

I am in favor of requiring all politicians to have public disclosure of their campaign money so we the people can know who it is that is paying what amount to whom. We need full disclosure and complete transparencies at all levels of governance.

Comments provided by :
Eastman, Timothy

Dear Ms. Ravel, I do not support in any way your attempt to regulate free speech on the internet. Any political commentary that I choose to post is none of your business or that of the over reaching federal government.

Comments provided by :
EBLIN, KENNETH

We need to know where the money that our politicians are receiving. We need to tax the rich, maybe even 10% flat tax. Everyone has a right to have affordable health insurance.

Comments provided by :
Edwards, Cindy

Bribery of any kind should play no part whatsoever in any stage of the electoral process.

Comments provided by :
Edwards, Thomas

I feel that it is extremely important that election campaigns publicly disclose their money is coming from.

Comments provided by :
Elletson, Matt

If we can't get money out of elections... please let us know who is donating, to which Pac, committee, etc. How much, how often, and who is donating to each candidate.

Please fix our system before we are the joke of the world.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Nola Elson 9419 ne 180th St., Bothell, WA 98011

425-483-7379

NolaElson@yahoo.com

Comments provided by :

Elson, Nola

Money should not be a factor in our election of government officials. I believe that money, especially unlimited, dark, unaccountable money, is toxic to our republic. I believe we need public financing of elections, so the best candidates can compete based on the issues and their strengths instead of their ability to spend all their time fundraising.

Please make a big change for more accountability, more access, better representation and good government by reducing or eliminating the role of money in the election of government officials.

Comments provided by :
Emde, Brion

Our elections are being bought and paid for. It's time to hold the corporate oligarchs accountable. It's also time to hold politicians responsible for how much they take and from whom.

Comments provided by :
Engle , Eric

As an American voter I want ALL campaign contributions to be public information. I want to know how much was donated, by whom, and to whom. If corporations or special interest groups make donations, ALL information should be disclosed. I would prefer that campaigns be limited to a small amount of money for the entire campaign as has been done in other countries.

It is time to end Citizens United and to produce ACTUAL results in the area of campaign finance reform. BOTH Democrats and Republicans in the Senate have tried to advance this issue in the past. Legislators need to respond to the American public's obvious disgust with the lack of work being accomplished in Washington by developing and adhering to a new set of standards regarding political campaigns. GET BIG MONEY OUT OF AMERICAN POLITICS.

Comments provided by :
Ernst, Viola

Campaign money should be 100% transparent to the public, we should know who is backing who and why.

Big company needs to back out of our Democrazy. (<I know)

Comments provided by :
Escobar, Ben

I believe that every American who votes or is trying to make a decision on who deserves their vote, should have access to where all campaign monies are coming from. Our democracy is not for sale to unknown buyers.

Thank you very much,

Comments provided by :
Esterquest, Peter

Citizens United should be reversed! Until then, to protect the integrity of our political system and elections, full disclosure of all funding sources and amounts spent in all public elections should be made easily available to the public. In addition, a web address or link to this information (which includes all funding sources/sponsors with amounts spent) should be required to be printed/listed/stated with all election campaign materials and messages.

Voters have a right to know who or what organization is behind a message, and how much is being spent to sway their votes.

Comments provided by :
Evans, Barb

Please consider forming new rules that would require the disclosure to the public of who and which entities are spending money (and how much) to finance candidates for election to public office. The public has a right to know which entities are, essentially, buying our elected officials. It is the government's responsibility to provide for fair and open elections, and the FEC's establishing rules to require these financial disclosures would go a long way toward bringing that about.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Evans
Columbus, Ohio

Comments provided by :
Evans, Karen

Voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes.

I'd go so far as saying NO CORPORATE contributions allowed. PERIOD.

Our democratic process has been destroyed by corporate interests.

The electorate no longer has our 'the citizen' priorities at the top of the list.

I'm a 100 percent disabled vet and I'm disgusted with both main parties. In fact I can't find a good candidate to vote for, they're all tea party morons or believe in aliens. Can't we find one good candidate (I don't care what party) that has both feet on the ground and wants to represent the voter, not big corporations.

//signed//

Dylan J. Fahey

Comments provided by :

Fahey, Dylan

Democracy requires transparency. We have a right to know who is providing financial backing to our political representatives. Please make this happen.

Thank you

Comments provided by :

Falletti, john

The identity of all campaign contributors should be public knowledge. This is especially so with donations with roots in foreign individuals, corporations or governments.

Comments provided by :
Fallon, larry

I am 100% against hiding the origination of campaign monies. If you want us to vote publicly then don't hide facts with regards to what we are voting on. Earmarking, affiliations, fundraising, etc. is highly important to sensible voters today, at least to me it is. That is like buying a vehicle without testing it out - you don't know if the fit will be what you're looking for.

Comments provided by :
Falls, Kimberly

There should be complete transparency as far as the disclosure of donated funds. No more hidden money, end runs around the rules, etc. If money is donated, it has to be identified by the original donor, by name and/or company, not some nebulous organization that launders contributions for the super wealthy to buy elections. If they want to donate, they must identify themselves to the public, period.

Comments provided by :
Fanale, Nancy

As a voter I should know which interests are spending how much to win over my vote.

Comments provided by :
Faulkner, Kinga

Dont change the internet! Free internet!

Comments provided by :
Faxon, Winston

Transparency is the only answer since money can make a point of view heard by far more than 1 voice 1 vote.

Comments provided by :

Fetterly, Jeff

All money for election needs to be transparent.

Comments provided by :
Field, John

Transparency of ALL contributions made to ALL political candidates is essential to fixing what is very broken in our government. Special interest groups, and those that lobby on their behalf, have managed to buy OUR representatives and control them to the point that they do not represent those that elected them ("We the People...") anymore. In fact we would do very well to remove all private money from politics. By making a public fund for all candidates to use, that limits what is spent, and requires complete accountability for the accuracy/honesty of political ads.

Comments provided by :

Fields, Douglas

One of the horrors of recent American history is the completely wrongheaded decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States in *FEC v. Citizens United* and *FEC v. McCutcheon*.

In both cases, money was allowed as free speech which is clearly not the case - money is a medium of exchange. What the wealthy PACs are doing is purchasing our government without our knowledge or assent.

If the super PACs are so proud of what they do, they should have to disclose their income, and their donors as well as amounts given.

To have fair elections we all need to know who bought what politician.

Regards,

Bob Fine

Comments provided by :
Fine, Robert

I support the public disclosure of the source of campaign funds. I want to know who or what entity is spending money on elections; including local, state and federal elections.

Comments provided by :
Fiore-Alfano, Denise

There needs to be complete disclosure of who is funding political ads and specifically whose interests they represent. Dark money, whether it be through dummy corporations or other means to disguise the real backers is totally unacceptable.

Comments provided by :
Fleming, James

I absolutely think that there should be public disclosure of candidate contributions. Corporations and wealthy citizens are able to spend millions of dollars on politicians (or should I say law making puppets) making sure that their interests are heard. The fact that these contributions aren't already publicly disclosed shows how corrupt our "democracy" really is. I and every other citizen in this country should have the right to know who's money is putting my executive and legislative officials into office. By knowing which committees, corporations, organizations and individuals are investing in certain candidates I can then vote for the candidate whose investors best align with my beliefs, making my interests heard as well.

Comments provided by :
Flowers, Kyle

I am quite distressed at the operations behind the scenes by the mega wealthy that robs the common citizen of an equal voice. I am in favor of the maximum amount of "Sunlight" or transparency regarding electoral campaigns, at all levels.

Comments provided by :
Foley, Paul

Yes, I want to know who is spending money on elections and how much.

Comments provided by :
Fortenberry, Mende

Donations to state campaigns should be from in state only. No money from outside of the state.

National campaign contributions should be identifiable and limited.

Lobbying as we know it should be banned.

Former Senators and members of Congress should be banned from lobbying or working for companies that benefited from their votes while in office.

Special interest groups should be limited to the amount donating to any campaign.

Campaign spending should have a cap.

Campaign signs should be limited to the week before an election. No one votes according to signs anyway.

Comments provided by :

Fortin, Joyce

The American people are told time and again that America is the greatest democracy in the world. But when our elected officials pay more attention to the rich few - or the corporate few - than to the poorer majority who's votes supplied them with a position in government, we can't call ourselves a democracy. We can't even call ourselves a republic.

Moneyed special interests have turned our government into an oligarchy and our elected officials into toadies kowtowing to the highest bidder.

While campaign finance reform is a tricky minefield to play in, one of the easiest ways to show the American public that our elected officials are truly serving our interests is through transparency.

I strongly urge this commission to bring greater transparency to the election process. The more things are hidden, the more the American public will think there's a reason it's hiding.

Thank you,

__-Michael Drace Fountain-__

Comments provided by :
Fountain, Michael

I believe that any funding of election campaigns should require that the source of funding be publicly divulged. To not do so is to circumvent the ability for voters to make informed decisions about candidates, or bills, up for vote.

Comments provided by :
France, Benjamin

Putting it quite simply, the public has a right to know who is supporting and influencing the people making decisions that affect us.

Comments provided by :
Fransen, Gail

If money is the same as free speech, then the disclosure of that money's source will shed light on the political motivation by the people contributing this money. Transparency is always better.

Comments provided by :
Frasco, Michael

Campaign financing is absolutely out of control. Corporations and PAC's should NOT be allowed to funnel millions of undisclosed amounts into any candidate's coffers without full disclosure. Nobody should be getting to buy an election!

Comments provided by :
Fredericksen, Mark

I think ALL money contributions to political campaigns should be transparent

Comments provided by :
Freise, Connie

Part of the effort to keep corruption to a minimum, if not eradicate it completely, is to have transparency in government, and this includes who is funding candidates to positions of power. This seems like common sense stuff. I understand our process of government involves citizen participation with petitions, voting and protests, but the FEC as an agency should be pushing for this on principle. This is what you are made to do. I am happy to add my voice to the collective roar about this egregious problem if it means the FEC will have more power to enforce justice in elections.

Comments provided by :
Freitas Harper, Kimberley

It is critical, in a democracy, for the electorate to be informed of the issues. Being informed means understanding all aspects of the issues and the people being promoted in an election. Clearly, those with more resources to spend are free to spend those resources and their freedom of speech should be protect. However, those hearing the speech should be made aware of the source of that speech, ie the money that paid for it. Where did it come from? Then the voter can ask the next questions: how do this contributor's interests compare with mine? How do they compare with what is in the best interests of the country?

In the last two elections, the amount of advertising on radio and TV was historic. Most people don't realize that a handful of enormously rich people paid for most of it. Most voters don't realize that those people do not agree with them on some very fundamental things that would affect the way they vote.

Transparency of campaign finance will fundamentally protect the nation from becoming a corporate oligarchy.

Comments provided by :
Frizzell, Sharon

The single most destructive force in American politics is the allowance of unlimited private individual, lobby, and corporate funding of political campaigns. Disclosure is not enough, it must be abolished.

It has become legal through this practice to buy politicians and buy elections, and to create an atmosphere wherein elected representatives of "the people" has been subverted to bribery of representatives to serve only "business interests".

This has turned many elected representatives away from taking action that is good for all individuals residing in the area they were elected to represent, to taking action that is harmful or deadly to constituents and only supportive of harmful, even unlawful, action by corporate or industry entities in the pursuit of more income and damn the collateral damage.

This is completely un-American, and can not be righted without the abolition of all unlimited contributions by individuals, corporations and lobbying groups, and a severe limit on such contributions, or perhaps only limited public funding of election campaigns allowed.

We can no longer trust elected officials on any level, and as a corollary, also those they appoint, to serve in the public interest - the collection of all individuals who live in the designated area.

Those who have set these allowances in place are responsible for the destruction of America and the denigration of its reputation as a world leader in any field.

Those who take the action to reverse this will be hailed as the heroes and saviors of America and the American people.

Comments provided by :
Fuerstenau, David

Require full disclosure on election campaign contributions exceeding \$5000.

Election funding is out of control!!! If people want to "exercise their right under the 1st Admendment" by flooding the system with dollars, then at least they should be required to publicly represent those dollars. Why should anyone want to hide the fact that they are exercising their rights as an American?

Comments provided by :

Gage, Chris

Any video/audio/written content that is political in nature and published on the internet should not be regulated/constrained or monitored in any way by the government. Period.

Comments provided by :
Gallagher, Robert

I support COMPLETE DISCLOSURE across the board!!!

Comments provided by :
Gardner, Paula

I would like to see disclosure of campaign funds from all interests to the public so we the people know where and how the money is used. Votes should never be bought in this nation! I would like to see the Electoral College abolished in favor of Majority rule. I would like all candidates to be required to debate on television with no ads being run, no commercial, no signs etc. I would like all voting to be mail in ballot. I am really sick of all the discrepancies in our voting system and even more sick of people having to be rich to run for office! Let the votes be determined by the debates, by the people! No more expensive spending on campaigns!

Comments provided by :
Garza Villarreal, Jan C

It is our right in a democracy to have fair and open elections. Those who try to influence our decisions must be known so that we can assess their biases for or against an issue or candidate. As a teacher of writing, I constantly reminded my students they must know their sources to be able to determine the validity and reliability of their statements. We should demand no less a criteria when shadowy, unknown sources are attempting to control our government. Every advertiser, PAC group, contributor, etc. must be transparent and identifiable if our democracy is to survive. Unlimited spending by those with extreme wealth, especially if they are not identified, denies full voice to those who do not have the means to influence actions in our legislative, judicial, and executive branches. Open the doors and windows and reveal all sources of information, spending, and lobbying. It is critical to our rights and freedom.

Comments provided by :
Gase, Alison

I would like to see which interests are spending money to purchase the politician that should be representing my interests.

Comments provided by :
gates, Herbert

I think all campaign contributions should be a matter of public record, and PACs should be required to list all donors where the public can see them. Advertisements should identify the organization that buys them, and a website to see who the donors are, with the largest donations displayed first.

Comments provided by :
Geoffroy, Marianne

The American people have a right to know who and what corporations are donating to any representative. Without this knowledge, we, the American people, cannot hold representatives accountable for their votes.

Comments provided by :
George, Michelle

I believe there should be complete transparency and disclosure of agendas for corporate entities, PACs and individual large amount donors to any and all political campaigns. Voters have the right to know what is being represented and how the candidate is affiliated to the donor group.

Comments provided by :
Geyer, Mary Lou

Our republic cannot survive if our elected representatives are all owned by secret oligarchs. It is vitally important that citizens have a means of knowing to whom their representatives are beholden. If this becomes more transparent due to the adoption of the disclosure provisions of McCutcheon, a great service will be done. Please adopt these procedures.

Comments provided by :
Gilmore, Jim

Only a completely transparent government can maintain the trust of the people. And citizens united eroded that trust. We even have terms for the insipid "dark pools" of campaign finance. this must change. I strongly urge the commission to craft regulations that require all campaign donations to be linked to their donors. this must not only be made public, but also be easily accessed and searched. thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Comments provided by :
Gimlich, Douglas

If the government wanted to create a campaign finance system to keep large donations of a \$10,000 or more to influence any election from school board member to president of the United States cans do so legally and secretly. Giving this away by one political party and Supreme Court justices. This compromises the security of this nation and opens the door to influences of selfish citizens and foreign governments. Does the Federal Elections Commission believe this is a dangerous precedent? Americans like me are interested in your answer.

Comments provided by :
Glover, Tom

Any and ALL campaign contributions, from \$1 to millions/billions of dollars should be available for public scrutiny...if you are proud enough to support a candidate, you should be proud enough to let that knowledge be public.

Concomitantly, a law providing that all campaign contributions, personal, corporate, organizational, PAC, be public must also provide for sanctions (and not just a slap on the wrist) against any organization, company, corporation, employer who fires or harasses any employee who donates to any political campaign. This should include religious employers.

Comments provided by :
Gonzales, Linda

PLEASE consider new rules for campaign finance disclosure. The American public deserves to know who is buying our elected officials. I would also urge the FEC to look at perhaps banning all private, union, or corporate spending in elections for Federal office. Elections should be publicly financed, with equal opportunity for both sides (or however many there may be... two parties is obviously not enough) to present their ideas.

Comments provided by :
Goodfriend, Noah

I certainly support disclosure of the broadest possible range of information related to campaign donations. If you're going to put your money where your mouth is, you should put your name and face there, too.

Comments provided by :
Grattan, Christopher

All fundraising activities should have full disclosure of the names, dollar amounts, and political affiliations of the donating person or agency as well as the recipient of such funds. Full disclosure, full transparency!

Comments provided by :
Grattan, Michael

I want to know where politicians money comes from,so I will know if he/she will be representing my interests.

Comments provided by :
green clulow, carol

We need to know where the "dark money" is coming from.

Comments provided by :
Gregory, Matthew

I would want to know which interests are spending how much to win over my votes.

Comments provided by :
Griffith, John

I would like to see where election funds are coming from.

Comments provided by :
Groome, William

I am tired of big money influencing our government and fully support this...

Comments provided by :
Gussett, Andrea

I find it abhorrent that those with money control the elections
I feel it is unconstitutional....what happened ..."by the people...."

