



Internships

Fall Democracy Internship with Public Citizen (Washington, D.C. & Syracuse, N.Y.)

Work to Awaken Our Democracy – Get Money Out and Voters In!

The U.S. Supreme Court *Citizens United* ruling has given big corporations and wealthy individuals the ability to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence the outcome of elections. Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Shelby*, which gut the Voting Rights Act, has enabled states to pass laws to suppress the vote of people of color, youth and the elderly.

This influx of money into the political process is damaging our democracy by amplifying the voices of nameless and faceless corporations and ultra-wealthy over the voices of "We the People." When it comes to addressing climate change, starting small businesses, passing sensible gun control, addressing educational inequities, reducing student loans, supporting the rights of workers, protecting the rights of LGBTQ people and women, our voices are being drowned out.

For example, a recent *Washington Post* analysis showed that just 50 families are responsible for almost half of the \$600 million raised so far by Super PAC's in the 2016 presidential campaign. And a recent Princeton study shows that "economic elites and organized groups representing business interests have substantial independent impacts on U.S. government policy, while average citizens and mass-based interest groups have little or no independent influence." We must act now.

More and more people are responding to this threat by joining together and calling on public officials to pass a constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United*. Sixteen states, more than 200 members of Congress and nearly 700 local municipalities have called for a constitutional amendment. The U.S. Senate voted on a constitutional amendment last fall and a majority – 55 senators gave it their support (just 12 votes short of the 2/3 vote needed).

This spring, thousands of people traveled to Washington, D.C., and more than 1,300 were arrested in demonstration to protect voting rights, get big money out of politics and demand an up-or-down vote on President Obama's U.S. Supreme Court nominee.

Public Citizen played a leading role in these efforts and is launching the next phase of our dynamic campaign to galvanize public support for a constitutional amendment that would restore our democracy. We are looking for a few amazing democracy interns to join us.

You've heard that corporations have lobbyists. At Public Citizen, we're the people's lobbyists, representing the public in the halls of power. We fight for public health and safety, champion corporate and government accountability, and campaign for fair trade, clean energy, and consumer rights. Now, we're gearing up for one of our biggest campaigns yet.



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RESPONSIBILITIES

You will be working closely with one of our co-directors to build the campaign and help make it happen. Your responsibilities will include:

- Working with activists around the country, especially in key states, to get them involved;
- Reaching out to state and national organizations to gain their endorsement and support;
- Researching the effects and impacts of *Citizens United*;
- Conducting social media and online outreach to build campaign visibility;
- Assisting with events and press outreach;
- Engaging members of Congress and state legislators to gain their support;
- Mobilizing students on college campuses to become active in the campaign; and
- Developing and implementing other creative campaign tactics.

This is your chance to play an active role in making a deeply important change in our nation's history. No previous experience is required; however, we are looking for candidates with abundant enthusiasm for this cause and a strong work ethic. Volunteer organizing experience is a plus.

TO APPLY

To apply to work on the national campaign out of the Syracuse office, please email your cover letter and resume to jzern@citizen.org. To apply to work in Washington, D.C., please email your cover letter and resume to afreechild@citizen.org.

Be sure to include "Democracy Intern" in the subject line. In your cover letter, please tell us what makes you passionate about the internship and past experiences you would bring to the campaign. Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible for the upcoming semester. Public Citizen is an equal opportunity employer. Women, people of color and LGBT candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.