

DEMOCRACY IS FOR PEOPLE



A Public Citizen project

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This May, as congressional primaries in Texas are fast approaching and local elections are heating up, people across the state are seeing the devastating impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to unleash corporate money's influence in politics.

The Court's disastrous 2010 ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* gave corporations the green light to spend unlimited amounts of money in elections. To make matters worse, the ruling led to the creation of so-called Super PACs, which have become a powerful vehicle for corporations and the super-wealthy to pool their electoral influence-buying. Corporations can even make their political investments without full disclosure, hiding their political spending by giving to supposedly charitable organizations or trade associations which are not required to disclose their contributions but can advocate for or against candidates.

The *Citizens United* ruling is already affecting elections on the local and state level, where smaller campaign costs means that a few corporate or superior donors can have larger impact. Multiple outside groups are backing Lt. Governor David Dewhurst in the Republican Senate primary, while the out-of-state corporatist Club for Growth is putting its own Super PAC to work for Ted Cruz.

In Texas, by the end of the 2012, outside groups spent more than \$65 million on the U.S. Senate race. [Quote from someone concerned about corporate influence dominating local elections in either party // THIS IS WHY IT MATTERS IN MY TOWN]

The effects of corporate spending in elections made national headlines in the 2012 GOP presidential primary, where Super PACs dominated campaign contributions, drowning out the voices of actual voters. Just three Texas billionaires—Bob Perry, Harold Simmons and Robert Rowling—gave more than \$4.4 million combined to a Super PAC supporting Mitt Romney. They also gave \$16.5 million to Karl Rove's American Crossroads group for the general election. Campaign costs hit record levels in the 2012 general election, with spending greater than \$6 billion.

The good news is that Texans are fighting back. From Dallas to San Antonio, Corpus Christi to Houston, people are organizing and standing up for democracy run for the people, by the people – not corporations and other special interests. People in cities and towns everywhere are organizing to pass local resolutions calling on Texas to support – and the U.S. Congress to pass – a constitutional amendment overturning *Citizens United*.

Momentum is growing across America. Sixteen states have formally called for a constitutional amendment, and they've been joined by nearly 500 cities and towns nationwide.



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_____ should join them to stand up for the rights and voices of We the People by passing a resolution backing an amendment.. We're going to beat the mega-corporations and plutocrats that gained from this ruling by continuing to build a mass movement to demand that elected officials at every level stand up for their actual, human constituents, not the corporate interests that fund campaigns.

To get involved with the organizing going on in _____, please contact _____ at _____.



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