Comments provided by :
Gutierrez, Michael

It's time that unlimited and anonymous/secret campaign contributions be stopped in favor of an open, honest, transparent process. Wealthy individuals and corporations must not be allowed to buy elections.

I am in favor of individual limits and regulations preventing blank check operation by PACs and other groups.

Comments provided by :

Hallquist, Bill

Please make open disclosure of all monetary or work donations accepted by individual, Political Action Committees, other ad hoc political groups, or other groups, individuals or committees working on behalf of candidates that are campaigning or gathering funds towards campaigning for federal elections. A requirement should be made to provide public monetary disclosure in public accessible print and electronic media within 30 days prior to any time period prior to any balloting. This should include absentee ballots. Same disclosure should be mandatory periodically thereafter until the day of the election.

Comments provided by :
Hamaker, Timothy

To whom it may concern,

First, let me start by saying that government officials were--and are--public servants. They are in office to serve the interests of the people. With the Citizens United ruling that allowed for unlimited sums of cash to be dumped into campaign funds by huge corporations, this country all but eliminated the true meaning of a government official. Corporations can now buy the politicians they want in office who will, in turn, propose and pass legislature that benefit the interests of their businesses. What needs to happen is the power needs to be put back in the hands of the people. Citizens United needs to be overturned, elections must be funded through public donations, and a maximum donation amount must be set per person to avoid the rampant corruption of elected officials that has taken over our government. While that seems idealistic--at least at this time with the current GOP-led majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives--at the very least we can disclose who is donating how much to whom. That way the American people who actually care about what is going on around them can take a stand and vote for better candidates who will fight for them. Thank you.

Ryan H.

Comments provided by :
Hamann, Ryan

Please make it mandatory for those running for office to list their donors and the amount each donor gave. We need to know who is benefiting from all of this spending.

Comments provided by :
Hambrick, Linda

The current rules allowing tremendous amounts of money to be poured into political campaigns is outrageous. If we do not reform our current system of campaign financing, we run the risk of losing our democracy and becoming an oligarchy. Citizens United must be overturned and the legislature must pass strict and transparent campaign financing laws. Only the very wealthiest currently have a say in our elections at this point and that is unacceptable in a democracy.

Comments provided by :
hamilton, fred

I don't have a ton of money. I contribute small amounts to campaigns I believe in whenever I can, but it's frustrating to know that the uber-rich are statistically almost certain to get what they want out of elected officials because they can afford to give them so much in campaign contributions. Making this information public would at the very least let us see the conflicts of interest that occur, like right now in Florida with the Koch groups destroying the Solar industry there, so that we can be better informed about who actually has the everyman in mind when making policy decisions.

Comments provided by :
Hammes Jr, John Brian

All levels of US Government, from local up to Federal should be fully transparent with respect to the possible influence of contributions from individuals and groups, to the individual politicians.

The people have a right to know how much a vote cost, and who paid for it.

Comments provided by :

Hand, Nicholas

All campaign donations should be very public. Knowing who paid to help elect someone helps the citizen track whose interest they are truly working for while in office. It also adds more credibility and transparency to the process which will tend to force more honesty from the candidates over time. The American people deserve no less.

Comments provided by :
Hansen, Craig

Public advertising for a politician or an issue should be prominently labeled, at it's beginning (or end), whether or not it is approved by a political candidate or a party's national committee. We The People need to know who stands behind a political ad, but not just the name of some obscure organization which no one has the time to evaluate. If no national committee nor candidate stands behind that ad, this should be obviously stated also.

Don't restrict anyone's free speech, but inform the public as much as possible who is speaking in an advertisement.

Thank you for the chance to comment online.

Comments provided by :
Hansen, Jeffrey

To whom it may concern, I strongly support any measure that would add transparency to the money that is spent on campaigns. It has been argued that money is speech and cannot be restricted under the constitution. If money is considered speech, then it should be pointed out that nowhere does the constitution guarantee that you have the right to anonymous speech. If corporations and wealthy individuals feel so convicted that they must speak with their money, let them declare themselves and their convictions openly. Thank You, John Hansen

Comments provided by :
Hansen, John

Ideally, all political candidates/campaigns should be publicly funded - that is who they serve. Today, politicians are beholden to their contributors, who are often big money/corporate entities. These contributors are usually interested in how politicians/government can work in their favor, but government should be focused on the public good - education, jobs, social services.

Likewise, we need term limits for House Reps and Senators, and possibly even Supreme Court justices.

At a bare minimum, regarding REF 2014-01, all amounts and their contributors should be publicly identified. The information should include employer or other affiliation that is important, such as political action committee. All funds contributed through PACs should include name and address of the PAC's members and contributors, as well as their employees names and addresses, whether paid or volunteer.

Comments provided by :
Hardin, Kelly

I am all for requiring full and complete disclosure of all campaign contributions both to and from all parties concerned. I am also for only allowing individual people to contribute, as well as a \$100.00 limit on all contributions, per year. The only exception to the hundred dollar rule would be as the general election contribution in the Federal income tax, where instead of donating a single dollar, it should be changed to donate whatever the tax payer wants to donate, to a general fund to be divided evenly amongst qualified candidates.

If corporations or businesses are allowed to contribute to campaigns, it is a certainty that politicians will inevitably become corrupted by big money. It has already happened today, and is getting worse. PACs need to end as well. Period. To ignore these problems will bring our country down through the necessity of an eventual revolution.

Comments provided by :
Harper, Herb

I concur with the Court's recommendations of earmarking regulation, affiliation factors, joint committee regulations, and, most importantly, disclosure regulations. Requiring contributors to clearly disclose their donations in order to avoid abridgment of First Amendment rights involving large sums of money or resources as well as the circumvention of the base limits seem to be the best options available given the situation.

Comments provided by :
Harper, James

The FEC should definitely adopt new rules that require campaign contribution disclosure. Voters should be able to know which interests are spending, and how much they are spending, to win their votes.

Citizens Zunited and McCutcheon have gutted our voting process.

Comments provided by :

Moss, Ben

The election process of this country has been corrupted by money. No longer is it about who is the better candidate BUT who has the most money. It is time that the American public is informed on where a candidate's money is coming from.

Comments provided by :
Harrell, Dorsie

All amounts and their contributors should be publicly identified. The information should include employer or other affiliation that is important, such as political action committee. All funds contributed through PACs should include name and address of the PAC's members and contributors, as well as their employees names and addresses, whether paid or volunteer.

As Justice Louis Brandeis once wrote, "Publicity is justly commended as a remedy for social and industrial diseases. Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman." The politics of this country have been infected by money, creating both social and industrial diseases. While the money is the root cause of the problem, removing the veil of secrecy around this money is the first step, the electric light of Louis Brandeis.

Comments provided by :
Harris, Max

Corporations are not people! This is a fact! Money is not free speech! I would love a chance to debate this facts with any of Supreme court INjustices: Robert, Thomas, or Scalia! Since we can no longer count on justice from our formerly Supreme court we must do something or face the destruction of our country!

Comments provided by :
harvey, brian

We need money out of politics, but if this is not feasible I sincerely believe we, the voters, have the right and the duty to know the sources and amounts of any campaign contributions. The fact that contributions are so clothed in secrecy makes me believe that our system is entirely corrupt.

Comments provided by :
Hathaway, Mildred

I would like to see full disclosure of contributors to political campaigns to allow me to make informed decisions. Advertising, which often uses our public airwaves, can be deceptive.

Comments provided by :
Haustein, Catherine

All campaign finance donations should be made public. The information required should include the names of the individuals and/or the governing board of any organization regardless of the IRS tax exempt status. This would include PACS, Super Pacs, Corporations, both publicly and privately held and Labor Unions.

No donation to a national campaign, including the House and Senate should be held in secret or be allowed to be filtered or disguised in any way.

Non Individual donors should be held to a maximum annual donation the same as any individual is held to. The maximum amount should not exceed \$5,000.00 per year.

Ideally, federal elections should be publicly financed and federal elections days should be made completely accessible to all voters. A national holiday would be ideal.

Comments provided by :

Hawkins, Kevin

Taking excess money out of the election process is very necessary because it creates an unfair advantage for those that have excess money to spend beyond the necessities of life. This can, and does lead to corruption in the election process. This is and has been true throughout the history of civilization.

When someone wants to corrupt the process, they simply use every means available to give their point of view and keep saying it over and over until people believe it even if it is a outright lie or distortion of the actual facts. If people with an agenda can do this without having to let the common population know who they are or represent, the electors are being manipulated to aid the person with the agenda. Those of us that do not have the money to counter the arguments, will not be treated equally under the law. How can we fight the enemy of the people if we do not know who they are?

Please make the rules apply to everyone equally!

David Wesley Heckert
Berthoud, Colorado 80513.

Comments provided by :
Heckert, David

We must make our election system as transparent as possible. The only way to do that is to create a database to discern where all monetary and non-monetary contributions come from.

Comments provided by :
Hederman, James

The United States needs to have the most transparent election process in the world. It doesn't have it & people are being fed biased, inflammatory soundbytes paid for by the super pacs. Americans deserve to know exactly which individuals & corporations are paying to buy their votes.

There should be sensible limits placed on campaign contributions of all kinds, maybe a cap of \$10,000. Wouldn't our country be a better place if contributions were smaller & more people joined in to truly express their opinions to the candidates?

Comments provided by :
Hegland, BettyAnn

Contribution information must be public!

Comments provided by :
Helt, Allen

Money is not speech and corporations are not people.

Comments provided by :
Henderson, Jack

There should be full disclosure for any money used for campaign related issues.

Corporations, non-profit organizations, individuals and others should be required to publicly disclose their spending (and any other resources they allocate) to all types of advertising, "educational" or issue awareness campaign related activities.

Comments provided by :
Henderson, Myer

The idea that money is a form of free speech, propagated by political leaders like Senator McConnell, is easily discredited. If true, this would mean that some citizens have more speech than others -- and a louder voice to communicate with our elected representatives. This blatantly defies fundamental American tenets of equality and democratic representation.

Sadly, our political system seems to reflect this reality, as big money so often buys influence to the detriment of the average citizen. This phenomenon is exacerbated by Supreme Court decisions such as Citizens United and McCutcheon. Campaign contribution limits are needed to ensure that candidates aren't forced to raise exorbitant amounts of money and incur debts to special interests. Contribution limits are absolutely vital to a functioning democracy, and the wider the gap between the donation of the average voter and large moneyed interests, the more our nation resembles an oligarchy.

In the absence of contribution limits, disclosure is our best option. Voters deserve to know who is attempting to influence our decisions both through outside spending and direct campaign donations. Dark money should be effectively eliminated, user-friendly political spending databases should be available to the public, and advertisements should prominently display the entities behind them, among many other measures.

Thank you for your consideration.

Comments provided by :
Hendry, Bret

Please reveal the names of donors who pour huge sums of money into our elections.

Comments provided by :

henneck, kurt

To Whom it May Concern

When the question arises whether our Democracy should be transparent or not, our life and liberty always depend on transparency. In an America where money is equal to speech and that money influences the actions our government takes, then transparency should always be sought. Full disclosures should be made about the money influencing politics from any persons, entity, or group.

Comments provided by :
Henry, Brian

Public elections should be funded by public money. Millionaires and corporations should not be able to give money anonymously, and corporations are NOT people.

Comments provided by :
Henry, Frances

It is important to understand who is financing the election of individuals in order to understand who elected officials will serve once elected.

Comments provided by :
Hensler, Shannon

It is necessary to know where candidates financing is coming from, people or corporations should not hide under the veil of anonymity when democracy is to be transparent for all.

Comments provided by :
Hernandez, Jose A

The FEC has made it all too easy for large corporate interests to literally anonymously saturate the public with campaign propaganda in favor of their candidate, or far too often, with negative propaganda against the candidate they don't want elected. These corporations (or ridiculously rich individuals) hide their funding of this propaganda behind innocuous superpac names, and the general public never gets to know who is truly funding these campaigns. That is flat out wrong.

No corporation or individual should be allowed to hide behind a pseudonym when funding a political campaign, particularly when the funding appears to be almost limitless with the new superpacs. It is not only absurd, but it is also obscene, and goes against absolutely everything our founders could have foreseen.

Comments provided by :
Hill, Anna

To equate money to free speech is a true injustice. In the United States of America, it is a sacred belief that all people are equal under the law. Giving those with more money more voice over governing is a complete corruption of any democratic republic. But in a nation where such legalized bribery is allowed, it is unquestionable that full transparency of monetary donors is a must. To be able to buy an election AND do so anonymously is nothing short of sinister and must be prevented.

Comments provided by :
Himmler, William

Americans should know who is spending money to influence elections and how much they are spending. It's that simple.

Comments provided by :
Hipps, Jay

How is it that public disclosure of campaign money is not already law. How is it that elected officials are not held to this standard?

Comments provided by :
Hise, Greg

I implore the FEC to side with the citizenry and transparency in campaign finance. I realize The Commission is nowhere near my position on the issue, that of fully publicly-funded campaigns of limited duration at every level. Nevertheless, to all political funding to be and remain anonymous stands against the very public freedoms upon which the United States of America was founded. Thank you for your time and consideration in these matters vital to the health of our democracy.

Comments provided by :
Hoff, Erik

I am in favor of full disclosure for all political donations!

Comments provided by :
Hoffer, Raymond

I fail to understand why there would be any question referring to disclosure. I believe the federal government is responsible for protecting it's citizens. Organizations are undermining our political process. Americans have a right to know who is responsible for the messages being promulgated. Informed citizenry is a must.

Comments provided by :
Holloway, Debra

In the absence of spending limits on elections, the only way to maintain a democratic process is to reveal source of all campaign donations. Please help us close the gap on "dark money" and allow us in the 21st Century to access the information easily on who is attempting to buy our parties and votes.

Thank you for your consideration and oversight.

Comments provided by :
Holmblad Jr, William

The Federal Election Commission, considering new rules requiring public disclosure of campaign money, is asking the public whether voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes. I feel the intrusion of secret and dark money into our elections process is heinous. I totally support legislative reversal of the Supreme Court decisions that have subverted the true purpose of the democratic process. Please consider change!

Comments provided by :
Holmes, Ann

The american people deserve to know who if funding political campaigns.

Comments provided by :
Holroyd, Johnathon

Until we can SEE the influence money has on our elected leaders we will NEVER be a true DEMOCRACY!

Comments provided by :

holycross, lynda

It is critically important that voters be able to know who donates to which politicians so that when favors are being done, or decisions are being made that do not favor the people, we know why.

Comments provided by :
Hope, Kathryn

Disclosure is a good first step, but the complete removal of outside campaign finance is necessary to prevent quid pro quo corruption "or the appearance of such corruption." The only way to ensure representatives actually represent the people who elect them is to ensure they cannot be purchased (or appear to be purchased) by lobbyists and outside agencies who will finance their campaigns. If the money that gets officials elected is tied directly to and provided solely by the people, then their loyalty directly and solely to the people will be reinforced.

Comments provided by :
House, Steven

Voters should ALWAYS know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes.

Comments provided by :
Howard, Barbara A

I believe all campaign contributions should be fully disclosed including who, or what organization including corporate entities, is providing funds to which candidates, political parties or PAC groups, and how much funding is involved.

Comments provided by :
Howell, Kevin

Stop the corruption. Campaign contributions should be public knowledge. Otherwise, we might as well rename the country "Corrupt America - we pretend to be the good guys but we're actually ranked pretty far down on the world's corruption list".

Comments provided by :
Hoyek, Eli

We the people are horrendously insulted by the fact that the only time you are allowed to lie in advertising is when you are running for some of the highest, most respected offices in our nation!

The least, and I do mean least, you can do is make the information available to us, as to exactly which entities are spewing forth the most fiction. It would be VERY helpful to know who the biggest liars are before the election. And who condones the most lies, in order to get elected.

I go to a great deal of trouble to try and find out what a candidate stands for or against. It's becoming increasingly difficult when the candidates can stay on the sidelines, and let these separate groups spend lavishly on juvenile, smack talking commercials that don't define issues, just demonize the other side. Especially when the voters have to sign an oath of honesty with our information when we go to vote. It is not too much to ask that the people we are asked to vote for, be required to TELL THE TRUTH in their campaigns as well.

That's really all we are asking for is TRUTH IN ADVERTISING! Please let the people know which candidates stand for the truth and which ones condone the lies and insults. Give us the information we need to be informed voters.

Comments provided by :
hughes, vivian

All campaign contributions should be publicized and available for public viewing. No campaign contributions should be hidden in any way.

Comments provided by :
Hunter, Craig

I urge you to establish policies so that voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes.

Comments provided by :
Hupp, John

Yes I want to know everything in regards to contributions. It is important to have the truth of full transparency.

Comments provided by :
Hustead, Lola

I strongly urge the FEC to require strict transparency measures for donations to candidates. Further, I urge you to consider reforming the PAC system to create greater transparency for third parties inserting themselves into our electoral system. The fact that these external players can have dramatic effects on elections (and coupled with the fact that their activities have catalyzed the dramatic increases in the amount of money required to stage a successful campaign) is fundamentally undemocratic without transparency.

