

The Supreme Court decision *Citizens United V. FEC.*

NO Limit on Corporate Money in Elections

In a 5-4 decision the Supreme Court overturned over a century law banning corporations from using their enormous treasuries for directly contributing to the defeat or promotion of a candidate.

Permitting corporations to directly tap their vast profits for unlimited political spending will bring about a new era of *corporate domination of our democracy* if left unchecked.

Corporate Influence of Elections

Maximization of profits, the sole purpose of for-profit corporations, puts their needs *at odds* with regulations designed to protect the public interest.

A political agenda consistent with the corporation, regardless of established public opinion and the rule of law can be fully promoted by hand-picked candidates representing their cause.

Multi-national corporations now will have influence in federal elections and have access to ballot initiatives and proposition campaigns at the state level.

Total Corporate Lobbying vs. Total Candidate Spending

Cycle	Corporate Money Spent on Lobbying	Campaign Spending %	Percent
2008	\$5,170,752,703	\$1,366,384,657	26%
2006	\$5,002,604,155	\$1,411,998,213	28%
2004	\$4,164,795,807	\$1,135,090,248	27%
2002	\$3,410,549,971	\$930,186,153	27%
2000	\$2,981,481,715	\$1,010,902,673	34%
Totals	\$20,730,184,351	\$6,324,802,014	29%

Source: Center for Responsive Politics (www.opensecrets.org)

For the last five elections, candidate spending has been on average about 29 percent of total corporate lobbying during the same period.

Corporate and Union spending:

"In the last election cycle, *corporations outspent unions 4 to 1* when it came to PAC spending.

During the 2008 election cycle, corporations spent a total of \$5.2 billion dollars lobbying Congress, or **61 times as much as labor unions, which spent \$84.4 million during the same period.** *Common Cause*

"If corporations spent about one-third of what they currently spend on lobbying during a two-year election cycle on direct political advocacy, they could outspend all Congressional candidates *combined.*"

What Actions can Illinois Citizens take?

THE SOLUTION: PUBLICLY FINANCED ELECTIONS
Create a new system that returns electoral power to where it rightly belongs—to the people.

A CALL TO TAKE ACTION

1) Promote Clean Elections HB1324 in Illinois for *voluntary* publicly financed elections for state Rep & Sen. and Constitutional officers

Clean Elections candidates can accept donations by the public—all corporate donations are prohibited. Candidates would be allowed to gather small donations from *registered voters* to qualify for statewide offices. Once a threshold is reached, the candidate would then qualify for public funding. Clean Elections would be financed through a *voluntary* check-off box of \$3, or \$6 jointly per household on Illinois income tax returns. Publicly financed elections in other states have resulted in a surplus of funds used for purposes other than elections. They are a net gain for state budgets, rather than a tax liability.

2) Make phone calls

Ask the Chair and Vice Chair of the Campaign and Finance Reform Committee at the state to support the Illinois Clean Elections Act HB1324:

	Telephone	FAX	email
C-Elaine Nekritz	(217) 558-1004	(217) 557-7204	enekritz@repnekritz.org
VC-John D'Amico	(217) 782-8198	(217) 782-2906	johnd@ilga.gov

3) Promote The Fair Elections Now Act (HR 1826) for federally financed elections of US Representatives

The bill bans all contributions from corporations. Candidates for US Representative can gather donations up to \$100 from the public to raise a total of \$50,000. They then qualify for \$900,000—split 40% for the primary and 60% for the general election. Candidates would receive matching funds should their opponent outspend them. Fair election candidates receive a 20% reduction from the lowest broadcast rates, which helps to offset the excessive cost of media. The Fair Elections fund would come from ten percent of the revenues through the auction of unused broadcast spectrum.

A similar bill in the Senate, SB 752 is sponsored by Sen. Dick Durbin and is endorsed by Sen. Roland Burris, so no calls are necessary for its support.

4) Call your US Representative to support the Fair Elections Now Act
Illinois sponsors: Reps. Jackson, Quigley, Halvorsen, Hare, Lipinski, Davis, Costello, Guitierrez, Schakowsky, Foster. Thank them for their support!.

Find your US Representative at www.congress.org



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