

END CITIZENS UNITED PAC

DEMOCRATS FIGHTING FOR REFORM



2015 CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

12 Things Voters Deserve To Know

WWW.ENDCITIZENSUNITED.ORG

ABOUT END CITIZENS UNITED PAC

Established March 1st, 2015, End Citizens United is a Political Action Committee funded by grassroots donors. We are dedicated to countering the disastrous effects of *Citizens United* and reforming our campaign finance system. **Already, more than 500,000 supporters have joined our movement to fight the unprecedented rise of money polluting our democracy.**

Learn more about End Citizens United PAC at www.endcitizensunited.org.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Since the *Citizens United* decision became law, American elections have been inundated by spending, particularly from unregulated "dark" money. End Citizens United, a grassroots effort to reform our campaign finance system, will use this questionnaire and past actions on campaign finance issues to guide our process for selecting candidates to endorse.

There are many avenues to campaign finance reform. We encourage you to use the space provided to explain your answers or ask questions if you so choose. We are, however, unequivocal in our opposition to the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision and the opportunities for corruption that it created. We will not stand with any candidate who supports the decision as written.

Kindly return your completed questionnaire by June 23rd by sending an electronic copy to Jessica Adair at jessica@endcitizensunited.org. Your answers to this questionnaire as well as any endorsements made by End Citizens United PAC will be released to the public.

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

I, Gretchen Driskell a candidate for office of U.S. House of Representatives in Michigan's 7th District certify that the answers in this questionnaire represent my own views.

Gretchen Driskell

SIGNATURE

10/1/15

DATE

STAFF NAME: Jordan Bresnahan PHONE: (517) 881-6635 EMAIL: jordan@votegretchen.com

UNDO CITIZENS UNITED

1

Do you oppose the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United*?

YES NO

OPTIONAL EXPLANATION:

Yes. Since the Supreme Court decided *Citizen's United*, campaign contributions from organizations that are not required to disclose their donors have skyrocketed. This outpouring of undisclosed money has reduced the influence of ordinary citizens while allowing wealthy donors and groups to have undue influence over elected officials and candidates.

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Would you support a Constitutional Amendment that undoes *Citizens United* and grants Congress and the states the power to regulate campaign finance?

YES NO

OPTIONAL EXPLANATION:

Yes. As Congress and the courts continue to ease restrictions on outside money in politics, a Constitutional Amendment has become a necessity. We cannot continue stripping away the voices of our voters by allowing unlimited, and often undisclosed amounts of money to be poured into political campaigns.

Please indicate if you've co-sponsored or support any of the following campaign finance reform bills:

- GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE ACT
- DISCLOSE ACT
- KEEPING OUR CAMPAIGNS HONEST (K.O.C.H) ACT
- FAIR ELECTIONS NOW ACT
- DEMOCRACY FOR ALL AMENDMENT

LIST ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION HERE:

Since Gretchen was elected into office she has taken an active role in multiple sunshine bill packages that strengthen transparency and make public officials more accountable to the people they represent, including campaign finance reform.

2015: Gretchen authored HB4351 and cosponsored 4148

2013: Authored: HB 4424 Cosponsored: HB4418-4423 HB4425-4427 and HJR-O

REQUIRE FULL DISCLOSURE

Do you support legislation requiring dark money entities, such as 501(c)(4) groups to disclose their donors and spending when they engage in any political activity that mentions a candidate for federal office and/or is intended to influence a federal election?

- YES NO

OPTIONAL EXPLANATION:

Yes. Groups that advocate for or against a candidate, even without showing direct support or opposition for the candidate, should be required to disclose their donors to ensure transparency in the electoral process.

Would you support legislation requiring dark money groups to publicly disclose their top ten donors if they spend money on voter contact?

YES NO

OPTIONAL EXPLANATION:

Yes. Groups that engage in voter contact seek to influence voters' opinions, and voters deserve to know whether these groups might be at all influenced by the political views of their financial backers.

As of July 1st, 2014 the FCC has required that TV stations post their public file (which details political spending) online. Currently this database isn't searchable and doesn't extend to cable providers. Will you support legislation requiring a searchable database and extending coverage to include cable TV spending?

YES NO

OPTIONAL EXPLANATION:

Yes. Manually searching through a station's public file is a long and tedious process that minimizes the number of people who are able to effectively view the report. We must continue to break down the barriers holding people back from viewing important campaign finance data. Our country should be making this information as accessible and user friendly as possible.

STOP COORDINATION

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Currently a campaign staffer can quit the campaign and work for a SuperPAC supporting the candidate that employed the staffer after just a 120 day cooling off period. Would you support a cycle long cooling off period, preventing that staffer from working for a SuperPAC or 501(C)4 supporting his or her former employer until the next campaign cycle?

YES NO

OPTIONAL EXPLANATION:

Yes. Campaign staffers have integral knowledge pertaining to the campaign's issues, resources, and strategic planning. This knowledge makes it impossible to not create coordination between the campaign and the SuperPAC or 501(C)(4).

8

Currently the FEC holds that coordination only flows one way. This means that while a campaign is forbidden from sharing its plans, methods, and strategies with a SuperPAC, the SuperPAC can share its plans, methods, and strategies with the campaign. Do you support legislation to end this loophole?

YES NO

OPTIONAL EXPLANATION:

Yes, this loophole should be closed-- common sense tells us that when SuperPACs are sharing information with campaigns, that's coordination. Campaigns and SuperPACs should be truly independent of one another.

REDUCE PAY TO PLAY

9

29 states currently ban lobbyists from donating during legislative sessions.¹ Do you support legislation to extend this ban to Congress?

YES NO

OPTIONAL EXPLANATION:

Yes. This ban would help limit the influence of outside money on legislators while the legislator is in session.

10

A 2012 study found that "the more companies give in campaign contributions, the more they get in contracts, on average."² In fact, the study found that \$200,000 in donations leads to an average addition of 107 government contracts. Would you support legislation that prohibits the executives, lobbyist, and company PAC from donating to federal candidates if the company has or is seeking federal contracts?

YES NO

OPTIONAL EXPLANATION:

Yes. Companies providing Congresspersons and candidates with donations create an undue influence over the Congressperson or candidate. Also, companies that can afford to provide donations may harm small innovative companies by reducing their likelihood to receive, or even compete for, government contracts.

ADDITIONAL REFORMS

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Please share any additional ways you support meaningful campaign finance reform.

EXPLANATION:

As a state representative I have introduced legislation to support meaningful campaign finance reform. This year I introduced HB 4351 which mandates that lobbying by former legislators and executive branch officers be prohibited for a set period of time after leaving state service. I also co-sponsored a package of bills to promote ethics and accountability in government, apply the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to the governor's office and Legislature, and require elected officials to disclose their income and investments. These types of legislation will be instrumental in strengthening campaign finance reform in Michigan and I plan to bring these same priorities to Washington.

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1. "Limits on Campaign Contributions During the Legislative Session," NCSL, 12/6/2011
 2. "Campaign contributions help companies get more federal contracts, study finds," Drutman, Sunlight Foundation, 6/21/2012