

**END CITIZENS UNITED PAC**

DEMOCRATS FIGHTING FOR REFORM



**2015 CAMPAIGN FINANCE  
REFORM CANDIDATE  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

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*12 Things Voters Deserve To Know*

[WWW.ENDCITIZENSUNITED.ORG](http://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](http://www.endcitizensunited.org).

### ABOUT THIS SURVEY

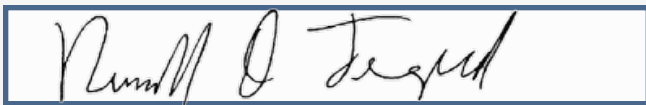
Since the *Citizens United* decision became law, American elections have been inundated by spending, particularly from unregulated "dark" money. End Citizens United, a grassroots effort to reform our campaign finance system, will use this questionnaire and past actions on campaign finance issues to guide 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](mailto: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, Russell D. Feingold a candidate for office of U.S. Senate  
in Wisconsin certify that the answers in this questionnaire  
represent my own views.



SIGNATURE

June 26, 2015

DATE

STAFF NAME, PHONE, EMAIL:

## UNDO CITIZENS UNITED

1

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

YES  NO

### OPTIONAL EXPLANATION:

Citizens United was a lawless decision that overturned a century of precedent prohibiting corporations and unions from spending money from their treasuries to directly affect our elections.

The majority decision did a grave disservice to our democracy, watering down the standard of corruption, and, without a factual record, as was developed in *McConnell v. FEC*, made sweeping and naïve assumptions about how special interests influence the electoral process and the extent to which it is being corrupted by big money.

2

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:

I believe that the most direct, not to mention the most easily achievable, way to overturn *Citizens United* is by bringing a case to a future court that challenges the ruling. In the past, I have been wary of amending our Constitution, especially the First Amendment. However, I have long appreciated the work and energy this movement for a constitutional amendment has contributed to the fight to overturn this horrible decision, and am open to ways to collaborate to achieve our common goal.

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:**

I have long been a supporter of both increased disclosure and an expanded public financing system. As Senator, I sponsored or co-sponsored the DISCLOSE Act, the Presidential Funding Act, the Senate Campaign Disclosure Parity Act, the Federal Election Administration Act, and the Fair Elections Now Act (2009). If elected to the Senate, I look forward to continuing to work with allies in and out of Congress to achieve these goals.

## 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:**

501 (c)(4) organizations were never designed to engage in elections.

5

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:

6

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:

I certainly support making the current database searchable, and am open to ideas about how to provide more information to the public regarding ads run on private cable systems, in addition to the current system covering public airwaves.

## STOP COORDINATION

7

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:

In general, I would support a clear coordination standard from Congress that covers these scenarios. The current FEC interpretations have created a set of non-standards that are easily circumvented and rarely enforced.

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:

## REDUCE PAY TO PLAY

9

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

YES  NO

### OPTIONAL EXPLANATION:

I am certainly open to supporting legislation, within constitutional limitations, that regulates the contributions of interested parties such as lobbyists or federal contractors, whose contributions raise a particularly strong danger of corruption or the appearance of corruption.

10

A 2012 study found that "the more companies give in campaign contributions, the more they get in contracts, on average."<sup>2</sup> 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:

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

### EXPLANATION:

People tell me all the time that multi-millionaires, billionaires, and big corporations seem to be calling all the shots in Washington, and it's hard not to agree. Throughout my career, I have led the fight to keep big, special-interest money out of our political system, and I've made it a priority to achieve this goal through bipartisan cooperation.

That's why I've proposed the bipartisan "Badger Pledge" in my campaign for Senate, which, with Senator Ron Johnson's signature, would keep third party dark money from flooding Wisconsin's U.S. Senate race. The pledge, modeled after the successful agreement signed by U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Scott Brown in 2012, is the only proven way to keep third party money out of an election.

And if elected, I fully intend to continue this fight in the U.S. Senate.

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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