

Who's Rosalie and Why Is She Going to the McCutcheon Response Rally?



Rosalie is sick and tired of what is happening to her and to her democracy. She wants large corporation control of our government to end. Her income has gotten lower and lower and her survival expenses higher and higher as the big corporate heads have become obscenely wealthy. The way she sees it, nothing is “trickling down!”

Rosalie got her college degree ten years ago and went to work as an accountant. She bought a house a couple of years later and thought she was pursuing the “American Dream.” But she was unable to save money as she paid off her huge college loans. She built up huge credit card debts. The economy got bad and she was laid off four years ago. She has been unable to find anything except a minimum wage job with no benefits and no health insurance. Despite what she reads about job growth in the US, the only jobs she and her unemployed friends see out there are low paying part time jobs --, nothing like what she expected as a college graduate. She was unable to keep up her mortgage payments and the bank foreclosed on her house two years ago. She has had to move back in with her aging parents. She is not

making enough to pay off her college loans. Rosalie feels trapped in a downward spiral.

The only thing that will bring about a real economic recovery for the millions of people like Rosalie is taking their democracy back from the large corporations that use their financial power to influence elections and control our lawmakers. The Citizens United Supreme Court ruling of a couple of years ago gave corporations the right to pour huge sums of money into political coffers. The political candidates with the most money to spend usually win the election and when they do, they grant favors to the businesses which supported them and create laws that go against the interest of the 99%. So the average American voter has lost her power in the political process and the system works against her. This is why, for example, Lehman Brothers and other big banks were never held accountable for the financial crisis they created a few years ago.

Now things threaten to get worse. In the Supreme Court case of *McCutcheon vs. FEC*, Shaun McCutcheon, a very wealthy owner of a mining engineering consulting firm,, is suing the Federal Election Commission to allow individual millionaires to put over \$3 millions each into political campaigns. The Court is expected to rule in favor of McCutcheon any day. More money, this time private money, will be poured into elections in order to influence the outcomes and control the winners. Rosalie and you and I will lose even more of the power of our votes. It's so bad that a lot of people have given up on the system and stopped voting!

There is a solution. This is what the McCutcheon response rally is about. We have to get big money out of politics. It's that simple. We are working for an amendment to the Constitution (yes, it's been amended a bunch of times!) that states first that **corporations are not people**. After all, they don't breathe, go the doctor, or die, do they? And second, that **money is not free speech**, which is another way of saying that it won't be possible to pour unlimited money into elections any more. It's going to take a lot of work by Rosalie and you and me to pass this amendment. Showing up for the McCutcheon rally and letting our fellow citizens know what we stand for is one of the first steps. We will need to contact our state legislators to get them to pass a resolution to Congress demanding such an amendment and we will have to communicate to the press and everyone else why voting for such an amendment is critical. We need you to show up and help us get there. We **will** get there. We **have to** if we are to save our democracy for future generations!

Houston Area Move to Amend (HAMTA), www.houstonmta.net, working with Public Citizen