



INCITE CIVILITY AND REASON

Origin: Coffee Party position papers are developed by volunteers (lay people, not attorneys or policy writers) in the Strategic Implementation Work Group, who research, debate and then write the position paper. Our goal is to outline principles and propose a healthy system on the issue presented. The Board of Directors votes to amend or approve the position papers presented by the work group. This position paper was approved as amended August 2017.

Position Paper on Campaigns and Campaign Finance

Goal: Pass campaign finance laws that limit the impact of special interest groups such as corporations, major political parties and lobbyists.

A Frankenstein system for campaigns

Over the last several decades, many attempts have been made to re-align our campaigns and campaign finance system with the will of the people. As each attempt is made, a court case challenges the results. The cases end up before the Supreme Court, who has chosen to declare campaigns and campaign spending as speech protected by the first amendment. Yet political advertising is not subject to truth in advertising laws. At Coffee Party, we declare that the current system of campaigning and financing of campaigns cannot be fixed with additional legislation. We declare the system needs to be re-written to balance the protections of free speech, community good and access to ballots.

Starting over

Coffee Party USA has identified the following principles to apply to a new federal campaign and campaign finance system:

- Campaigns for federal office should be time-limited; not less than three months and not more than twelve months from candidate announcement to general election. For primaries, not less than 3 months and not more than 6 months.
- National primary day for all federal candidates to make all states matter.
- Access to debates and town halls should be made available to all candidates with 2% or higher polling.
- Truth in advertising laws should apply to campaign advertising.
- Only real human beings can contribute to campaigns. Not corporations. Corporate board members can donate on behalf of their corporation, yet they are limited to campaign limits like everyone else.
- Campaign contributions and expenditures require transparency and information should be available on the internet within one week of reporting deadlines.
- Anonymous or dark money contributions should not be allowed in campaigns.
- Civics education should be mandatory in middle and high schools.
- People's voice is the loudest voice in an election cycle
- Voters are educated through campaigns instead of manipulated or controlled
- Campaign contributions to candidates should allow for a tax credit for contributors up to \$100 per candidate.



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- Media will provide equal time for all candidates polling over 2%.

A new way of campaigning

It is the aspiration of Coffee Party USA to restore integrity to our system of campaigning and financing campaigns. We are co-creating our future through electing good people to office, not picking our favorite sports team. We call on each community member, journalist, candidate and party official to act with self-enlightened interest - where the community needs and rights of individuals are integrated.

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