Comments provided by :

Huston, Andrew

ALL U.S. citizens must be able to determine ALL sources of funding for ALL elections! Additionally, I believe the FEC should go on record and lead for a change to make Federal elections a National holiday! And after reviewing the results of the 20+ countries who make voting mandatory (meaning some consequence for not voting), I'm absolutely in favor of making voting mandatory in the U.S. If a citizen receives benefits from any area of government, they should be mandated to vote!!

Comments provided by :
Hymel, Stephen

I fully support the FEC's establishing of rules that result in the fullest and most timely disclosure of campaign financing information. Our democracy is weakened by secrecy. Our democracy is undermined by secrecy and the potential for corruption that may grow in the dark. Justice Brandeis rightly acknowledged that "sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants".

The US Supreme Court observed that "disclosure offers much more robust protections against corruption" because "[r]eports and databases are available on the FEC's Web site almost immediately after they are filed."

The FEC needs to move forward with rules that fulfill the Supreme Court's expected standard. The current FEC database is not comprehensive nor instantaneous. If the Supreme Court bases their opinion that campaign finances is speech upon the theory that disclosure is a better protection against corruption, then the FEC needs to follow through with full and immediate disclosure.

This should not be a partisan issue. This is a democracy issue. The legitimacy of the electoral process is undermined by large amounts of money donated in secret.

Comments provided by :
Iritani, Ken

Disclosure of the identity of campaign contributors will enable all Americans to make more informed choices in elections which can only strengthen our democracy.

Comments provided by :
Izant, Elizabeth

The source of funds for ALL political advertising ought to be disclosed.

If the source (SuperPAC, 501(c)4, etc.) is legally not required to disclose its donors, then each advertisement ought to make that fact clear.

Wording, such as, "This ad paid for by Americans for A Better World, a fund that does not disclose its donors."

If our opinions are being purchased, we need to know that the buyers are not courageous enough to reveal their names.

Comments provided by :
Jackson, John

I support any efforts to bring more clarity to voters as to who (person, organization, company) is funding political campaigns. I support any efforts that eliminates the ability to provide political funding anonymously (dark money). It should be illegal to provide large sums for political purposes without disclosing the funding source. Our democracy has been corrupted by recent developments. Our founding fathers are rolling in their graves. The political process has been over-run by corporations, unions and other well-funded special interests. Bringing full disclosure to funding is an important step to reducing the corrupting impact of this.

Comments provided by :
Jansson, Mats

Freedom of speech is our most sacred right, so much so that without it there can be no just governance. This is because speech has tremendous power to shape our minds and the society in which we live, but that power must be wielded responsibly, and speakers must be accountable for the consequences of their voice. As a citizenry we rely on the voices of others to tell us what is happening in the world outside our personal experience, if that information is substantially biased or coercive the consequences can be far reaching and devastating. If we are to make good decisions as a people then accurate and unbiased information is absolutely essential. Given that, allowing the opinion of a vested interest to hide its bias in anonymity is absolutely ridiculous. For the love of all that is decent and for the health and dignity of our society, please do not allow those who would misuse their power to deceive and manipulate to do so anonymously and without consequence.

Comments provided by :
Jaworski, Aaron

It is the right of the American people to know who is funding all campaigns. I am in support of this. After all, one of the current complaints Americans have is a lack of transparency and accountability of their government to their people. Please act responsibly here, and allow those who will be represented to know what they are voting for.

Comments provided by :
Jeffcoat, Zachary

We need to have full disclosure of who is spending how much money on all of our elections both state and national. The American voting system needs to be simplified. And we need to overturn Citizens United to make elections fair for all the voters again.

Voting should be compulsory like in Australia. If people don't vote they should have to pay a small fine.

Comments provided by :

Jenkins, Scott

Donors who donate to PACs must be made available to the public. When PACS donate money the general public needs to know who this money is going to.

Comments provided by :
Jenson, Alec

Transparency is a must. Without it, those with all the money always win. Even when it goes against the majority consensus.

Comments provided by :
Jimison, Dale

I feel that voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes. The messages presented are 'unverified', so the only way we have to evaluate motivation is to know who is paying for the message.

Comments provided by :
Johnson, Jill

I feel this is something that should be out in the open. As a voter I want to know what special interests are funding who.

Comments provided by :
Johnson, Josh

I think it is essential that those individuals and organizations that donate to political candidates and initiatives be disclosed. I further believe that organizations that participate in anyway in political activities should have similar disclosure requirements for their donors. Transparency in government is absolutely required if we are to succeed as a country in the manner envisioned by our founding fathers.

The above comment is what I think is a first step toward recovering our democratic principles. I think it is appalling that money is so influential in our elections. Money makes a joke of the 1st Amendment. We must remove private money from the political process and migrate to a system of a publicly funded election process.

Comments provided by :
Johnston, Michael

All donations to any organization making any sort of political representation should be a public record and made available to the public within hours of receipt of the donation. This should include political candidate accounts; political party accounts; 501 (c)3 and 501 (c) 4 accounts.

Comments provided by :
Jonson, Jeffrey

I am in favor of the citizens of the United States having access to the identity of any individual or organization contributing \$1,000 or more to any political campaign. I realize that such a low threshold places a huge burden on data collection and record-keeping requirements, so I would be willing to accept a much higher limit, provided we get away from the unlimited influence that money has over political candidates today. We must get to a point where the public can find out who their elected officials are truly beholden to. I believe that is not the case presently, and it's very discouraging.

Comments provided by :
Jordan, Harold

Voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes. We need full disclosure and full accountability of spending on elections.

Comments provided by :
Kaiser, Robert

In a republic, members of Congress and state legislatures are hired to represent the citizens of their constituency. Donations to their election and reelection committees should be limited to \$100 per individual or organization. This would decrease the likelihood of subsequent positions taken by the candidate representing the views of the donor rather than an unbiased cross section of their constituency. Also, the identity of every donor should be a matter of public record easily viewed by any person with internet access.

Comments provided by :
Karasek, Thomas

Full disclosure of campaign donations will go a long way to see who or what organization is interested in getting candidates elected. This rule will go along way to generating trust in our democracy.

Comments provided by :
Karner, Rick

To whom it may concern,

I strongly support any measure that would add transparency to the money that is spent on campaigns. It has been argued that money is speech and cannot be restricted under the constitution. If money is considered speech, then it should be pointed out that nowhere does the constitution guarantee that you have the right to anonymous speech. If corporations and wealthy individuals feel so convicted that they must speak with their money, let them declare themselves and their convictions openly.

Only thieves, vampires and cockroaches should shun the light. And judging by what massive amounts of anonymous and corporate cash, coupled with, disinformation campaigns, gerrymandering, voter restrictions and ID laws, far too many of the state and federal elected offices are being filled by all three types.

Comments provided by :
Keiser, William and Alice

Please create new rules for public disclosure of campaign contributions. We all need to know where the campaign money is coming from to keep our wonderful country a democracy. The way things are with the Citizens United decision, we are in trouble now and it's going to get worse.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Beverly Kerr

Comments provided by :
Kerr, Beverly

All -- ALL -- political spending should be totally transparent. The public has a right to know who is donating how much and to what candidates and groups.

Comments provided by :
Kessler, Lawrence

Please let the public fully understand and know who is contributing directly, and indirectly to campaigns of public, elected officials. There should be public disclosure of campaign money. We have a need to know who is exerting influence on our elected representatives through their financial, and non-financial contributions.

Comments provided by :
kessler, richard

I am in favor of full disclosure of all campaign money; both that directly donated to a campaign and that funneled through another organization such as a 501C4 organization.

It is important for citizens to know the source and size of all contributions to candidates, initiatives, and any other ballot measures. It is an essential part of having an educated, informed electorate.

Comments provided by :

Kidd, Susan

The sources of all campaign monies raised need to be made available to the public.

In fact, a much better idea would be to make all political campaigns publicly financed, with set spending limits, and with media outlets providing free time/space to political candidates (with clearly set limits). And, most importantly, with NO CORPORATE DONATIONS ALLOWED.

Any other kind of campaign finance money can be seen and is seen by a great many people in this country as bribery.

This is supposed to be a democracy, not an oligarchy.

Comments provided by :
KILEY, ANNE

Our Important, yet fragile Election Process, must not be undermined by greed, and undo corporate interests.

Comments provided by :
Killam, Marc S.

Our representatives in Washington should be elected by the people to represent the peoples' interests. Our elected officials receive huge amounts of money from donors who expect favors for their investment. This is bribery plain and simple. Big banks have ruined our economy in the past and together with big oil are destroying our planet. This corruption must stop.

Comments provided by :
King, Debbie

The most vital element of a functioning democracy is accurate knowledge. This is not about buying senators, which is both a terrible idea and an idea being practiced today. This is not about corruption, of which our entire federal elected body is definitionally 100% pure, with neither seed nor spore of ingenuous or honest action. This is certainly not a partisan issue, for the reason just mentioned. This is about a functioning government, a functioning nation, a functioning economy... This is about getting this rusted beast of a populous called USA back to running. Every vote matters, because the standard mean of the will of the people, over time, is the correct path. To exercise that will, we need to have knowledge of our representatives' motives.

Of course, it's also just good sense that if an elected official and his or her benefactor are trying to hide large financial transactions between them, it's because that transaction is immoral and corrupt, contrary to black-robed, morally bankrupt, half-witted SCOTUS opinions.

Comments provided by :
King, Donovan

All campaign contributions should be made public, including the amounts and who the people are behind any donating corporations.

Comments provided by :
King, Melanie

I strongly urge the Commission to close the loophole that allows donors to hide their identity for contributions to non-profit organizations. It is a mistake in a democracy to focus too much on substance of public policy to the exclusion of the process by which public policy is made. Process matters. Better process, in end, makes for better policymaking. That is what the Founders were all about. If it were not for partisan political considerations, in my judgment, the debate over hidden disclosure of large amounts of money to assist political campaigns would not even be a close question. Even if it just happens to be currently the case that the Republican party gets more of the dark money or benefits more from dark money than the Democratic party, I urge all the commissioners to ignore this point entirely. I am fully confident both parties will do just fine without hiding the identity of large donors to non-profit organizations. Again, look closely at the process. Most of the silly, non-substantive, and misleading advertising today is purchased by dark money non-profits. For the most part, it is not the candidates who are poisoning the political dialogue. If I am incorrect that it was Mark Twain that said this, forgive me, but I believe Twain noted it takes a much longer to disprove a lie or misrepresented fact than it takes to utter the lie or misleading statement. This is just a human truth, nothing scientific about it. On the basis of this fundamental point, most of the dark money advertising is thus based. What difference does it make if you mislead if the misrepresentation is not understood until well after a political campaign is concluded? By hiding your identity, it makes it much easier to participate in misleading political advertising without criticism. In doing so the dark money television advertising poisons the political system for every American-be she or he Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, any other political party, or a non-voter. There is no poll out there that does not show great frustration with our political system. This frustration is not good for the country. Much of the frustration, I believe, stems from broken process. There always has been, will be, and should be, because it is healthy, disagreement on substance of public policy. But you should not allow process to despoil the political system. Again, fear not for the political parties and for candidates if the non-profit dark money loophole is closed. They will do fine. They will, I predict, even like it, even if they won't say so publicly. It just might reduce the hostility they get as they move about the country. Forget partisan, and do the right thing. Fears one party or the other will gain from closing this loophole are completely unfounded. What is not unfounded is that a broken process can do great harm to a democracy, and it is doing so right now. Don't drop the ball.

Comments provided by :
kingdon, victor

I strongly support the disclosure of campaign financing sources and amounts for all elections, particularly when donations by corporations or individuals exceed what an average middle-income American could reasonably be expected to donate to a campaign. This is the only way for voters to make an informed evaluation of their choices in elections. If corporations are people and their money is speech, let them express it in public with full attribution to the source.

Comments provided by :
Klay, Jennifer

I am strongly in support of any measures to increase the transparency in our campaign finance system.

I believe that every dollar invested into a candidate's campaign should be reported publicly. We can scarcely say that our country is run democratically when money from anonymous donors helps fuel politicians' careers; if voters' opinions are to be swayed, we deserve to know every funding source supporting any political campaign.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people." When candidates are able to fund their campaigns with money from undisclosed sources, this systematically deprives American citizens of their ability to educate themselves to make informed decisions (i.e. votes).

Studies have shown that this country is not a true democracy, but rather an oligarchy, run by those with the deepest pockets. Making all campaign contributions 100% transparent would be a step in the right direction towards reclaiming the American ideal of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, rather than of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich.

Comments provided by :
Klinke, Bernard

I believe that it is important that the public know from where money comes and goes throughout the government.

Comments provided by :

Koepke, Jake

I strongly support public financing of elections with limited time for campaigning. We have far too much money influencing campaigns and far too much time spent in campaigning. It is a money making deal for the media. Given our current system, I believe we must have more transparency. All donors of more than \$500 cumulative should be listed, whether it is to a single candidate, a political party or a PAC.

Comments provided by :

Kohli, Mary

Wethe people demand transparency in all matters regarding financial services for our elected officials. Every complimentary lunch, campaign contribution, or other form of gift should be made publicly with no obfuscation in order for us to exercise our constitutional rights to free press (how we find out who received what) free speech (to support or subvert monied interests as we see fit) and to make informed voting choices.

Comments provided by :
Kolander , Jedidiah

I would like full disclosure, including amounts donated, from each PAC and individual donating more than \$500 aggregate.

Comments provided by :
Kosek, Michelle

Remove the electoral college.

Require every state to pass laws which place the forming of voting districts not at the hands of parties, but in independent hands who draw lines according to rational, and easily explained logic.

Require all campaign contributions to be revealed.

Require all campaigns to be funded strictly by personal (single individual) contributions (i.e., revoke Citizens United).

Launch an initiative which will provide multiple rounds of funding to entrepreneurs to develop means of digital voting.

Require all states to allow voters to register to vote the day of an election.

Require all states to allow ex-convicts who have served their time and are released into society to be 1. educated on political matters, and 2. to be allowed to vote.

Require all candidates of any elected position to respond in writing to the most popular questions regarding their specific race on a government hosted website where potential constituents can collectively vote on questions, and review answers by candidates. This could be modeled on Reddit. Candidates should be required to be the sole writer and editor of these responses. Perhaps they should even be required to be filmed when answering.

Comments provided by :
Krauss, Jared

ban political tv ads altogether.
public elections should be 100% publicly financed.

Comments provided by :
Krisher, Shaun

It is a slippery slope to have government oversight of communication containing political commentary over the internet where there has been no fee charged for posting or hosting such material. Where would one draw the line? How about an individual posting his/her opinions on facebook? How about an individual posting commentary on his/her own website? How about a business posting on its website? Government should stay out of regulating free speech via the internet.

Comments provided by :
krupczak, terrence

It is important for voters to know which big monied interests are trying to influence our candidates.

Comments provided by :
Krupka, Elizabeth

All contribution amounts and their contributors should be publicly identified.

The information should include employer or other affiliation that is important/relevant, such as political action committee.

All funds contributed through PACs should include name and address of the PAC's members and contributors, as well as their employees' names and addresses, whether paid or volunteer.

Transparency in the political process is the only way to ensure that the outcome of an election is truly democratically decided.

Comments provided by :
Krysiuk, Jess

should there be new rules: Yes! Please disclose how and who are funding campaigns!

Comments provided by :
KUBERT, JOYCE

I want to know who is spending money, and how much money, to try to influence voters.

Comments provided by :
Kubicek, David

The people need to know who is buying their government. This country is supposed to be a representative democratic republic. Instead, it is turning into an oligarchy. I would prefer it to go back to being representative.

If we know who is supporting specific candidates, we can work to make them accountable to the people they are supposed to be representing. Or work to get rid of them if they refuse to actually represent their constituents.

Comments provided by :

Kuhn, Kerry

I feel that the people should know the exact amounts of money each candidate receives and from whom. I also feel that PACs and Super PACs should be required to divulge exact dollar amounts and names of contributors. These requirements should be placed on a web page and the web page's address should be prominently display in every PAC/ Super PAC advertisement.

Comments provided by :
Ladd, William

Please institute rules requiring maximum disclosure of money spent, by whom and for whom in campaigns!

Comments provided by :

LaMay, Brian

All amounts and their contributors should be publicly identified. The information should include employer or other affiliation that is important, such as political action committee (PAC). All funds contributed via PACs should include name and address of the PAC's members and contributors, as well as their employees names and addresses, whether paid or volunteer.

Comments provided by :
Lamothe, David

i think it is important to know who contributes in any and all campaigns in our country and to who

Comments provided by :
lang, g

I think all money given to campaign's should be public information. If the money is given to help a person gain public office we should know where it is coming from. Also the act of lobbying should be illegal. Members of congress should serve limited terms and only given raises based on the progression of the middle class.

Comments provided by :
Lashlee, Brett

All money should be disclosed, and an actual human being should have to look into a camera and say actual words. Not endorse someone else's words, but say your own. You have a gazillion dollars and the right to free speech? Fine; then buy up all the air time and look into the camera and tell me what you think. You, yourself, exercising as much free speech as money can buy. You want to buy a print ad? Great; then sign your name to it. You're a group of assembled citizens protected by the a First Amendment? God Bless America! So sign ALL of your names. Actual human beings. Your words, either out of YOUR mouth or signed by you. Now you can spend what you want, and I can evaluate whether I believe YOU, a fellow CITIZEN with the same rights and responsibilities I have.

