



CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

IN 2008 INDEPENDENT SPENDING ON ELECTIONS WAS ROUGHLY \$20 MILLION, BUT IN 2012 SPENDING EXPLODED TO ROUGHLY \$80 MILLION.

(Center for Responsive Politics)

WHAT IS IT?

Citizens United Vs Federal Election Commission was a case decided by the Supreme Court in 2010. The decision lifted spending limits for private citizens and organizations on political campaigns and activities. It led to the dramatic increase of Super PACs and high-level spending by individuals and groups to support or critique candidates.

WHO HAS IT?

This repeal of spending restrictions by individuals and organizations has given a disproportionate amount of “political speech” to those with wealth and resources. For example, billionaires and millionaires now can dictate/control the kinds of information and advertisements disseminated during an election cycle and develop unchecked influence over candidates and campaigns.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Our entire system is built on Democracy, the belief that everyone has an equal voice to elect leaders and influence our government. Citizens United grossly undermines this fundamental value. This infusion of Big Money into the system makes it much more difficult for non-insiders to run for office.

TAKE ACTION:

1. Visit www.fairshot.com and **join our movement** by connecting with our **social media**, attending our events, and volunteering in your community.
2. Spread the word about Campaign Finance Reform to your friends and coworkers. Ask politicians and businesses to make it a priority and adopt a policy.
3. **Hold meetings** with community members to discuss the issue and take action.
4. Use your social media to **share your story** and advocate for Retirement Plans. Write an op-ed for your local paper or for a blog.

ASK POLITICIANS TO SIGN THE PEOPLE'S PLEDGE: An agreement between all candidates running to not use outside funds in election activities. If a candidate receives funds or support from an outside group, they face a penalty, taking money from their campaign.

MONEY DOES NOT EQUAL SPEECH!