



The Case Americans are Trying to Make about \$\$\$ in Politics

The Problem

In 2010, when the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* struck down laws restricting corporate and union spending in elections, **Americans from all political backgrounds expressed outrage**. Today, when Americans are asked if they believe big money has a corrupting influence on our political process, the answer is a resounding **"YES."**

Democrats, Libertarians and Republicans alike are affected by the threat of Big Money in political campaigns. Smart, civic-minded Americans of all political stripes have been sidelined from holding office simply because of the likelihood of being **outspent ten-to-one** by an opponent that is financed by a handful of anonymous donors with a narrow political agenda. Sitting officeholders have no choice but to spend inordinate amounts of time fundraising instead of performing their duties as public servants. Every decision a politician makes is influenced disproportionately by large donors simply because these are the people s/he sees and hears from the most. "Government by and for the people," is a concept which we have lost to the electioneers and for which it is **our patriotic duty** to restore.

First Steps

The Constitutional Amendment process was devised by our Founders to enable **We the People** to regain control of our government if it stops responding to US. To reign in our unresponsive government, we must codify the difference between an individual's right to free speech and a legal entity spending unlimited dollars to influence elections.

In the 83rd Texas Legislative Session earlier this year, three bills were filed that called for an **amendment to the United States Constitution**, to re-establish the premise that laws governing the spending of money to influence elections are constitutional. Two bills called on the United States Congress to propose an amendment and one bill proposed an **Article V Convention** where average Americans would do so.

Legislators and Capitol staffers responded quite favorably to our pleas for reform. We now know how we can have an even greater impact in the 84th Session.

Do You Hear Us?

Americans: Citizens United bad for democracy:

- A recent survey¹ found that overall, 69% of Americans agreed with this statement: "New rules that let corporations, unions and people give unlimited money to Super PACs will lead to corruption." Only 15% disagreed.
- **Three out of four Republicans** (74%) agreed with this statement.
- In a similar poll² more than two out of three (67%) **independent voters** said the ruling has a negative impact on political campaigns.

Money in politics doesn't pass the smell test:

- More than two-thirds of respondents (68%) in the ORC poll¹— including 71% of Republicans — also agreed that, "if a company spent \$100,000 to help elect a member of Congress, it could successfully pressure him or her to change a vote on proposed legislation." Only **one in five respondents disagreed**.

"Sure, there are bad apples in the barrel, but the real problem is that the barrel is rotten."

-David Donnelly, Campaign for Fair Elections

Increased campaign spending erodes trust:

- Over two out of three Republicans (67%) in the OCR poll¹ said "they trust government less because big donors to SuperPACs have more influence than regular voters." **159 people contributed 60% of SuperPAC funds in 2012.**

Steps should be taken to curb spending:

- A third poll³ showed that over two-thirds of Americans (69%) felt SuperPACs should be illegal – and 52% said they strongly supported their elimination.
- **Sixty-nine percent of Tea Party** supporters felt that superPACs should be outlawed.

¹ Opinion Research Corporation survey, April 2012

² Pew Research Center poll, January 2012

³ ABC News/Washington Post poll, March 2012

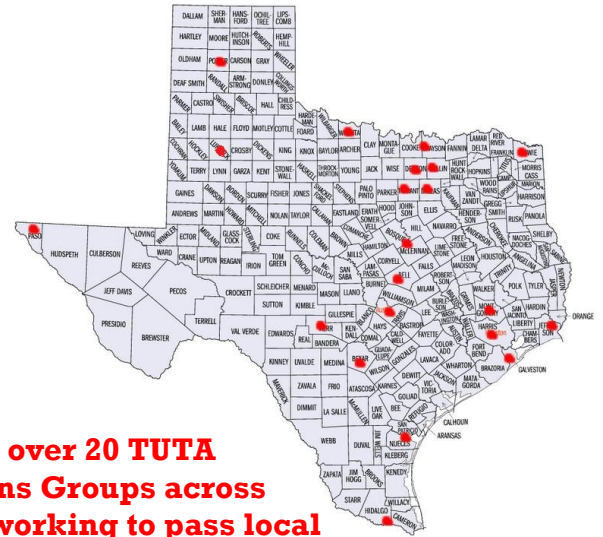


Who is Texans United to Amend?

We are a network of independent groups of average Texans who are dedicated to passing local resolutions supporting an amendment to the US Constitution to combat the unlimited flow of money into our elections. We are working to restore the voices of We The People.

Organizations in the network:

- Common Cause Texas
- Common Ground for Texans
- Houston Area Move to Amend
- Justice Party of Texas
- Central Texas Move To Amend
- Austin MoveOn Council
- Occupy Austin End Corporate Personhood Working Group
- Progress Texas
- Public Citizen of Texas
- Wolf-PAC Texas



There are over 20 TUTA Resolutions Groups across the state working to pass local resolutions that call on the U.S. Congress for a constitutional amendment

We call on all Texans to press their city councils and county commissioner courts to pass resolutions that either propose an Article 5 Convention or call on Congress to propose an amendment that that will provide the constitutional grounds for rational laws to do with money in politics. Over 500 such resolutions have already been passed across the country.



Sixteen state legislatures have passed resolutions.

Will you stand with the majority of Americans who are calling for action?

By passing these resolutions across the country, We the People are restoring trust in government.