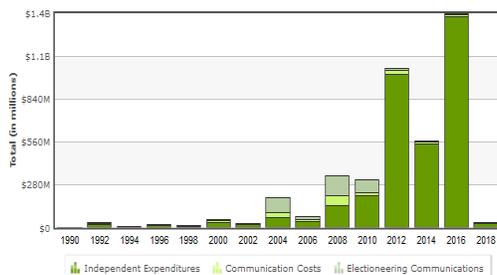


## Business leaders concerned about representative democracy & integrity in government

### The Challenge: The Collapse of the U.S. Campaign Finance Framework

Several related Supreme Court decisions have effectively dismantled the century-old campaign finance framework that has protected American democracy and fostered a healthy economic environment. As this framework crumbles, special interest contributions have skyrocketed, undermining the integrity of our government and the market framework needed for innovation and long-term growth.

Total Outside Spending by Election Cycle  
excluding party committees



OpenSecrets.org

### An Emerging Solution: The 28th Amendment

Amazingly, this is an issue on which the majority of Americans agree.\* Today, California is one of 19 states that have passed resolutions for a 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment to overturn *Citizens United* and end unlimited spending in politics.

Business leaders are now joining this national wave of action out of a personal commitment to representative democracy and shared concern for our country. As citizens and professionals, they are adding their voices to those of millions of Americans who agree that action is needed.

*It is up to us as citizens to recapture our democracy—it will not be self-correcting. We invite you to personally engage by investing both your time and resources—and by mobilizing those around you—in what we believe is the greatest challenge facing America today.*

-- Katherine M. Gehl And Michael E. Porter "Why Competition in The Politics Industry Is Failing America", Harvard Business School, Sep, 2017

### Business Leaders for American Promise – Bay Area

**Our mission is to unite Bay Area business leaders in non-partisan advocacy for a 28th Amendment to end unlimited political spending and restore the integrity of our government.**

*We provide educational forums, tools, and support to help business leaders clarify where they stand and take effective action. We are affiliated with American Promise, the only non-partisan organization working to unite efforts to craft, pass, and ratify the 28th Amendment.*

### Three Ways to Take Action

**SIGN** - Add your name to the non-partisan Statement of Principle

**JOIN** - Become a member & support our ongoing efforts

**INFORM** - Help others learn about the issue & clarify where they stand

To learn more, please go to [http://www.americanpromise.net/blap\\_bayarea](http://www.americanpromise.net/blap_bayarea) or email Robert Galemme ([robert@galemmeconsulting.com](mailto:robert@galemmeconsulting.com)).



## Statement of Principle

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As business leaders and citizens with a wide variety of political interests and affiliations, we are convinced that the current dysfunction of our political system is not self-correcting but requires systemic change to restore the health of our civic institutions and the integrity of our government.<sup>i</sup>

We have come together out of a deep personal commitment to representative democracy and a shared concern for our country, compelled to add our voices to those of millions of Americans across the political spectrum who agree that action is needed.<sup>ii</sup> Specifically:

- **We believe in a strong democracy where government is accountable to the people it serves.** Unlimited political spending by corporations, unions, or individuals – U.S. and foreign – causes elected officials to be more responsive to special interests than to their own constituencies. This undermines faith in the American democratic process, violates decades of practice, and disregards the intent of the Constitution.<sup>iii</sup>
- **We believe in a strong economy where companies compete based on the value they create in the marketplace.** As business leaders, we are uniquely positioned to clarify that a pay-to-play environment, where businesses compete by buying political influence, damages the real drivers of American innovation, competitiveness, and long-term prosperity.<sup>iv</sup>
- **We believe in a political system based on checks and balances and an open exchange of ideas.** Unlimited political spending leads to concentrations of power, attacking the very foundations of our democracy, stifling productive political debate, inhibiting qualified candidates for political office, and impeding pragmatic, lasting solutions on any issue.<sup>v</sup>

Therefore, we support a Constitutional amendment to allow limits on political spending, as one of several critical reforms needed to secure our republic. We commit to act as citizen leaders, informing ourselves and lending our voices as Americans across the political spectrum work together to craft, pass, and ratify such an amendment.<sup>vi</sup>



## Yes! Please add my name to the Statement of Principle.

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To show your support for the Business Leaders for American Promise Statement of Principle, please complete the following:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (optional) and Brief Bio (20 words or less):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why You Support the Statement of Principle (optional, 100-words or less): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Photo (optional - please email a .jpg or .png file to [marks@americanpromise.net](mailto:marks@americanpromise.net) to have it uploaded.)

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  Please send me occasional updates.

Thank you! With your approval (indicated by your signature above), we will add your name and information to the [Supporters List](#) on our website. We may also occasionally reference your name and information in publications, presentations or other communications, created by Business Leaders for American Promise or American Promise and approved by our Executive Committee. If you need to edit or withdraw your information, please just send an email to [marks@americanpromise.net](mailto:marks@americanpromise.net) or any other member of our [Executive Committee](#), and we will be happy to take care of it on our website and in future communications.

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<sup>i</sup> [Why Competition in the Politics Industry is Failing America](#), Katherine Gehl & Michael Porter, Harvard Business School, Sep 2016

<sup>ii</sup> [Americans Want Supreme Court to Turn Off Political Spending Spigot](#), Bloomberg News, 2015. [American Business Leaders on Campaign Finance and Reform](#), Committee for Economic Development, 2013.

<sup>iii</sup> [Total Outside Spending by Election Cycle, Excluding Party](#), OpenSecrets.org 2018. [America in Crisis](#), Edelman Trust Barometer 2018. [American's #1 Fear is Corruption of Government](#), Chapman University, 2017

<sup>iv</sup> [How Campaign Contributions and Lobbying Can Lead to Inefficient Economic Policy](#) AmericanProgress.org, 2014

<sup>v</sup> [A Statement from Senator Alan Simpson](#), R-Wyoming, AmericanPromise.net, 2017

<sup>vi</sup> [The 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment](#), AmericanPromise.net, 2018