Comments provided by :
laskey, p joshua

I wish that full disclosure of all election related finances back to the original donor.

Comments provided by :
lauer, Brian

Money is, and always will be, a corrupting influence in elections. It does not have to be, but we are all adults here so let's be honest and address the issue. After the incredibly irresponsible decision by the Supreme Court, we must now take all precautions so that money, or should I say, "speech", is identifiable and we all know who is doing the "talking". Seems reasonable in an otherwise unreasonable system. Especially if you, yourself can't "speak" as loudly as others.

Comments provided by :
Laumer, Todd

Lets get the new generation of Robber-Barons away from our government.

Comments provided by :
Launier, Peter

All funds given, donated or made available to a candidate, ballot initiative, political party or organization that promotes a stance or position on a issue under public consideration at any level of government should be available as part of the public record to any citizen who requests it-both on paper or in digital formats.

Comments provided by :
LaVassaur, J.M.

It is my right as a citizen affected by laws passed to know what people and/or corporations are spending money, and how much they are spending, on elections.

Comments provided by :
Le, Maria

I support the decision in *McCutcheon vs. the FEC*. Mr. McCutcheon earned his money and should be able to spend his money as he chooses.

I do not think he should be limited in the amount he contributes to candidates by an arbitrary aggregate set in Washington.

Comments provided by :
Leard, Doug

I believe that full disclosure of should be required for all parties and groups involved in the election process.

Comments provided by :
lederer, douglas

We absolutely need more transparency in who is donating to our politicians in our elections.

Comments provided by :
Leeds, Cheryl

There should be clear rules requiring public disclosure of campaign money. Voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes.

Comments provided by :
Lees, Edward

This country has been hijacked by \$\$\$ with no interest of its citizens, merely profits and share holders who will benefit from political investments. This is no way to run a country and those who seek to gain advantage in this way should be identified for all to see. Hopefully by naming them we will see their intentions by the the money they spend.

Comments provided by :
Leftridge, Mark

Please let these disclosures be open, public, and searchable online. I believe that in a free and open democratic republic citizens should have the right to see just who is donating to their elected officials.

Comments provided by :
Legel, Emily

All contributions over 1000 should be made public

Comments provided by :
sweet, w

I want to have total clarity and information sharing on contributions. voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes

Comments provided by :
LeGoff, Florence

All monies/goods or actions of monetary value donated or spent on behalf of a candidate for public office should be disclosed to the public in a timely fashion. The origin of the donation should be made clear as to the organization or persons making it. The public deserves the right to know the individual or corporate sponsors working for a candidate, whether officially sanctioned by a campaign or whether from a non-affiliated advocacy group. These actions of disclosure will help determine if an office holder is acting & voting in the best interests of their constituents or in the best interests of corporations or individuals who desire to impart partial influence to promote their own agendas or business interests above the interests of the majority populace.

Comments provided by :
Lesaar, Ron

We have to disclose our incomes. Why should they have special privileges?
This will help flush out the corruption in our government.

Comments provided by :
levange, Aaron

The more transparency in government we have, the better informed the voters are. Too much "dark money" is influencing elections.

Not only that we should have limits on amounts of contributions (like \$.10 per voter in the district) and limits on the duration of campaigns, say 4 weeks before the election. Sounds radical but other industrialized countries have done just this.

It keeps out undue influences and results in candidates being elected on their abilities, rather than through negative propaganda drummed into voters' head until they are numb and alienated from the process.

Fear mongering propaganda takes time to influence - without the ability to subliminally influence attitudes and perceptions, the candidates will revert to talking about the issues and their abilities to lead.

Comments provided by :
Levine, Robert

I would like full disclosure of campaign donations and donors to political candidates including PAC's, corporations, or any entity or chain of entities.

Comments provided by :
Lewellen, Anthony

Our country needs full disclosure of the sources of campaign funding and the motives behind large corporate, business, and non-profit contributors. The goal that most individual people have in contributing to a political campaign is better government for people. The goal most large business contributors have is to oblige the candidates or parties to which they contribute to support their business goals, even at the expense of individual citizens. That, by definition, makes large business donors suspect. Transparency is the least we can do to blunt the excessive influence of large business donors with their own agendas over the goals of the citizens of our country.

Comments provided by :
Lewis, Darryl

There is no space in a democracy for undisclosed financing of public official's campaigns. The only interest served by keeping this information hidden is that of big donors that intend to influence decision making. Bring back democracy and enable representatives to represent the society they serve, not the handful that are able to fund their campaign. This is an urgent issue that can lead to positive change for the country! Thank you

Comments provided by :
Liebmann, Andrew

I believe that EVERY contribution to a political campaign should be disclosed and available to the public. We have checks and balances in our government why shouldn't we have it for elections too.

I believe this is critical to maintaining a system that was designed "For the PEOPLE and by the PEOPLE". If our Supreme Court wants to allow Corporations THAT CANNOT vote to have the right to contribute as much as they desire to any politician than

"WE THE PEOPLE" have a right to know which corporations are supporting which politicians.

Comments provided by :
Lifton, Woody

I support any legislation that will better inform me as a voter. If this legislation will help me determine how much interest groups are spending on a candidate, then it has my full support.

Comments provided by :
Livingston, Rod

We as voters DEMAND to know who is "buying our candidates" thus who is "buying our votes". Everyone needs to be held accountable for their actions and we should know who these candidates are indebted to once they are in office. Please make all of this information public, so that we as the voters can make educated decisions!

Comments provided by :
Logan, Melissa

All campaigns should be public funded in my opinion. Legislators should get only one month to campaign instead of half their term. It's ridiculous. I hope this isn't a pig circus. Common sense should prevail. Without full disclosure of who is buying our legislators out from under us, how does this resemble a democracy of the people for the people, oh yea, corporations are people (citizens united). What common sense? This is a great opportunity to get this country back on the right track since the influx of money has caused the average legislator to go rogue and work against the common interests of real walking talking people.

Comments provided by :
lorette, jack

For democracy to work, we need full transparency re. the backers of legislation and candidates. We cannot allow special interests to hide behind monikers. There also need to be serious penalties to back this up, so it's not yet another "paper tiger" to trot out at election time.

Comments provided by :
Lucas, John

All organizations that raise money for political purposes should have to disclose who is giving them money. This goes for direct contributions to candidates as well as to PAC's and SPAC's that promote issues.

Comments provided by :
Lutz, Matthew

I think there should be full disclosure of all money's donated to campaign. This includes Earmarking, Affiliation Joint fundraising. I want to know who's buying our elected officials!

Comments provided by :
Lynch, James

I am in favor of requiring all persons and entities to be identified when they are funding political campaigns or informative action groups that affect political campaigns.

Comments provided by :
Lynch, James

I believe that our election process should be 100% transparent. If money is donated to a candidate in any election the actual source of the funds needs to be declared. On a side note, I believe that all elections should be publically funded with no money allowed by private donors.

Comments provided by :
MacLeod, Douglas

I want to know who is dumping money into elections. I need to know this, this is my right.

Comments provided by :
Madsen, John

In view of "Citizens United",I think full disclosure of political donation over 1k should be mandatory.

Comments provided by :
Mahoney, Kevin

I believe Americans should be informed of who or what corporation is contributing to political campaigns. Money can change people and there should be no place for it in politics.

Comments provided by :
mahr, dylan

As voters in this republic, the access to information is paramount. We must have all pertinent information available in order to make an informed decision on whom we are voting for. This means if there is information that hurts a candidates chances of being elected, or helps their chances. The idea that some one would think it ok to stop the freedom of speech, from any source is asinine. What makes some people think they are the arbiters of information to be disseminated to he citizenry, or how it is shared? We used to be an intelligent society, but, with all the curtailing of information being shoved down our throats, intelligence is what is suffering.

Comments provided by :
Malo, Gregory

Take the government out of our lives

Comments provided by :
Mangan, Liz

All campaign contributions should be disclosed along with the names of contributors and their corporate affiliation, if applicable. This is essential in order for the voting public to assess the motivations of the contributors and the record of their elected representatives.

Comments provided by :
Mannarino, Carol

The maxim that the supreme court has put forth establishing that corporations are persons, and thus money/capital equals free speech is preposterous and insulting to those of us who actually are people/ persons. There is no point in discussing the need for transparency until we, as a nation, come to understand the inherent unfairness of this absurd proposition. Yet SCOTUS wraps this protection within an enigma of legal knots. I am in support of any regulation which would combat this wave of unseen influence and lends transparency to the political process in hopes that there may possibly be a way for public trust be restored in a small way. I have little or no trust in our political leaders, even the ones that I would like to trust. Knowing what their political allegiances are would start to move in the right direction, but as an interested member of the public, my fellow citizens and I are very skeptical that this will ever be resolved; that trust will ever be restored; and that the benefit of the general public will actually ever be taken into consideration equally with the elite billionaire class.

Comments provided by :
Manuse, Joseph

With regard to REG 2014-01,I would like to know where campaign dough is coming from and who is receiving said dough.

Comments provided by :
Marier, Joe

I am in support of public disclosure of campaign money in elections.

Comments provided by :

Marrow, Greg

Please give us back to elections where a vote is counted. As it is now, you need to be a billionaire or major corporation to have any say
Lloyd Marshall

Comments provided by :
Marshall, Lloyd

They will use this to violate our constitutional rights. Americans all need to do anything and everything neccessary to protect our rights against those in office who are not true americans.

Comments provided by :
marshall, patricia

I have voted in every election for the past 51 years! I want to know the identity of every sponsor of every political advertisement in our public media.

Comments provided by :
martin, flo

I want to see full transparency on who is giving how much to whom.

Comments provided by :

Martin, John

I am in favor of rules requiring the disclosure of donor names and entities (interests) giving large sums to political campaigns. The voting public must, and has a right to know who is largely funding candidates for political office. Thank you.

Comments provided by :
Martin, Jorge

I believe that the only way to prevent corrupt practices is to be as open as is prudent about the entire election process.

When a person, corporation or other group of individuals makes a contribution to elect someone, the people have a right and a duty to ensure that the contributors did not receive special treatment when legislation which directly affects them is voted on or proposed by the elected official. Without the donation details, it is less likely that the media and the American people will see the truth.

Please require full disclosure of the names of private parties, corporations, unions or any organization who contribute to a campaign and the dollar amounts given.

Thank you for returning some semblance of rationality to the election process in this country.

Comments provided by :
martucci, francis

We need to get the money out of politics. When contributions are made in large dollar amounts, there is an expectation of quid pro quo. The contributors expect the ear of the candidate when he/she is elected. This drowns out other voices which should be heard. It also enables candidates with high dollar contributors to out-shout those with lesser means. This means that if you have lots of money, you are more likely to get your message out.

If I had my way, you would have your name known by any and all if you contribute to any campaign. There would be no such thing as "dark money". Corporations are not people and cannot vote, therefore why should a corporation "speak"? It's not the corporation in any event; it's the person or persons who control the purse strings who are speaking anonymously through the corporation. Who are these people and what is their interest? Why shouldn't shareholders in the corporation at least take a vote on what is being said or supported in their names?

I frankly don't think you should be able to contribute or influence a representative unless you would actually be able to vote in his or her election. Why should I in California be able to influence a candidate in Vermont when he or she is not my representative?

The 401c PACs were supposed to be for educational purposes. They were never supposed to be used for political influence, so how was it interpreted that they could use 49% of their collections in politics and never reveal their donors. That is just wrong on so many levels! And where is the proof that only 49% is spent on politics? What do they spend the other 51% on?

Comments provided by :
Mason, Catherine

2. Election finance -- From the monthly report from each supporting group, each donor name and address's cumulative contribution over \$5k since last election in the target jurisdiction for the candidate or issue.

Comments provided by :
Masterson, Richard

In the interest of freedom, a free internet is essential and there should be no regulation of political speech on the internet. This is as basic as the Bill of Rights.

Comments provided by :
Matsushima, Karen A

No campaign ad, recommendation or endorsement should be any less transparent than any other. The party, or parties, who paid for and approved the message must be prominently displayed and/or announced in all cases.

The composition of aggregate PACs of any and all kinds or legal status, must be readily available to the electorate in the form of up to date contribution data and charts.

If our public servants, municipal, state or nationwide, are going to be for sale to the highest bidders, the electorate deserves to know exactly who the bidders are.

Comments provided by :
Matthews, Glenn

Please disclose all campaign contributors and have campaign spending caps. Our representatives should represent we the people, not the largest spender.

Comments provided by :
Mayfield, Kevin

I think it is important to note what individuals, special interests groups, and others, have sponsored a candidate, either directly or indirectly to the fullest extent possible. This information should be included on ballots when voted upon by the public, media campaigns, web sites, mass mailings, and to a certain degree public speaking engagements.

Comments provided by :
McCartney, Gerald

If people have the right to donate to political campaigns, the public has the right to know who donates the money, the amount of money and all other political donations made.

Comments provided by :
McConnell-Dobbins, Peggy

We The People deserve to know where campaign money is coming from.

Comments provided by :
McCoy, Rebecca

I firmly believe that, short of a total restructuring of campaign finance laws, full disclosure of any and all campaign contributions should be made available to any interested party(ies).

Comments provided by :
McCracken, Charles

It is in the best interest of all American people to know who is receiving campaign funds and from what interest group. I am asking you to consider ensuring that all taxpaying citizens of the USA have this information readily available. All amounts and their contributors should be publicly identified. I will support a measure that would add transparency to the money spent on campaigns. It has been ruled that money is speech and according to the constitution speech/money cannot be restricted in the great USA. If, in fact, money is considered speech, the constitution does not guarantee that you have the right to anonymous speech. Full disclosure is a must!

Comments provided by :
McCrorey, Keri

Dear committee,

I will make this short: Americans deserve to know the names of the people and corporations who are donating any amount of money to our elected officials. I want to be able to ask my representatives just exactly why a person/corporation donated to them, and to see if their voting reflects being beholden to these donations.

John McDonough

Ontario, OR

Comments provided by :

McDonough, John

Transparency and understanding who is contributing and funding elections and ads are critical to voters making informed decisions. Freedom of Speech is critical, however with that freedom comes responsibility. It is grossly inappropriate for elections to take place and have funding take place in secret.

Comments provided by :
McFawn, Dave

Any donation of any kind should be reported and that information should be made public.
a 501 3c should have to list all of their donors and that information should be made public. If they air a commercial, the maj donors should be listed in the commercial.

Comments provided by :
McGraw, Ginger

I am very much in favor of public disclosure of all campaign finances. Full disclosure will allow the voters the foreknowledge of whom a candidate will most likely represent if elected to office. It will greatly lessen corruption in government and preserve democracy.

Comments provided by :
McGuire, Ryan

I live in one of the senate battle ground states during the most resent election. The man who won outspent his opponent 3 to 1. To me it's very important to know who was willing to spend that much money to get someone into office, that could easily change how or why I vote.

Comments provided by :
McQuain, Trevor

I am in favor of full disclosure of the sources of all campaign contributions. The American people have the right to know who is financing all campaigns.

Comments provided by :
Meyer, Abigail

The advent of Citizens United and subsequent supporting court rulings that have expanded the legal rights of corporations and individuals to contribute massive amounts of money to political entities. This requires regulatory transparency so that we voting citizens know who is and how much is being contributed to EVERY political entity investing in influencing voters. Without this transparency, the doors are opened for hidden agendas with the end result of further loss of our democratic rights.

Comments provided by :
Michaelis, Margaret

Hello. Like many people I feel our democracy is being hijacked by wealthy unscrupulous corporate interests that want to steal our country and impose their style of thinking all in the name of "liberty". We need to have greater accountability and access to what is going on. Many of us are not in the same financial position or have bought access to high government officials so we have to do what we can to counteract this. Please require more openness and accountability until Citizens United and McCutcheon are overturned, perhaps even by a court system that is not an extension of a policy thinktank. John Mifflin

Comments provided by :
Mifflin, John

Campaign funding should be transparent and accessible to the public at all times.
I want to know who or what corporation is funding a candidate or an incumbent.

Comments provided by :
Miller , Michael

The public not only has a right to know to whom and what candidates are obligated, it is essential for voting.

Comments provided by :

Miller, Nannette

All money or inking donations of any nature should be disclosed.

Comments provided by :
Millikin, Robert

Every cent of money given either to pacs or other political group should be disclosed. I additionally believe that where publicly traded corporations are concerned that not only should those moneys be disclosed but that they should not be allowed to donate to any & all lobbyist group or political group unless they have a majority vote by the shareholders allowing this.

Comments provided by :
Milosavljevic, Lari-anne

I believe campaign donations and funding should be completely transparent. Full disclosure in as timely a manner as possible should be required of people, companies, PACs and all organizations.

Comments provided by :
Mitchell, Janet

As a minimum the voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes. Ideally, elections should be publicly funded and the campaign cycle limited in duration. Too much time and money is spent on election campaigns--it's time to set some limits.

Comments provided by :
Moen, Kennon

Of course we should all know where political funding is coming from. Funding is at base buying votes and ideals. We need this information so we can understand the type of person we are voting into office since their words are usually false promises said to gain votes. Full disclosure please.

