

Unity Statement of Principles

Solutions to the Undue Influence of Money in Politics

Democracy requires a commitment to self-government passed from one generation to the next. We recognize our obligation to preserve our representative democracy as our way of resolving reasonable disagreements on public policy. Like generations before us, we come together as citizens setting aside policy differences and uniting to preserve our democracy, so that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from this Earth. We stand united in support of a comprehensive set of public policies that recognizes the people as the ultimate check on the corrosive influence of money in politics that is eroding the very foundation of self-government. This Unity Statement of Principles reflects policies already working in many parts of the country to strengthen democracy.

1. Everyone participates

In a democracy, everyone should have a voice in the decisions affecting their lives. Our system of funding elections should not privilege any particular interest, nor suppress the voices of others. We need to provide incentives that encourage the active participation of small donors in our elections so candidates are accountable to, and dependent on, the people, not moneyed interests.

2. Everyone's voice is heard

Our democracy is based on the principle of one person, one vote—not one dollar, one vote. From equal access to the ballot box to the right not to be silenced by big money, democracy requires we recognize each other as equals in the political process. When elected representatives only hear the policy preferences of the very rich it distorts government's responsiveness to the people. We need limits on using money in politics so our democracy doesn't just respond to wealthy and corporate interests but responds to the needs of the people.

3. Everyone knows

Voters have the right to know who is trying to influence our views and gain improper influence over our representatives. We need effective disclosure requirements for the use of money at all levels of government because transparency is a foundation for accountability.

4. Everyone plays by common sense rules

Access to and influence over our elected representatives should not be determined by the size of your wallet. We must overturn the effects of cases like *Citizens United v. FEC* and *McCutcheon v. FEC* and reclaim our Constitution to empower people to adopt common sense rules to stop the improper influence of big money on our government.

5. Everyone is held accountable

We need a fair and accessible elections system so our elected officials will be responsive and accountable to the people. This requires the FEC, IRS, SEC, FCC, and state agencies to enforce our laws so those who break them face real consequences that deter bad behavior.

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Signers as of January, 2015

Civil Rights & Justice

Alliance for a Just Society
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Constitutional Accountability Center
NAACP
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
National LGBTQ Task Force
National Women's Political Caucus
National Council of La Raza Action Fund
Purdue NORML

Environment

350 Colorado
Appalachian Coalition for Just and Sustainable Communities
Center For Environmental Health
Cow Hollow Fund at San Francisco Foundation
Endangered Species Coalition
Energy and Policy Institute
Environment Texas
Food & Water Watch
Friends of the Earth
Greenpeace
Illinois Right to Know GMO
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
League of Conservation Voters
LocalHarvest
Natural Resources Defense Council
Sierra Club

Faith Communities

Bend the Arc Jewish Action
Boston Common Asset Management
Conference of Major Superiors
Eco-Justice Ministries
Franciscan Action Network
Missionary Oblates JPIC
NETWORK National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Sisters of Mercy - Institute Justice Team
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, US Province

Education & Science

Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists
Center for Science in the Public Interest
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Temple Political Science Society
Roosevelt Institute | Campus Network

Government Reform

Brennan Center for Justice at NYU
BridgeRoots
Center for Effective Government
CREW
Common Cause
Democracy 21
Democracy Matters
Every Voice
Free Speech For People
Government Accountability Project
Issue One
Money Out Voters In
MOVI Wisconsin
NC Voters for Clean Elections
Open Democracy
Public Campaign
Public Citizen
Represent.Us
Say No To Big Money
Stamp Stampede
US PIRG
Vermont PIRG
WAmend
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

Labor & Economic Justice

AFL-CIO
American Family Voices
APALA-DC
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Communications Workers of America
Community Organizations in Action
CT Citizen Action Group
Fair Share
Jobs With Justice
Northwest Side Housing Center
Working America
USAction

Media

Brave New Films
Center for Media and Democracy
Daily Kos
Ethical Markets Media
Pay to Play
ReThink Media
Story of Stuff

Private Sector

ActivUs American Sustainable Business Council
Ben & Jerry's
Christopher Reynolds Foundation
Corporate Accountability International
Harrington Investments
Investor Voice
Newground Social Investment
NorthStar Asset Management, Inc.
Pax World Management LLC
Piper Fund
Social Equity Group
State Innovation Exchange (SiX)
Women Donors Network
Zevin Asset Management, LLC

Multi-Issue Organizations

Citizen Works
Co-operate Colorado
Coffee Party USA
Courage Campaign
Demos
IA Citizens for Community Improvement
Kansas Values Institute
Metro Denver Economic Development Corp.
MoveOn.org
National People's Action Campaign
New Progressive Alliance
OurTime.org
People Demanding Action
People For the American Way
People's Email Network
Progress Florida
Progress Texas
RootsAction
The Main Street Alliance
The Other 98%
Voices for Progress