

**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 1,000,000 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 sending an electronic copy to Jessica Adair at [jessica@endcitizensunited.org](mailto:jessica@endcitizensunited.org), or a hard copy to End Citizens United PAC, PO Box 66005, Washington, DC, 20035. 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, Congressman Beto O'Rourke a candidate for office of U.S. Representative  
in Texas, District 16 certify that the answers in this questionnaire  
represent my own views.



SIGNATURE

9/18/2015

DATE

STAFF NAME, PHONE, EMAIL:

## UNDO CITIZENS UNITED

1

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

YES  NO

### OPTIONAL EXPLANATION:

I am working to enact real campaign finance reform that empowers citizens and grassroots donors and rids our politics of special-interest money that has flooded federal elections since the Citizens United decision.

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:

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:

Last session, I introduced the Real Time Transparency Bill which would require a 48-hour disclosure of all contributions over \$1,000 or more to candidates, committees and parties. I plan on re-introducing this bill towards the end of the year.

## 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:

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:

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:

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:

## ADDITIONAL REFORMS

11

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

### EXPLANATION:

I have put these values into practice in my own campaign by refusing PAC contributions since November 2014 and by focusing on growing small dollar contributions. I'm also proud of the fact that most of my support comes from my district. Last cycle, I raised the highest percentage of any incumbent from my district (89% compared to an average of 35.8% according to the Center for Responsive Politics).

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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