Comments provided by :
Mohr , Anne

All funds should be made public. We need full disclosure of who is contributing.

Comments provided by :
Moore, Minnie

I am strongly in favor of full public disclosure of the sources of political donations by organizations, corporations, PACs and all non-individual entities. I also believe that donations by individuals over a certain threshold - an amount only affordable to the wealthy - be publicly disclosed. Hidden money is destroying the faith of the American people in their elected representatives. Until we can get public financing of elections and remove all coercive financial influence on our politicians, disclosure of donations is imperative.

Comments provided by :
Moran, Keith

I'm very concerned about interest groups with deep pockets using their money to anonymously influence the American people and therefore buy the government that most benefits themselves. Those of us without millions to spend on our own behalf are left with little or no voice.

All who donate money for political purposes must do so on the record so we voters and the media can directly question those who spend millions/billions for a particular outcome.

The unlimited spending on elections has got to stop. Our elected officials spend too much time fund-raising and making sure their votes are in line with their big donors and too little time considering what is best for their constituents (all of them - not just the donors) and the country.

Comments provided by :
Mullen, Julie

Voters should know who is supporting candidates for public offices. That information should be available before election day. It is only common sense. One is influenced by one's companions, friends and supporters and it is a public benefit to know who may be influencing or expecting special consideration.

Comments provided by :
Mullican, Sharon

Complete disclosure NOW!!!!

Comments provided by :
Mulligan, Dane

I want full disclosure of where candidates are getting their campaign money from. As a registered voter I feel that complete transparency is essential in determining who gets elected and why. There are too many lies told on the campaign trail about what a candidate will or won't do in office and the fact is most of them will vote where the money is and not vote for the good of the American people, which is what they are supposed to be doing. It is time for a change and voters need to know the honest truth about the candidates. I feel that having to release the information about where campaign money is coming from will help to curb the greed and lack of work by our representatives.

Comments provided by :
Mullins, Megan

I can't believe that 3 of the 6 FEC commissioners are trying to stamp out the purist form of free speech. When a citizen with no motive of personal financial gain, wants to post a political opinion on the internet, the government has no business or right interfering or trying to stifle in any way their 1st amendment rights. Regardless of one's Liberal or Conservative leaning, everyone should quake in their boots at the thought of this committee doing such. I am shocked that 3 of its members are attempting to subvert the constitution.

Comments provided by :
muskett, jeffrey

Require immediate donor disclosure of outside donor groups and pacs, including names and addresses and amounts of individual donors to pacs or independent groups. Citizens United gave third parties power to spend, but also gave you the power to regulate donor disclosure. Toughen disclosure laws and do your jobs.

Comments provided by :
Narayanaswamy, Vishal

The fact that public offices are won by votes, and that such votes are dependent on advertising candidates' relative merit, and that such advertising costs large sums of money which have significantly augmented in recent years is somewhat troubling, since those candidates who have large sums of money are at a predisposed advantage in any given election. Even more troubling, however, is the fact that there is no limit on the amount of expenditures (often used for campaign funds) that private entities can contribute to candidates. To believe that candidates' civic duty of representing the people's interests continually outweighs any influence of the unlimited paid negotiations with lobbyists on behalf of the interests of private companies is naive at best. If such a trend continues to be a significant part of candidates' interests throughout the country, in addition to a potentially undermining influence on the democratic ideals which (should) characterize the United States, then such negotiations should at least be known to the people on which this nation as such depends.

Comments provided by :
Navas, Alejandro

The internet is perhaps the greatest device for concerned citizens to voice their opinions and acquire knowledge about important political issues.

The government should not interfere with this in any manner.

Free speech is a fundamental right that should not be infringed by an intrusive government.

Comments provided by :

Nelson, Carl

The names of all campaign donors in federal elections should be made available to the public so that we can make informed decisions about candidates. In the case of donations by organizations, the officers of, and the donors to, that organization should be public information also. The only fair election is a transparent election.

Comments provided by :
Nelson, David

Voters **MUST** know which legislators are beholden to what special interests so they can decide who will represent them faithfully as opposed to those who would put the interests of their funders (corporations, PACs, etc.) first.

Comments provided by :
Nelson, Janet

It is simple, money does not belong in democracy. If money is used in the political process I want to know exactly who gave it, why they gave it and how much was given. Those influencing the political process with money are bypassing my voice and my one vote. As I only have my voice and one vote I need to have more transparency of those monetarily influencing the political process so I can make sure my voice can be heard and my vote matters.

Comments provided by :

Nelson, John

All campaign finance issues should be disclosed to the public, including who contributed and what amount. If it is an organization, there should be contact information, i.e., a web site that can be referenced. Our government was established on the premise of full disclosure and transparency. That is not in existence at this time.

Comments provided by :
Noakes, Claudia

Giving funds to a campaign or person is an 'endorsement.' I need to know who is funding and endorsing candidates I am considering. If donors do not want to be known, they should not give money in cases of elections. There should also be limits to donations. I'm tired of having elections purchased by the highest donor. In fact, I think most elections should have limits on spending and should be funded by the government, not individuals and certainly not corporations.

Comments provided by :
Northrup, Gay

all contributions should be public as a matter of policy.

Comments provided by :
oconnor, edward

the government should have NO interest or oversight on free internet communication, period . . .

Also, why do you require a home address, and email, tell us that you do not remove them prior to posting on your website and at the same time tell us to submit only information we want to make public. This makes no sense.

Comments provided by :

ONeal, Chip

Dear FEC:

Please remember that unpaid political communications could only be regulated on the basis of ideology. Some would see certain content as "political" if it challenged prevailing viewpoints. For instance, a comment on Twitter might mention "record-breaking cold" and contradict a political movement favoring the theory of Global Warming.

In addition, it regulation of unpaid political communication would be problematic for those providing or using social media. Many users post political comment only occasionally, but would have to be monitored constantly, along with all other areas of the Internet, such as blogs and web pages. This daunting task would probably be assigned to the providers. While Facebook and Twitter have been known to censor some political content, they could hardly effectively and fairly do a comprehensive job. At best they would alienate their users and lose revenue.

Please resist the push to expand government power into an area where free discourse is currently available.

Comments provided by :
Paczewitz, Dean

Earmarking

The Commission asks whether it should amend the regulation by, for example, establishing a maximum percentage of a political action committee's funds that can be directed to a single candidate in order ??to ensure that a substantial portion? of a donor?s contribution is not rerouted to a certain candidate.?

~My answer: YES.

Affiliation

The Commission asks if its current regulations are adequate to prevent circumvention of the base limits.

~My answer: NO.

The Commission also asks whether it should revisit its affiliation factors and, if so, how.

~My answer: YES. Get rid of affiliation.

Joint Fundraising

Accordingly, the Commission asks if it can or should revise its joint fundraising rules.

~My answer: Yes. Limit the size of joint fundraising committees or require that funds received by participants in a joint fundraising committee could be spent ?only by their recipients."

Disclosure

I'm not sure how this can be improved but I do believe it needs to be improved.

Thanks very much,

~Paul

Comments provided by :
Pagel, Richard

Take the money OUT of politics. Make elections publicly financed with no dark money buying away the voice for the voter.

Comments provided by :
Park, Sam

Of course we want to know who's contributing money to politicians. Without clarity about where their money comes from, it is hardly better than a bribe. At least if the public can see it, we can talk about its implications.

Comments provided by :
Parrish , Robert

I would like to submit my request that the origins of all monies for political campaigns be made public. Corporations are not people, regardless of what a biased court has ruled in the Citizens United case. A case which, by the way, is a slap in the face to the American voters.

The public should be allowed to know where campaign money is coming from. It is as simple as that. No loopholes or shady deals. No hiding behind a political action committee. There should be absolute transparency in our elections.

Thank you for your consideration.

Comments provided by :
Parthe, Maria

The success of a democracy requires an informed electorate. One such type of information important to a voter are the sources of economic support for a candidate. This includes his/her personal sources of funding as well as every other source of funding for the candidacy. Individuals and or industry interests should not be able to hide behind corporate veils or other such mechanisms. Without the specific information about the ultimate source of a candidate's funding, a voter cannot tell what interests support each candidate. Therefore the voter cannot determine if the candidate will act in a manner consistent with the voter's views and or needs.

Comments provided by :
Pass, Constance

As a US citizen interested in the day to day workings of the federal government, I think it is imperative that we see where our senators and representatives are getting their money from. This is our government, you know, "we the people" and "of the people, for the people, and by the people", so we should see everything that goes on. We should be able to see donation information clearly and out in the open since these donations can and do influence the work of the individual receiving the money. I don't understand how anyone can think that they, as a government employee and/or elected official, have a right to any privacy when it comes to their funding. I have a right to see any and all the workings of the federal government.

Comments provided by :
Pathak, Jennifer

Keep the Internet FREE of government!!

Comments provided by :
Patton, Lynn R

Please help over turn Citizens United and get "Dark" money out of American politics.

Comments provided by :
patton, walter

It is very important that voters know where money is coming from to fund political campaigns. The misuse of "dark" money is obscene. We should know who is contributing to PACs and to individual campaigns. The advent of these 501(c)4 organization is so wrong as they are not socially oriented . The Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court is wrong and misguided and everything must be done to make our elections clean and open and not ramen over by these huge PACs.

Comments provided by :
Payne, Priscilla

I would prefer that all campaign money sources be disclosed.

Comments provided by :
Pearson, Velvet

Corporations are NOT Persons

Comments provided by :
Pehnec, Stephen

Simple comment: I strongly support any measure that would add transparency to the money that is spent on campaigns. It has been argued that money is speech and cannot be restricted under the constitution. If money is considered speech, then it should be pointed out that nowhere does the constitution guarantee that you have the right to anonymous speech. If corporations and wealthy individuals feel so convicted that they must speak with their money, let them declare themselves and their convictions openly.

Comments provided by :
pelletier, daniel

Yes, I want to know who is providing funds to candidates I am voting for...and not just some front name of a cover organization, I want to know where the money is originating.

Comments provided by :
Penfold, Wendy

I think the FEC should stay OUT of political speech. Under any guise.

Comments provided by :
Perez, Owen

Anyone who takes any time examining the campaign spending without a personal agenda can see that the financing of campaigns has become unreasonably murky and is now working to the detriment of the citizenry. We have the right to know who is spending money on the advertising and campaigns on behalf of the people who are seeking to represent us in government. Our government is increasingly for sale to the highest bidder, and this has -got- to -stop-. Until we can overturn citizen's united and enact other necessary changes to fix our elections to ensure that they're genuine, not merely perpetuating the oligarchy that the US has become, it is utterly and completely necessary that we know exactly who is donating for every political campaign.

Comments provided by :
Perricone, Siobhan

It is essential to the democratic process to know who is advocating for a candidate or position, in order to weigh the speaker's private interests against the public interest. Accordingly, strong transparency rules are necessary to disclose the sources of campaign funding; and it is important that the sources identified be the real sources, not smokescreen "committees".

Comments provided by :
Pesch, Roland

I believe all money donated to all candidates should be identified by donors. the candidates are required to make full disclosures of funds and spending so all donors should be required to make full disclosure of donations.

Comments provided by :
Petrich, Scott

Of course there should be transparency in the system. Voters have a right to know the motivation behind the rhetoric in order to cast a knowing vote on election day. As a member of the healthcare community, I have a responsibility to obtain informed consent by my patients. Elected officials have the same responsibility.

Comments provided by :
Phillips, Lyn

I fail to understand the SCOTUS argument that Money is equivalent to speech, or a vote, for that matter, and should be protected in the same way. Money is actually more closely related to a bull horn. Those who can afford a louder bull horn are able to drown out other voices and views. Speech is free. Bull horns probably warrant some regulation. At minimum, voters deserve to know who is paying, and how much is being spent, to sponsor campaign messages and candidates so that voters have some sense of who is influencing the message, and by implication the agenda, of electoral candidates. This is only rational in protecting the democratic process.

Comments provided by :
Pierce, Michael

I believe that all candidates should be required to disclose the source and amount of all campaign contributions. Voters have the right to know who, particularly in terms of corporate, pharmaceutical/health care, and special interest/lobby groups, are contributing funds to specific campaigns. As a voter, I feel that candidates then feel obligated to promote these other interests over the interests of the voters that they are representing. Full disclosure and transparency should be the rule.

Comments provided by :
Plummer, Karen

?Outside spending by groups that hide their donors increased from just \$5 million 2006 to more than \$300 million in 2012. Given this dramatic increase, the commission should consider based on public comments and testimony how to strengthen its disclosure rules so that voters know who is behind the messages intended to influence their votes.?

Read more here: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/12/03/4267286/editorial-voters-should-voice.html?sp=/99/274/#storylink=cpy>

No matter their party or political persuasion, voters should want to know the identities of contributors who are funding insipid television ads, mailers, robocalls and other propaganda designed to sway their votes.

Read more here: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/12/03/4267286/editorial-voters-should-voice.html?sp=/99/274/#storylink=cpy>

I want to know.

Comments provided by :
Polk, Jaquenta

Yes, all donors to all fundraising efforts should be part of the public record. No exceptions. In a free society, the vote is the only thing that should be private. Donations, money are not protected, and since the court has ruled that they are free speech, then we should know who is speaking.

Comments provided by :
Pool, Teresa

The identities and political party affiliation of ALL persons contributing funds to a political campaign and the identities and political party affiliation of ALL contributors within a Political Action Committee or ANY GROUP that contributes funds to a political campaign should be public knowledge.

ANY political advertisement that is funded by a person or persons or political entity contributions should be required to list the names of ALL individuals contributing AND their political party affiliation. Additionally, this requirement should be posted before the political advertisement is presented.

The above information should be easily accessible from the FEC site AND the person, persons or political entity contributing funds to a political campaign or political advertisement .

Comments provided by :
Porter, Randolph

Those holding Public Office should be required to disclose any and all monies received. Earmarking, affiliation, joint fundraising and disclosure of personal gain should all be public.

Comments provided by :
PULLINS, SANDY

Full disclosure must be mandatory

I support repeal of McCutcheon and of Citizens United

Money is not the same as Freedom of Speech

Elections should revert to public funding only

Comments provided by :
Quick, Darrel

The voters deserve to know who is providing, as well as the amount of money our politicians (both incumbent and potential candidates) are getting. Any donations more than \$500 as a single donation or cumulative per year, must be disclosed with the dollar amount and the name of the donating party regardless of whether it is from an individual person or a corporation or group. Anything else, lends itself to at a minimum shenanigans, and at worst, illegal and/or unethical activities and influences. All politicians, whether incumbents or candidates, but particularly incumbents, should be required to comply with the same ethical standards and policies as any federal employee regarding donations and gifts.

Comments provided by :
Ragels, Carey

We the people need to know who is paying for the egregious campaigning, debasing the electoral process. Is it any wonder that the US voter is turned off. All we hear is ugliness. Comity is a long abandoned concept.

All contributions in any form need to be revealed to the US public. Who are the actual people fronting the money, for what campaigns, and how much money or cash equivalent.

If we can't stop the stench of dark money, at least, and I do mean at minimum, light must be shinned on all the money streams. After all we have a democracy not an oligarchy. At least I hope so.

Thank you.

Comments provided by :
Ralston, Walter

All private money, donations, and contributions in any form, financial, property, gifts, tangible items should not be allowed in any and all campaigns. This removes the voice of individuals and voters and places those able to contribute large amounts of money at an advantage over that of citizens who the Constitution is intended.

Comments provided by :
Ramirez-Tinoco, Deborah

Voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes. All donations made to any political campaign should be publicly disclosed. I want to know who I am really supporting when I cast my vote.

Comments provided by :
Reager, Justin

I strongly support any measure that would add transparency to the money that is spent on campaigns. It has been argued that money is speech and cannot be restricted under the constitution. If money is considered speech, then it should be pointed out that nowhere does the constitution guarantee that you have the right to anonymous speech. If corporations and wealthy individuals feel so convicted that they must speak with their money, let them declare themselves and their convictions openly.

Comments provided by :
Reeves, Gabrielle

All financing for major public offices should be through government funds and distributed to candidate who get the endorsement signatures of a significant number of potential voters.

The television and radio stations and newspapers should be required to make the same amount of free space available to each candidate.

Comments provided by :
Reich, Marion

I would like transparency in corporate donations. As an investor, I want the right to opt out of companies who support positions counter to my core beliefs. I believe there is too much money in the political process.

The airwaves belong to the people. It is the civic duty of those networks who use the airwaves to generate their revenue to supply free air time for political debates. The period for doing so should be from Labor Day until Election Day. They should air during "family hour" - 7 PM to 8 PM.

I also want a return of the "Equal Time" doctrine.

Thank you,

Michael Reichert

East Moriches, NY

Comments provided by :

Reichert, Michael

Since our illustrious Supreme Court Justices declared "corporations to be people" we have seen an unprecedented amount of money spent on candidates and issues with little insight as to where that money is actually coming from. PAC's are specifically set up so that big donors can remain anonymous while funneling millions and millions of dollars to influence elections. Citizens United is the WORST decision SCOTUS has ever made. It destroys the very fabric of our democracy by allowing a handful of people to influence elections on every level, effectively silencing the average persons contribution. We MUST have transparency on every level as to WHO is giving what amount to any candidate or issue. Unless we know who is giving what, and what their possible motive, or personal gain might be we cannot cast a vote with any assurance that our vote could possibly make any difference. TRANSPARENCY is paramount to knowing which interests are spending how much to win over votes. This country needs to have strict limits on how much can be spent by any candidate or group representing special interests.

