

**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 September 1st by sending an electronic copy of this interactive PDF 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, Lon Johnson a candidate for office of the 1st Congressional District  
in Michigan certify that the answers in this questionnaire  
represent my own views.



SIGNATURE

09/22/2015

DATE

STAFF NAME, PHONE, EMAIL:

## UNDO CITIZENS UNITED

1

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

YES  NO

OPTIONAL EXPLANATION:

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:

If elected to Congress, I will support meaningful efforts to reform our campaign finance system. I believe in the power of transparency in political activity. Secrecy has no place in our electoral process.

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:

## 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:

If elected to Congress, I would support legislation that creates disclosure requirements for so-called 'dark money entities' including 501(c)4 groups when they engage in political activity intended to influence a federal election. This type of reform is an opportunity to bring greater transparency into our elections and campaigns.

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:

## 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:

Coordination between outside groups like 'Super PACs' and Candidate Campaign Committees needs to be addressed. If elected to Congress, I would support legislation that extends the 'cooling off period' as one of many approaches we must consider in our commitment to reforming and improving our campaigns and elections.

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 strongly support ensuring campaign money doesn't influence the legislative process and would carefully study any legislative proposal that aims to do this. I would work to make sure such legislation does not incentivize fewer Congressional working days as a result.

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:

If elected to Congress, I would be willing to consider any legislation that ensures federal contracts are not awarded based on campaign contributions.

## ADDITIONAL REFORMS

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

### EXPLANATION:

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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