

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 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.

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, 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, Colleen Deacon a candidate for office of U.S. House of Representatives
in NY-24 certify that the answers in this questionnaire
represent my own views.

Colleen Deacon

SIGNATURE

12/14/2015

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:

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:

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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

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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:

I think it is extremely important to reduce the influence of money in the legislative process, and would gladly support legislation to do so by setting limitations on lobbyist donations during session. However I would also be sure to study any proposals very closely, as I want to be sure that any legislation to reduce monetary influence does not have the unintended consequence of incentivizing Congress to reduce the number of legislative work days.

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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:

It is important that we are making sure that campaign contributions do not have any impact on federal funding, and I would gladly work on and support legislation that ensures a fair process in the awarding of federal contracts.

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

EXPLANATION:

As a first time candidate who does not come with a built in network of donors, I am seeing first hand how the influence of money in politics is changing the electoral process. Rather than spending my time out in the community talking to voters and the issues that matter most in this campaign, I am forced to spend most of my time on the phone, introducing myself to high dollar donors, and raising money for my campaign. While I know that this is a necessary part of the process, I think that the Citizens United ruling is the largest factor contributing to the growing influence of money in politics, and we need to address this problem. Campaigns should be about people and issues, not about money, and as a single mother who does not have the advantages most candidates do, this is an issue I am extremely interested in addressing once I am elected to Congress.

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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