Comments provided by :
Reimers, Marcia

Please disclose funds used influence votes. Voters have a right to know how much is being used.

Comments provided by :
Reinoso, Humberto

Voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over our votes.

Comments provided by :
Rendahl, Roy

All donations of any value from any source whatsoever should be required by law with meaningful sliding scale civil penalties for violation.

I would require felony (5-15 yrs incarceration with civil fine equal to 50% of the amount of unreported sum, and criminal prosecution for failure to report sums above a threshold amount where calculation includes unreported lesser sums made within a 10 year window starting with the date of the first failure to report.

This statute should require any corporation however organized to submit annual report of any and all contributions of any kind to any PAC, super-PAC, candidate, whatever, signed by all officers of same who contribute said amounts. All corporations/persons/candidates through their organizations must report every sum received as well.

Take it from here. I don't want a half-ass, kid's-gloves, poultry legislative scheme, but one with teeth.

John E. Reuter, Esq. (Ret.)
Cumming, GA 30041

Comments provided by :
Reuter, John

The Federal Election Commission, considering new rules requiring public disclosure of campaign money, is asking the public whether voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes. I am asking, in the strongest terms, that those rules be voted into law as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Paul L. Reyman

Comments provided by :
Reyman, Paul

All monies received for campaigns should be out in the sunshine. Keep it simple and make sure donators are clearly identified by affiliation and amounts. Citizens united should be repealed also.

Comments provided by :
Rich, Karen

All political contributions and their sources should be clearly identified.

Comments provided by :
Richey, David

I believe all information about campaign contributions should be recorded in the public record, so that voters are informed about which organizations and individuals are funding legislation lobbying and representative elections, at all funding levels. All elected officials should be required to report all contributions to their campaign organizations.

Comments provided by :
Riggenti, Brandon

It is essential to our Democracy that there is a level of transparency when it comes to our legislation. In order for the public to make informed decisions on who we are selecting to represent our public interest, it is vital to understand what private enterprises may be contributing to a certain campaign. If we are to remain a Democracy in which we are all represented as citizens, corporate interest groups and those with access to money and power can not be allowed to rule our legislation.

Comments provided by :
Ring, Jarrett

The public must know who is contributing what to whom.

Comments provided by :
Riser, Patrick

Campaign financing and contributions should be made public and be limited!

Our democracy should not be up for sale by rich corporations, foreign powers, black or hidden money, criminal money laundering, etc.

please take action to correct our laws!

Thank you for holding open hearings where ordinary citizens can be heard!

Joan Roberts

Comments provided by :

Roberts, Joan

No outside funds allowed. Only public monies. No more lobbyists or campaign donors buying off politicians before they are even in office, to make laws against the will and/best interests of the American people. I know, "not that simple. I should also like to see an end to the Electoral College before the Republicans corrupt it. Representatives, particularly the President, should be elected only by WE THE PEOPLE through popular vote.

Comments provided by :
Roberts, Linda

We should absolutely know who and how much money is being spent to buy politicians.

Comments provided by :
Roberts, Steve

It is important for me and all Americans to know and understand how money influences our elections. As more money has been allowed to enter our political spectrum, we find a greater divide and very little to show for it. The status quo remains, while actual policy to increase quality of life for all, not just a few, continues. A transparent system needs to be in place. Who is paying how much to what organization and who does that organization support. Additionally, how has that contribution benefited the person or corporation who made that donation.

Comments provided by :
Robinson, Alejandra

I believe it is critical to a fair election process that the identities of all donors of large amounts of money and/or other services and materials, to be disclosed to the public. This should include contributions made thru all PACs. It's a fact that candidates are influenced by contributions. It's a fact individuals, corporations and other groups try to influence candidates. The only way for the citizens of this country to try to determine what the influence may be, and the truth behind it, is to have full disclosure regarding contributions.

I further believe that giving "personhood" to groups or corporations, such as Citizens United, is unfair and ridiculous. Corporations may be made up of individuals, but in our system of elections each person has one vote and acts on the behalf of one person. Corporations act as many persons, including the persons who have already exercised their vote, and they should not be given additional votes.

Comments provided by :
Rock, Consuelo

Democracy relies on election by an informed electorate. Transparency in campaign finance is one of the few remaining tools by which voters can evaluate and decide about candidates' values and obligations and to cut through image management techniques to bore down to the true criticality of a candidates' positions.

Comments provided by :
Rockstein, Edward

As an average American citizen, who cares about what the Government does in my name I have several things to say on the topic of Election Finance:

1. It is not in the best interests of America to allow those with more money to have more of an influence over the governing process than those without. This promotes oligarchy, not democracy. I also feel that the recent levels of spending on elections demotivates regular people from voting, as the perception is their votes do not count as much when stacked against millions in lobbying and finance funding from those who can afford it.
2. Any money donated to a political campaign should be out in the open, and visible to every citizen and organization involved in the process. If someone is taking money to fund their race, and I disagree with the politics of the people providing that money, it affects my vote. Withholding this information is only beneficial to those with reasons to hide their affiliations. If you believe in a candidate or cause enough to support it monetarily, there should be nothing nefarious about it, and this should be public information.
3. Corporations are not people. They can not vote. They should not be allowed to provide direct funding to any candidate or organization directly involved in an election. Elections, and our government should be about more than money. Citizens United destroys the value of a single vote, and instead turns any election into a contest on who can spend the most money to sway an already disconnected populace. I cannot pay my bills with speech - therefore money and speech are different; and money is not a 1st amendment right.
4. Political Action Committees, and Super PACs are thinly veiled exercises in flouting campaign finance law. Either vigorously enforce the separation of these from the candidate they are supporting, or do away with them all together.

Comments provided by :
Romano, William

As a US citizen I want to know who the individuals and groups are who are influencing our elections. I am supportive of disclosing this information, transparency is imperative.

Comments provided by :
Romero, Kathryn

Our country is now a plutocracy and the people with the money to throw at these elections have succeeded in purchasing our government. It is critical to this country to find a way to buy back our country's government but the only way we can do that is to collectively know who is pulling the political strings. Please help contribute to the solution of the problem of money in politics, and no longer allow those with money to destroy our government and American Exceptionalism!

Comments provided by :
Rose, Lesele

Ban any private money for political campaigns. Only publicly provided money can be used for any election campaign. Anyone that has held any elected office is banned from accepting a job from any company or organization that they had contact with while in office for at least 10 years after leaving office.

Comments provided by :
Rowberg, Robert

I am completely in favor of FULL DISCLOSURE of ALL campaign contributions to any type of election held in this country. I do not believe that COMPANIES are citizens and I believe that all citizens have an inherent right to see what individuals and what organizations support which candidates.

I also believe in limits to any individual or corporation's influence in a given election, as the individual voter is the person being represented in Washington D.C. and not the dark money groups or corporations.

Comments provided by :
Rubin, Joel

It has been far too long that we've been ruled by big money interests.

Comments provided by :
rucker, Pamela

voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes

Comments provided by :
Runowich, Vince

Voters MUST know who is paying for what in our elections, so we can make informed decisions about how to cast our vote and how much credence to give to the information provided. Especially given the Citizens United decision, it is one of the few ways we can counter the corrosive effects of money in our electoral system. I strongly urge the strongest possible disclosure rules.

Comments provided by :
Ruppert, Deborah

Public disclosure of who is contributing money to whom is essential for a functioning democracy.

Comments provided by :
Russell, Dwight

Regarding disclosure: I firmly believe that everyone has the right to know who is financing election campaigns, whether for individuals running for office or for initiatives on the ballot. It is counterproductive for out of town/out of state big money to come in and totally turn around an election by virtue of the ability to outspend their opposition without people knowing who or what entity is behind that big money. You need to make changes in the rules governing all elections to reflect this. A case in point was the CA ballot initiative to label GMOs. This initiative was passing convincingly until big outside money came in at the last moment with a major campaign of lies. Needless-to-say, the initiative lost. People need to know who is financing such last minute dishonest ads.

Comments provided by :
Ruth, Grace

It's vital that voters know who is spending on campaigns and how much. Votes are influenced with repeated marketing. The interests, attitudes and opinions of the major contributors provides an important background to the messages heard and seen in campaign messages. "Consider the source" is good advice.

Comments provided by :
Ryan, David

To the FEC,

This **must** be done, for democracy's sake.

Comments provided by :
Sandler, LR

As a voting citizen of the United States, I have every right to know the source of financing for any candidate up for election in order to ascertain whether he/she is truly representing my interest or that of whomever or whatever can pay the most for the office.

Comments provided by :
Satko, Tamara

I strongly believe that all voters (myself included) have a right to know on what private interests are spending, how much they are spending, and which candidates they are funding. Campaign finances should be transparent and details should be made available to the public.

Comments provided by :
Scher, Max

I object to the idea that corporations are individuals and can therefore have free speech. It is "We the People...", not "We the Oligarchs..." This is not Russia where only a few people have all the power. The rampant corruption in our political system is already regrettable without adding to it with an unlimited financially regarded campaign finance structure. Do whatever it takes to clean this mess up. People should hold the power over government like our Declaration of Independence says. If you take action in any other form you should be considered a traitor.

Comments provided by :
Schlueter, Jeff

No outside money in politics. That does not belong in Washington. Stop paying the lazy congress who refuses to work. If you don't work you get fired, that's how it works in the rest of the USA; congress should be held to the same standard. Quit worrying about getting reelected and do the job I'm paying you to do.

Comments provided by :
Schulze , Patrick

I believe that, to preserve our democracy, it is essential that voters have all information related to campaign donations. The amount, the date given, the organization or person who gave, and the principals of the organizations donating. This should be for direct contributions, and so-called "soft" money and "dark" money, as well as contributions given to political parties or any other category that supports candidates and parties. Further, I believe ANY campaign advertising should have CLEAR statements about the source of funding.

Thank you for your consideration of my statement

Comments provided by :
Schwichtenberg, Maggie

Full disclosure.

Full transparency.

Vote is secret.

Campaigning is public!!

We the people can only determine truth when we consider the source.

Please save our great democracy from dark money.

Citizen Art

Comments provided by :
sCOTT, Art

Full disclosure should be required. It should include all Federally paid offices included the US Supreme Court.

WE must roll back "Citizens United" which allows any and all money sources. There is no method to determine if such funds are foreign or illegal.

Disclosure over a certain amount must be made immediately. Recommend \$5,000.

An electronic disclosure system must be implemented for public transparency.

Comments provided by :
Scott, Nadine

I believe all voters should know which interests are spending and how much they are spending to win over our votes. I believe all voters deserve full disclosure on Earmarking, Affiliation, Joint Fundraising, Disclosure, and Other Issues regarding public disclosure of campaign money.

Comments provided by :
Scott, Peggy

The FEC has authority under existing law to require disclosure of election spending and to rigorously define ? coordination? to prevent millions of dollars of special interest spending by outside groups that is not really ? independent.? Do your duty and enforce the law.

The Supreme Court has endorsed disclosure and it is unacceptable that the FEC is failing to restore transparency to political campaigns. Super PACs and other outside groups are raising and spending unlimited sums. The rationale that allows this to continue is that the spending is somehow ?independent.? FEC regulations need to rigorously define ? coordination? to end the charade of ?independent? expenditures.

Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy ? not big money from secret sources. As long as dark money groups hide their funders and outside special interest groups can spend unlimited amounts behind the mask of ?independent? spending, our democratic principles are at risk.

Comments provided by :
Seffers, Tracy

Voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes. There should be stringent rules requiring public disclosure of campaign spending.

Comments provided by :
Seidemann, Katherine

money MUST become public for open and transparent elections. The public deserves nothing less.

Comments provided by :

selleck, kristine

Please do require new rules requiring public disclosure of campaign money. Voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their vote.

Comments provided by :
Sethna, Sara

Citizens absolutely have the right to know which individuals, which companies, which SuperPACS, and any other parties are donating to, providing support for, or otherwise subsidizing political candidates, their campaigns, or their PACs.

If a company donates money to a political campaign or cause, than Americans as consumers have a right to know which companies are supporting which causes in order to better choose which companies they as an individual will choose to support with their business.

But beyond thinking of this as a consumer's prerogative, there is something fundamentally wrong about secret money buying influence in a democratic government. Of the people, by the people, and for the people did not specify that it was for the people with money. Our government is for everyone.

Comments provided by :
Sexton, Stacey

Money is not speech. Money is influence. We as citizens should have a right to know how our laws are crafted, including how our legislators are influenced. We need this law, we need this right.

Comments provided by :
Seymour, Barry

To Whom It May Concern,

The influence of money in our political system is bringing the United States to the brink of destruction. I mean this wholeheartedly. The lack of transparency in giving financial contributions to politicians has brought our government to a halt in a time where strong action is needed to rebuild our country, protect the environment, and create a prosperous nation once again.

I implore you to remove any power granted by Citizens vs. United in these upcoming discussions, and provide ways for ALL money being used in election cycles to be publicly disclosed.

I would also ask that you make the disclosure cycle much faster, on the order of 1-2 weeks as opposed to a few months, and eventually move to disclosing political campaign contributions the same day they are made. This is entirely possible with the internet being the fastest means of publishing this information.

By accomplishing both of these by next year's election cycle, we can assure that our democracy will not be transformed into an aristocracy. Otherwise, the United States and the rest of the world risk disastrous consequences.

Please give the American people and the world hope by working for us, not the 1 percent.

Sincerely,
RJ

Comments provided by :
Sheperd, Richard

In order to maintain any semblance of democracy in this country, the public needs to know which interests are spending how much money to persuade/influence voters.

Comments provided by :
Sheppard, Grace

I want full disclosure of all campaign donations. I think it is critical that the American people know who is using money as speech to try to influence votes.

I want to know precisely who is contributing to any candidate for office in an amount greater than \$250.. That means that names and addresses of such donors need to be disclosed, including those of corporation and/or organization donors. Such disclosure should also include listings of names and addresses of all donors of more than \$250 to any person or organization who then "bundles" the donation into larger donations.

Comments provided by :
Sheridan, Ruth

Transparency of campaign finance and funding is essential to our democracy. While I believe that there should be much harsher restrictions on donations and PACs, as money drowns out the voices of the masses and undermines our entire system, we at the very least have an essential right to know who the money is coming from so we can know who OWNS our elected officials.

Comments provided by :
Sherman, Ryan

I support full public disclosure of all political contributions and spending. Ideally, all elections should be publicly funded, but full disclosure will have to do until then. In the absence of limits, the fullest, most complete and most timely public disclosure is essential.

Comments provided by :
Shread, Paul

Voters should know EVERYTHING that affects policy and legislation. We can't make good voting decisions if we are not fully informed of the likely consequences of our choices. We need more truth, less propaganda.

Comments provided by :
Shull, Jane

This is a country of, by and for the people. Each persons vote should count equally. Those who have rigged the system, work with well-funded lobbyists, dump millions into campaigns dilute the voices of the rest of us. Our democracy has devolved into a plutocracy. The middle class is disappearing, the number of working poor is ballooning, and the ultra-rich are the ones who choose for whom the rest of us can vote.

It is not right that the vast majority of an elected official's time is spent fundraising. They were elected to tackle the challenges the voters deemed most important. Now nothing gets done!

Campaign finance reform is the MOST important challenge facing our nation today. Once campaign finance reform is adequately addressed then we can move on to tackling the other very important problems facing our country.

Comments provided by :
Siegrist, Jen

Elected officials and parties running for elected office campaign contributions should be transparent. We the people should know what corporations and funds are pushing large sums of money into our politics. Elected officials are the voice of the people not corporations and the top 1%.

Comments provided by :
Sims, Stephen

All contributions to any and all candidates should be made public - they are running for public office.....nothing should be confidential or excluded from the electorate. we have a right to know who is padding their bank accounts and payrolling their campaign. then we can watch how they vote on issues pertaining to the contributors. and if they are not acting in the best interest of their constituents we can campaign against them on re-election

Comments provided by :
SInadinos, George J

I believe for our system of government to survive, we must insist on donor disclosure.

Comments provided by :
Sitzes, Charlie

It's pretty simple. Democracy works when there is a productive dialog between opposing view points. You can't have a dialog with 'anonymous'. There is nothing in the first amendment that says we have a right to anonymous free speech.

Please make a ruling that gets rid of this 'anonymous' free speech money that is in politics.

Yours,

Bruce Skelly

Comments provided by :
Skelly, Bruce

I need all the donor information before I vote for anyone.

Comments provided by :
Slade, Clyde

Voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes. Transparency is necessary.

Comments provided by :
Slaughter, Lance

Please require that all political donations to all groups, PAC's, Social welfare groups, and all the others. The public needs to know where all the money comes from. In California, our initiative system has been hijacked by special interest groups from outside the state. They pay for signature gathering on petitions so they qualify for the ballot. Then they advertise heavily & not always truthfully. Voters need to know who is behind this type of thing to make good decisions. Voters need to know who is behind political commercials for candidates, against candidates. All political donations need to be open and available to the public.

Comments provided by :
Slaughter, Marilyn

Every single campaign contribution should be disclosed, including the amount and the name of the individual or organization making the contribution; official website information for all group/organization contributors; and, tax exempt status of any contributing organization.

The US government has been sold to the highest bidder at every level where the rule of order is: pay to play. The Democratic Republic has been stolen from the common citizen and given to the wealthiest individuals and corporations.

Comments provided by :
Slice, Faye

The American People have a right to know who is buying our politicians! Any political donation made to a candidate or political organization/PAC over \$100 should be made public and that information should be easily available for the public in general to attain.

Comments provided by :
Sluder, Jim

Allowing entities that are not flesh and blood people to influence elections and make public policy negates the votes of real, live, flesh and blood people in favor of faceless corporations with no loyalty to anything but profit to themselves.

Comments provided by :
Smith, Jane M

In 2010 Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the majority in *Citizens United v. FEC* that "independent expenditures, including those made by corporations, do not give rise to corruption or the appearance of corruption."

Now that over \$4 billion has been spent on a midterm election this year, more than half by political organizations that do not disclose their donors, I have to disagree with the esteemed Justice.

This experiment Kennedy and his brethren have loosed upon our democracy has gone far enough. In my own state, Montana, more than 150,000 citizens received a flyer from Stanford University and Dartmouth University purporting to be educational "research" by assistant professors. Of course, we don't know who funded the flyer, which graphically ties our incumbent state Supreme Court judges running for reelection to an unpopular President Barack Obama.

Justice Kennedy's glib conclusion, above, that corruption (or the appearance of corruption) couldn't possibly result from opening the floodgates of our elections to unregulated, dark money, is patently wrong. It is so wrong as to be silly, almost insultingly stupid or, more likely, duplicitous. Two of America's foremost educational institutions have now soiled their reputations by signing their names on a slanderous document that is clearly corrupt "favoring one set of candidates over another because the favored candidates will interpret the law according to the needs of the people who paid for the flyer."

I hesitate to imagine what's next.

One final point. This system of elections, where the few have so much influence over the many, also lends itself to treason. What would prevent a foreign nation from hiding its intent to influence our elections? Thanks to the five-man majority on the Supreme Court, anyone from the wealthiest class, anywhere in the world, can hide from United States citizens like me his or her "investment" in our elections.

This "system" of elections has brought great shame on the institutions of our country.

Comments provided by :
Smith, Jeff

One of the most important pieces of information in any election is data about who supports a candidate and who funds a candidate. Voters should have all of that data available to them prior to an election so that they can cast an informed vote. This proposal seems like a minimum standard for a democracy (a true democracy would publicly fund elections and eliminate special interest spending altogether.)

Comments provided by :
Smith, Maureen

All funding sources should be made apparent to the public. Secrecy does not belong in a democracy.

Comments provided by :
Smith, Rochelle

The issues raised in the McCutcheon decision show just how far from the core ideals of democracy and representational government we have been driven by those to the far ideological right and their minions serving as ideologues instead of justices on the Supreme Court. This decision, which makes Citizens United so very much worse, needs to be readdressed to ensure transparency and true disclosure in fundraising and affiliation and associated agendas. This decision and Citizens United, along with congressional earmarking and obstruction have effectively gutted any idea that we are a democracy or representational in our government, and have no place in any but an oligarchic, repressive, totalitarian setting. Fascism has indeed come to the United States wrapped in the flag and carrying a bible.

Comments provided by :
Smith, Sarah

I think it is vital for voters to have full disclosure of who/what organization is funding ads in elections. The Citizen's United decision has made our system more warped, not less. In a democracy money should not have a dominant role in the shaping of public opinion, yet it has become the driving force drowning out common sense and thoughtful discussion of the issues at hand.

While I understand that the FEC cannot overturn the Supreme Court decision, I think in the light of bringing more clarity to this system it is essential that we, the voting public, have ALL the information concerning where the money is coming from to support the various positions. The system now allows for the person/organization with the most money to have the loudest voice with no responsibility for what is being said.

The idea that a corporation has free speech rights is blatantly ridiculous but this Supreme Court decision has skewed our system - I hope that the FEC will at least ensure there is some degree of leveling the playing field by requiring that ALL donors to PACS, etc be required to disclose their names and the dollar amount given.

Comments provided by :
Snell, Sally

The lack of transparency regarding election funding is tearing at the heart of our democracy. More and more, it seems like elections are just being bought by shadowy people who don't want anyone to know how much money they are spending. If they aren't doing anything illegal or inappropriate, then why don't they want people to know who they are. It's one thing for individual people making small donations to want to remain anonymous. It's quite another for people who can funnel hundreds of millions of dollars, shifting the outcomes of elections to favor their interests, to remain unknown. We can't have a functioning democracy without some way to at least know who's money is really behind our candidates.

Comments provided by :
Snipes, Jason

There is way to much money impacting our elections and we have absolutely no idea where it is coming from. These unaccounted for people are buying our Democracy right out from under us. It needs to stop.

Comments provided by :
Sollee, James

The public has a right to know who has funding interest in public office positions. Rules should be made to show names of contributors. This will provide transparency.

Comments provided by :
songer, Michael

The public has the absolute right to know where candidates money is derived...don't take any more rights away from the voter, we need info to vote in an appropriate manner

Comments provided by :
spadoni, mary

I definitely want to know who is funding our elections. It is impossible to make a truly informed decision regarding candidate selection without this information.

Comments provided by :
Spooner, Kim

Let's look at something very telling here. In order to weigh in on this issue, you require me to fully disclose my identity, including name, address, and email, which you state you will not remove from my submission before posting it on the site. You have already decided that to tell you what I think requires me to fully waive my right to privacy, with no discussion, as if it's a no-brainer that I should have to be completely transparent in order to petition my government.

But on the matter of anonymous political spending, which has a far greater impact on election results and government policy, you have to get input before making a decision on what actually should be a no-brainer.

To be fair, I know your hands are probably tied by some law or another of a completely corrupt Congress, and so you probably already know the right thing to do but need some political cover to do so.

You need it, you got it. Here's some cover fire: DO THE RIGHT THING. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD MONEY SPENT ON ELECTIONS EVER BE KEPT SECRET FROM THE PUBLIC. PERIOD. END OF STORY.

Comments provided by :
St. Hilaire, Ben

Voters should absolutely know where politicians are getting campaign money from. Transparency is the only way for a democracy to flourish. And since money equals speech these days, I'd like to know who is "talking" to the people I vote for or are considering voting for.

Comments provided by :
Stamp, Jeanne

Dark money is ruining our democracy, which is the foundation of our freedoms and everything that we value in America. Campaign contributions, in all their forms, should be made public knowledge so that we can know who is trying to buy our votes.

Comments provided by :
Stanger, Howard

I am concerned that our elections are being bought and paid for by corporations and the super wealthy, I understand that running an election campaign costs money but I believe all donations should be transparent and there should be limits to the amount anyone (person or corporation) can spend in the process. The limits in my opinion should not stop at direct financial contributions but also to super PACs, in short I feel that campaign finance reform and overhaul is a must if we want to continue to call the United States a democracy, thank you

Greg Staples

Comments provided by :
Staples, Greg

Voters should know which interests are spending how much to win over their votes.

Comments provided by :
Steigerwald, Michael

Full disclosure of the sources of all campaign contributions is the minimum necessary to sustain our democracy. We should also reverse the "Citizens United" decision by constitutional amendment, and require all candidates to accept federal funding for all campaigns for federal office. As much as possible we should take the money out of politics.

Comments provided by :
Stevens, David

Citizens have a right to know who is funding political campaigns. This information should be made public at all levels of giving, both corporate and personal.
Our elections are now being bought by billionaires. The citizens should know whose money is behind the ads they see as part of the commercial itself.

Comments provided by :
Stevens, Mary

To whom it may concern,

I strongly support any measure that would add transparency to the money that is spent on campaigns. It has been argued that money is speech and cannot be restricted under the constitution. If money is considered speech, then it should be pointed out that nowhere does the constitution guarantee that you have the right to anonymous speech. If corporations and wealthy individuals feel so convicted that they must speak with their money, let them declare themselves and their convictions openly.

Thank You,
Chris Stewart

Comments provided by :
Stewart, Christopher

The people need to know who's buying the politicians that are running in their state. It shows who they are beholden to. We all really know that these huge "donations" are buying our government. We all really know how much wealth has gone from the middleclass to the super rich. We all know that the jobs available now are jobs without benefits, part time or temp, low wage fire at will jobs. Those secure jobs with benefits that a person could work for life are disappearing rapidly. So much money being thrown around and all we really need is the huge, well paying jobs that would repair our infrastructure. If these rich corporation and people have this much money to throw at politicians THEN THEY CAN PAY MORE TAXES and support the infrastructure that they use too.

Comments provided by :
STILES, MARTHA

Full disclosure regarding money going into elections is of paramount importance.

Comments provided by :
Stills, Linda

Because spending money is now the legal equivalent of saying something, it seems reasonable to inform the voting electorate of what is being said and by whom, what is being spent and by whom.

Comments provided by :
Stowens, Daniel

All parties, pacs, or groups who wish to influence the hearts and minds of the public whether it is directly aimed at supporting a candidate or influencing social or economic views should be required to disclose who they are and who contributes to their organization and how much they contribute.

Comments provided by :
straub, jon

I have a right to know who is influencing elections in Colorado and the United States.

Comments provided by :
Straut, Gerard

I am writing to express my belief that for American democracy to work, especially now that the Supreme Court has permitted essentially unlimited individual and corporate spending to influence elections and elected officials, we need full disclosure so that at least the voting public knows where the money is coming from and who the recipients are. It is incumbent upon the FEC to promulgate regulations that require full disclosure of spending and that impose significant penalties on those who violate these regulations.

Comments provided by :
Stroud, Stephen

ALL funding for elections should be transparent. The amount of "dark money" funding the 2014 elections are the start of a cycle that will end up with elections purchased by undisclosed interests.

Comments provided by :
Sturek, Don

Dear Sirs,

Please make all campaign contributions in all U.S elections transparent for all citizens to see. There should also be limits to the amount any person or group can contribute.

Corporations, should not have the option to contribute, it should be unlawful, they will always act in their self interest's and the interest's of their shareholders.

Comments provided by :

Tackett, Andrew

I believe that all contributions made to political campaigns, whether by individuals, PAC, or other funding mechanisms should be made with full disclosure and transparency. All amounts and their contributors should be publicly identified. The information should include employer or other affiliation that is important, such as political action committee. All funds contributed through PACs should include name and address of the PAC's members and contributors, as well as their employees names and addresses, whether paid or volunteer.

Ideally, I would like to see all campaigns funded 100% by public funds, not by private contributors who can influence policies and politicians with their money.

Comments provided by :
Tannenbaum, Charles

Time to take back our country!

Comments provided by :
Tanner, William

Citizens need to know how much money and where that money comes from, that each candidate spends during an election.

Comments provided by :
tarbi, william

Our democracy is in grave danger because of lax or nonexistent campaign finance rules. Our entire system of funding elections needs to be recreated, allowing for full disclosure and ideally only public money. This is only the first step of many, to require disclosure, but without it I wholeheartedly believe our country is doomed.

Comments provided by :

Tate, Liz

All fundraising and donations to those running for office need to be identified as to who is making that donation, etc. The voters have the right to know who is paying for the candidate.

Comments provided by :
Tate, Paul

Please respond to the Supreme Court decision regarding campaign financing and require all campaign donors to disclose their identity.

Comments provided by :
Taxer, Eric

All campaign donations should be a matter of public record. All should be disclosed a month prior to elections and no contribution should be able to be made after Oct 1.

Comments provided by :
Taylor, Gary

The tremendous influence that corporate and special interest monies now have in both national and local elections has reached a level that is just plain frightening. In many cases, finding out whose money is behind a candidate or an issue actually yields more information about the candidate or issue than any of the ballot arguments or statements made during the election campaigns. It is critical that ALL of this information be made available to voters as quickly, openly and accurately as possible. Voters need to know who is funding ALL election communications, including insipid television ads, mailers, robocalls, etc. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Comments provided by :
Taylor, William

Anything that leads to public disclosure of campaign funds is a good thing. Corporations should not be able to donate money in private and not even be held accountable by the public.

We should know who and what these companies are supporting.

Fact is we need to limit the amount of money flying around Washington. Lobbyists are one of the major problems with this country.

Legislators more often than not are not even voting on the legislation itself but rather voting whichever way they have been lobbied to vote. This is by definition corruption.

Comments provided by :
Teel, Jacob

Regardless of organization type (super pac, pac, a candidates own organization, a party's org like DNC, etc.)...ALL donors of ANY amount must be disclosed as well as the actual amount or in-kind (service, barter, etc.).

So any organization...

Any type of support (money, service, barter)...

Declaration of which candidate the support supports. So if the donation goes to support a particular issue (e.g. a piece of legislation or a particular candidate), it MUST be disclosed.

FULL DISCLOSURE

I would also like to see a firm cap on contribution limits. I don't think these should be tied to any one issue or any one candidate, but by annual cycle...They should be capped at \$1 million in any year...So any individual or organization or company in the US (must be a citizen or US based organization) can only provide \$1 million in any type of campaign or issue.

For example:

- 1) Chevron can only donate \$1 million total to all the issues and candidates it wants to support in any given year.
- 2) John Doe can do the same.

Speech can be FREE...But money does not in any way = speech.

Having one organization or individual buy \$100 million in ads for their particular issue is not democracy where 1 person, 1 vote should be the goal...in practice and in spirit. A wealthy org or individual should NOT have more voice/influence than a person who only has their 1 vote.

Research orgs can be excluded, but all forms of advertising across any medium IS included. So a wealthy person can fund \$10 million in research or a study, but that same money can't be spent on advertising for an issue or campaign...that would be capped at \$1 million per calendar year....

Many Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,
Robert Terec

Comments provided by :
Terec, Robert

I support the new rules that would require public disclosure of campaign donations. The public has a right to know which interests are spending what amounts of money to win its votes.

Comments provided by :
Terrie, Larkin

If we must endure the effects of the Citizens United decision with the wealthy donating without limit to candidates, then the very least we can do is require the campaign donations be available for public review with full disclosure as to who the individual or corporate donors are.

Comments provided by :
Terry, Douglas

As a citizen, I definitely want election funds to be transparent and open to the public for review. Who is funding each candidate should be information that is readily available to all voters for federal campaigns.

Comments provided by :
Thomas, Katherine

ALL monies should be made public, with adequate tools made available to the public that track and trace the origins of donors. Not to mention, bring back limitations on campaign spending.

Comments provided by :
Thomas, Kathryn

It is harmful for people ("entities" if you prefer) who wield, by virtue of their financial resources, outsized influence on the electoral process to be able to toss such influence about in complete anonymity. I urge you to rule in favor of maximum disclosure regarding the sources and uses of financial resources which impact the political process regardless of the nature of the source.

Comments provided by :
Thomas, Stanley

Any and all moneys recieved by a candidate for any office should be fully disclosed. Period. No exceptions.

Comments provided by :

Tieri, Steven

Before Citizens United, we had a system of government that addressed the needs of the wealthy and private, corporate interests. After Citizens United and McCutcheon, this has gotten considerably worse.

The very least that needs to be done is to end the flow of "dark money" and demand disclosure by everyone contributing money to electioneering communications. That will not restore the Republic, but it is a small step in the right direction.

Comments provided by :
Tiffany, Victor

Why do businesses "invest" in a venture? Because they know they will get a return on their investment that exceeds their investment. I do not think anyone but the supreme court believes any different about campaign contributions. In most periods of time this was call bribery. In this day and age we have smoothed it out to call it something more benign. Campaign contributions should be limited in amount to no more than the average American worker could afford so that there is equal access for influence by all citizens (even the newly formed citizens we have always known as corporations). All contributions should be publicly disclosed as to who contributed, to whom he contribution was given, for what purpose and how much. Every cent should be traceable from start to finish. If disclosures are not required then the contributions should not be allowed as a business expense or any type of write off (tax etc).

Comments provided by :
Timmons, Cheryl

I am very concerned about how much money is being used to effect elections in America. We need to reform the system so that our elected officials represent their constituents and not only those who are big donors. They should spend their time in office governing and not raising money for the next election.

We need major reform in our system so that we can return to a government of, for and by the people.

Comments provided by :
Titunik, Devorah

I support this cause.

Comments provided by :
Torres, Eric

The source of campaign contributions should be a clear money trail. The funding of campaigns should be transparent including the members and funders of political action committees, so that the interests behind political figures, and, decisions and laws are clear. In making these reforms voters will be better informed and understand more of the context and ramifications to their voting and political decisions. For a true democracy the public must understand the interests on both sides of political campaigns.

Comments provided by :
Toulouse, Alyse

Citizens should know who and what organizations are making campaign contributions to candidates or financing political advertising messages. This information should be published as soon as possible and as complete as possible to the FEC web site.

Without disclosure any foreign country or group could be unfairly influencing our elections

Thank you, Robert Tracy

Comments provided by :
Tracy, Robert

FEC,

It is absolutely vital that voters know who is trying to influence elections financially.

All money flooding into an election should be tracked and disclosed to the public. Otherwise we end up further promoting a government run by the super rich, where the rest of us are left in the dark.

It's absurd that this question is even being asked. The real question is why are we allowing money to corrupt our political process in the first place. We can't claim to be a country that cares about democracy, when we prioritize wealth first.

-Weston Tracy
Portland, OR.

Comments provided by :
Tracy, Weston

It should be public knowledge how campaign money is spent as the transparency will shed light on the matter. There is currently so much money wasted on campaigns the system should start holding politicians accountable.

Comments provided by :
Tran, Dang

I fully support this measure. The public should be aware of what interest groups are spending on campaigns. There are OUR politicians representing US right? Then why wouldn't we want to know who's pocket they're in? We need this.

Comments provided by :

Trawin, David

Listen to the PEOPLE. We want transparency. We want to know exactly who is getting politicians in office. Elections should NOT be bought, they should be earned by democratic public approval.

Comments provided by :
Tresko, Nick

Keep the big money out of elections and limit campaign
Contributions to \$10,000

Comments provided by :
tronolone, Mike

We have a right to know who is making large donations. The larger the donation, the more we need to know. We want to know who is getting special favors. Transparency is imperative.

Comments provided by :
Trudeau, Karen

I think it is imperative that the general public be provided information about organizations, individuals, and political groups that make substantial contributions to campaign funding for all levels of publicly elected officials.

The recent rulings by the US Supreme Court have opened the floodgates to unlimited funding. Despite their narrow interpretation regarding quid pro quo, large amounts of money do influence political decisions in favor of the contributor's views. Otherwise, why would an organization or individual make such a large "investment" in the politician if it was not to affect changes to laws and regulations in their favor? If businesses, financial institutions and wealthy individuals are allowed to sway political decisions and laws to benefit their views yet those same laws and decisions are a detriment to the average citizen, this is not good for our country.

We are already seeing the effect of money influencing government. It is reflected in voter apathy. How can a single vote outweigh millions of dollars?

Revealing who is contributing and how much will provide additional information that voters can use to determine if the candidate truly holds with what they are saying or just saying what someone has paid for?

Comments provided by :
Tulipani, Diane

Full disclosure of campaign and super Pac funding, political or not (including PSAs and marketing campaigns)

Comments provided by :
Turner, Grant

I am for full public disclosure of all campaign money !

Comments provided by :
Turner, William

Campaign funding amounts and donors should be made public, with an amount not to exceed \$200. This would help curtail wealthy donors having excessive influence in government.

Comments provided by :
Twidwell , Sandy

It very important for the preservation of our democratic process that all contributions to senators, representatives, and all other public officials be disclosed to the public: identity of donors and the cumulative amount of their contribution.

Comments provided by :
Unson, Divina

So much money goes into influencing voters to vote against their own interests. Identifying who is giving money gives voters an idea on who is really in charge - the politician or the donor.

Comments provided by :
Uribe, Katina

I believe every voter should be able to have access to everyone who donates to a political campaign or funds advertising to promote or hinder a candidate. I also believe there should be a window of time before a campaign where entities must report any spending on advertising that either promotes or hinders a cause related to a political campaign.

Comments provided by :
Vacek, Steven

everything should be disclosed
.

Comments provided by :
vallati, julia

I think the public should be able to see who is influencing our elected officials. Transparency is the key to a fair and honest electoral process.

Comments provided by :
Van Pelt, Michael

I am disgusted at the amount of outside money spent on campaigns. In my humble opinion, this country is no longer a functioning democracy due to the PACs and interest groups. I wish for ALL outside monies to be outlawed. But until we wake up and realize that is our only hope for a peaceful, prosperous nation, I am begging to know exactly where these donations are coming from. I have every right to know, I honestly believe that. Please help those of us out here who are sickened and disgusted with what has happened to this country.

Comments provided by :
Vanderhoef, Minda

The entire election process should be open to scrutiny, especially by those who will be represented by those elected. Knowing who made contributions to a candidate and in what amounts is paramount to understanding and regulating the influence money has on our elections process. The first step in ensuring our elections process is fair and the influences that may affect the performance of elected officials once in office are known by the electorate, is to make contribution information fully available to the public and the media.

Comments provided by :
vanvoris, james reid

Any attempt to regulate the internet is an infringement on our 1st Amendment right.

Comments provided by :
Vasquez, Jessie

We need to stop selling our democracy to the highest bidders. Enough!

Comments provided by :
Vaught, Russell

Corporations are not people. Get the money out of politics. Full disclosure of course.

Comments provided by :
Vennard, Susan

Though I believe that strict limits should be placed on campaign donations, I do believe that transparency is definitely a step in the right direction.

Comments provided by :
Vieira, Charles

All political donations should be traceable to their donors. In cases of corporate, business, union or LLC donations, the officers of the entity should be required. All of this information should be in an easily searched database so that voters can search by candidate, donor, election race. Transparency should rule.

Comments provided by :
Wade, Edward

free internet.. and no government regulations on free speech. no taxation on use of internet at all. no regulations on ISPs, thank you.

Comments provided by :
walker , michael

The public should be made fully aware of where campaign donation come from and how much from each donor and where the donations are being spent.

Comments provided by :
Walker, Carl

As an infantry combat veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, I'm beginning to worry that, with all of the money in politics, it will lead to a caste system in the United States. The corporations will pay politicians to pass laws that give them tax breaks, so that they can outcompete smaller businesses. Then they will pay to have money cut from public schooling, so that only the people who are already wealthy can afford higher education for their children. Then corporations could get laws passed to lower minimum wage, or just to maintain it as it is until inflation makes it worth less anyway. This could then be justified somehow, probably by claiming that the poor are "too lazy to go to school", rather than too busy working minimum wage jobs to study. This is the trend I have seen thus far after returning from war in 2011, with the rich getting richer and the poor get poorer. I believe that I owe it to the friends who I've seen die for the ideals that the United States of America is supposed to represent, to make this country great enough to honor their sacrifice. The United States will never achieve this greatness if only a small percentage of the wealthiest individuals in America hold all of the political power. As this is practically the definition of our current political system, I will do whatever I can within legal limits to prevent money from influencing politics.

Comments provided by :
Walsh, Patrick

I am sure you will get thousands of comments from individuals who have more expertise and definitely time than me to write lengthy statements. Consequently, I will keep it short. Of course, I as a voter should know which interests are spending how much to win over my vote.

Comments provided by :
Wanzer, Paula

I'd really rather have no outside funding at all and get away from lobbyists entirely. Reverse the Citizens United decision and get all money out of politics and elections. But if there must be money in politics, every dollar of it should have to be itemized publicly with sources and destinations. I know some people have joked about it, but it would be very helpful if politicians, like athletes, had to wear their sponsors' patches on their suits so we could know at every moment who's paying for their opinion. It's important for me as a voter and a person who tries to stay informed with my country's politics to have as much information as I can get to make informed decisions about how best represents my perspective and interests.

Comments provided by :
Washington, Kate

Citizens United was the most disastrous and corrosive thing to happen to US democracy. As sunshine is the best disinfectant, I want to make all donations public knowledge, And as equality is inherent in democracy, donations should be limited to a small amount that the average American can afford, not the 1%. And for God's sake, can we do something about the commercials?

Comments provided by :
Watson, Greg

The US should definitely require public disclosure of all campaign money, no matter the amount. If it come from an organization, the decision maker (Owner/CEO/President/BOD) should be named as well.

Comments provided by :
Weber, Mary Ellen

I would like to see all campaign finance contributions fully disclosed regardless of whether the contributions are to a candidate, party, PAC, or any other organization involved in political activities of any type.

Furthermore, I strongly support a constitutional amendment to limit campaign contributions and/or create a public finance election system.

It is absolutely clear to me that the influence of money in the political system is a serious threat to our economy and our democracy.

Comments provided by :
West, Mark

I agree there should be public transparency in donations in elections.
I don't think Corp are people, and if your hiding something you should not
be running for office in this country.

Comments provided by :
West, William

I think that any group and/or person who gives money to any person or group seeking public office or to persuade voters to support a law or legislative agenda should have to be identified on the contributors list. Voters need to be aware of who supports a candidate or is pushing for a law to be enacted. We need transparency at all levels of public life.

Comments provided by :
Wheeler Watson, Vivian

As a US Citizen and concerned voter, I want to know which organizations and individuals are contributing to campaigns and the amount. Please make this required disclosure. Thank you.

Comments provided by :
Whelchel, LaVonne

I would like every monetary contribution to any election campaign to be public Knowledge. There should be no dark money in any election.

Comments provided by :
Whelton, Gregory

Please make all campaign contributions completely transparent in every way. We, the people, have a right to know!

Comments provided by :

White, Alison

I believe we need unequivocal transparency in our election process and that includes campaign funding. Time and time again political funders have found (or had their bought and paid for elected officials put in) loopholes in reform legislation that has made things worse. PACs and other '3rd party' organizations must be abolished. If you want to support a politician, donate directly to the politician and require that the politician disclose all donors without exception. Something would have to be done about 3rd party political advertising to insure that it is also transparent. Our electoral process is almost fatally flawed at this point and we are no longer a democracy as a result.

Comments provided by :
White, Chuck

None

Comments provided by :
White, Ivan

I wish to know who is spending money to influence political decisions. I dont want to be jerked around by and influenced by power systems that I have no knowledge of. This is a serious problem. If organizations can donate unlimited amounts of money to politics (which is already ridiculous and un-democratic), at least make the funding visible to the public. Thats the least that can be done. Also, do something about getting rid of the Citizens United ruling because its dangerous to our future. We are not far away from being a new version of Rome (going slowly from republic to full blown empire).

Comments provided by :
White, Kurt

The election of 2014 showed the power of money in our politics. But that power only purchased time for those who paid the most to have their word heard. As a citizen of this country I want to have my opinion heard. But I feel that my vote doesn't count because the only words that people hear are those of the powerful and wealthy.

We need a system that gives each candidate equal time to be heard on the same stage at the same time and take away the influence of powerful people to control the dialogue by controlling the candidate and what he/she is committed to say on behalf of the contributors to their campaign.

My suggestion for a solution is to have a shorter campaign and have taxpayer funded sponsorship of debates and no advertising paid for by outside interests.

Any money contributed to a candidate is clearly identified as to who it comes from. Individuals from or owning a single company cannot shovel money into campaign after campaign to make the candidate indebted to them for their support.

I want to have a democracy where the individual citizens of this country look at each candidate and decide on the merits of their proposals who we want to have as our elected representatives, not a mouthpiece for some money handler who has only their interests in mind.

Comments provided by :

White, Maria

Federal Rule Makers,

I am a voting citizen. You are responsible to me and the rest of those participating in the great American Experiment. Democracy!!!! We all know votes are bought and sold. At least give us the information so we can follow the money. If you allow transparency that includes knowledge of the power behind or against an issue/candidate, negative campaigns will be exposed for what they are. Platforms and propositions can be explained and explored. We will be able to direct our needs and desires as a people. The voting majority has a chance. This is the spirit of America. Please consider transparency above all.

Comments provided by :
Whitfield, Constance

The FEC should be regulating less not more. Leave documentary film makers alone as a part of a free press. There is no need or justification to regulate the internet ...this is America not China. Stop seeing how many microns you can get to violating the 1st amendment - instead, give it a wide berth. I don't need the FEC looking over my shoulder before I post in a forum. Hands off!

Comments provided by :
Wightman, Doug

Unlimited, undisclosed, dark money in elections, possibly even from foreign sources, has the dangerous effect of amplifying the influence of the affluent, and diminishes the power of the electorate to choose their representatives. Ideally, we should be holding free, fair, publicly financed elections with verifiable paper ballots and transparent counting methods. Until such is the case, we need transparency in the finances and donations received by candidates, and timely reporting, before the election of all donors. Our democracy should not be for sale to unknown and untraceable funders of candidates.

Comments provided by :
Wild, Joseph

I would like to voice my support for disclosure of all sources of income that are used in an election regardless of their source, destination, or purpose.

Sean Wilkins

Comments provided by :
Wilkins, Sean

I think that the ability of monied interests to use wealth as power in our political system is the single greatest hinderance to proper and efficient governance that we face right now, and it is also the most significant obstacle to fully realizing our democratic principles. Public disclosure of the sources of campaign money is an important step in correcting these problems.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Comments provided by :
Wilkinson, Ian

Democracy is best heard if all political contributions over a threshold are made available and searchable publicly.

Comments provided by :
Williams, Roy

We have lost our way. This country became great because of our democratic process. Now we are allowing the vote to be swayed by dark money. And sadly, it's completely legal now. If contributors want to contribute, fine, but it needs to be transparent. How can we have a true democracy without this transparency? The system has run amok and without transparency, corruption and greed are slowly but surely getting their dark candidates elected and essentially buying the right to write laws. Usually these laws don't protect the average citizen, in fact, just the opposite. Corporations that help write the laws are stealing money from our public schools, our roads, our bridges, our senior citizens, our weak and vulnerable. Companies who give dark money are paying wages that are so low that we as taxpayers have to supplement with welfare and food stamps. We can be great again, but it's going to take some strong resistance to this new corrupt way of doing business. Do something right and fix these laws. You are not beholden to business. You are beholden to me.

Comments provided by :
Willoughby, Kathryn

As voters, we must demand full disclosure of contributors and amounts given to any and all participants in local, state, and federal elections.

Comments provided by :
Willson, John

I believe all elections should be publicly funded and all private donations from all sources should be eliminated. We all benefit from living in a representative democracy so we should all support the cost of our elections equally through our public dollars. However, if that doesn't happen at the very least, all political donations, regardless of whether they are to individual candidates or to PACs and Super-PACs, should be public knowledge.

Comments provided by :
Wilson, Keith

Large contributors to political campaigns made by corporations should be transparent to the public. Otherwise, our government officials are bought and represent only the wealthy.

Comments provided by :
Wilson, Lori

We have gone from the days of "One Voter, One Vote" to an election that goes to the highest bidder. We should be ashamed at what we've become, but instead we are passing laws at the highest levels to permit public auctions of Congressional and State office.

I agree that it's time we overturned decisions like Citizens United and McCutcheon and handed democracy back to the American voters. While we're dreaming here, let's also establish mandatory voting for all qualified American citizens and set term limits for all members of Congress.

Comments provided by :
Woiton, Jeff

Voters should have access to information on all donations to all political campaigns, all PAC's and all non-profit groups participating in political campaigns. No exceptions.

Comments provided by :
Wojtycki, Gael

I certainly do think there should be public disclosure of campaign money so, as voters, we know which interests are spending how much to win over our votes.

Comments provided by :
Wolfgram, Marlys

Money is not speech. Money is a magnifier and multiplier of (political) speech. There should not be a right of privacy to use money to affect election results. Spending money on a political campaign is a public activity with public consequences.

Comments provided by :
Wolfowitz, Clare

Hello, I understand you are seeking comments on disclosure in campaign finance. While I completely disagree with the Supreme Court's rulings on Citizen's United and McCutcheon, we have to live with that until we find some way to overturn those rulings. But even if huge amounts of money are legally flooding into political campaigns, disclosure is absolutely essential, and not only disclosure, but a reliable, uncomplicated system where the public can view the information. This includes the original source of funds going into PACs and Super-Pacs. The source of funds for political ads can speak volumes. If I see an ad favoring a proposition in California, for example, and I see "paid for by Citizens who love fluffy bunnies", this tells me nothing. But if I see that "Citizens who love fluffy bunnies" is funded by the SEIU, Sierra Club and Bill Gates, this tells me something entirely different than if it is funded by Chevron, Koch Industries and Trans-Canada. It gives me a clue that the PAC may not be quite what it seems, and gives me the motivation to do a little research than I might otherwise. People have a right to know who is funding propositions, candidates' campaigns, etc. Thank you.

Comments provided by :
Wolfson, Dawn

The FEC needs to grow some teeth and act upon violations in a judicious manner and while current violations are still taking place.

Comments provided by :
Wollam, Steven

Disclosure of campaign finances is crucial for our electoral process. It is absurd that politicians are able to freely campaign and not have to show who's backing them.

Please create some transparency in this secretive and shameful process we have.

Comments provided by :

Wong, Michael

Please enact regulations as recommended by the Sunlight Foundation in support of public openness and transparency of every level of influence in federal elections.

Comments provided by :
Wood, Terry

Public disclosure of major campaign contributions is essential to a transparent democracy. Above a certain dollar amount, voters should know who is making contributions and how much.

Comments provided by :
Wright, Andrew

All funds received by politicians directly, on their behalf, by their campaign or in any way to benefit the candidate shall be public information, the amounts and the source to include name of donor, including organizations. 100% identification and accountability.

Comments provided by :
Yeager, Kenneth

I fully support open disclosure of lobbyist groups! If PAC groups are held accountable, it'll lead to a more educated voter base. That's always a good thing.

Comments provided by :
Young, Kathleen

We the people of the United States of America have the right to know every person and entity that advertises on our public airwaves, especially those involved in the political process. You MUST require full disclosure since we do not live in a secret fascist society.

Comments provided by :
Zefran , Joseph

I believe we have the right to know where campaign money comes from and how much is being contributed.

Comments provided by :
Zito, James