

END CITIZENS UNITED

2018 House Questionnaire

ABOUT END CITIZENS UNITED PAC

End Citizens United PAC (ECU) is dedicated to ending the tidal wave of unlimited and undisclosed money that has reshaped our politics and damaged our democracy.

ECU is a community of more than 3 million Americans dedicated to reforming our nation's broken campaign finance system and ending *Citizens United*. Our supporters are active and engaged in the political process as a progressive grassroots community dedicated to electing campaign finance reform champions.

Our strength comes from the power of many individuals standing together to call for change. We're proud to be supported by more than 300,000 donors across America who helped create a groundbreaking model that proved there's a way for the grassroots to compete with corporate special interests and billionaires.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

ECU will use this questionnaire and past votes, statements and actions on campaign finance issues to guide our process for selecting candidates to endorse.

ECU takes a full and comprehensive approach to rectifying the severe consequences the *Citizens United* decision has had on our elections. There are many avenues to fixing our broken campaign finance system: Enacting a constitutional amendment to overturn the *Citizens United* decision, confirming federal judges and Supreme Court Justices who believe political donations do not equate to political free speech, and supporting legislation that will bring full disclosure of and limits to the money flowing into our elections.

Kindly return your completed questionnaire by sending an electronic copy to Jordan Wood at Jordan@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, Betsy Dirksen Londrigan a candidate for office of U.S Representative
in Illinois 13th District certify that the answers in this questionnaire represent
my own views.

Betsy Dirksen Londrigan

SIGNATURE

11/15/2017

DATE

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Do you support or oppose the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision, which allowed corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money on elections?

SUPPORT OPPOSE

2. Do you support the Democracy for All Amendment (H.J. Res. 31), introduced by Rep. Ted Deutch (FL-22), Rep. Jim McGovern (MA-02), and Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD-08)?

The Democracy for All Amendment is a Constitutional Amendment that would overturn Supreme Court decisions including Citizens United, Buckley v. Valeo, and McCutcheon v. FEC.

YES NO

3. Do you support the DISCLOSE Act (H.R. 1134)?

The DISCLOSE Act, introduced by Rep. David Cicilline (RI-01), would require “dark money” groups, such as 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations and 501 (c)(6) organizations, 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

4. Do you support the KOCH Act (H.R.1439)?

The Keeping Our Campaigns Honest (KOCH) Act, introduced by Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (NM-03), Rep. Peter Welch (VT-AL) and Rep. John Yarmuth (KY-03), would require the FCC to demand that outside political groups (dark money organizations) disclose the names of their major donors funding political ads.

YES NO

5. Do you support the Government By The People Act (H.R. 20)?

The Government By The People Act, introduced by Rep. John Sarbanes (MD-03), would grant voters a voucher worth up to \$50 (through a tax credit) for campaign contributions, and it would provide a six-to-one federal match. This would incentivize candidates to seek widespread small-dollar funding for their campaigns.

YES **NO**

6. Do you support the Get Foreign Money out of US Elections Act (H.R. 1615)?

The Get Foreign Money out of US Elections Act, introduced by Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD-08), would expand the current ban on campaign contributions and independent expenditures by foreign nationals to include foreign-owned and controlled domestic corporations.

YES **NO**

7. Do you oppose the repeal of the Johnson Amendment?

The Johnson Amendment restricts 501 (c)(3) tax-deductible organizations, including churches, from engaging in political activity.

YES **NO**

8. Do you support legislation requiring that publicly traded companies disclose all political spending to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)?

This would increase transparency and hold companies more accountable to their shareholders.

YES **NO**

9. Under current law, government contractors are restricted from making direct political contributions but are permitted to pass political spending through non-profits, such as 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) groups. Do you support legislation to close this loophole?

YES NO

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

When we met in September, I shared my thoughts on how to fight back against Citizens United. I agree we need a constitutional amendment, but while that is in the works, I propose addressing the issue through taxation.

If a corporation is recognized as an individual, then a corporation should be taxed as an individual. I think a corporation could have a choice in the matter-since it answers to shareholders. The choice could be:

- a) Exercise your rights as a corporation and file taxes as a corporation
- b) Exercise your rights as an individual and file taxes as an individual

This way, everyone's rights are respected but corporations will have financial choices to make. I'm willing to bet that investors would rather a corporation keep their tax benefits than be subject to individual taxation.

Another way to address through taxation would be to more closely monitor the "primary purpose" of Super PACs. Money used for political purposes should be subject to tax but frequently goes without.

Addressing the vast sums of dark money in politics is complex, but I believe there are steps we can take now. As someone who has been a tax-paying resident of the 13th for over 2 decades and as the only candidate in this race who has been self-employed for a close to 20 years, I know that individuals and small businesses do not get a break from paying their taxes, and neither should those who are abusing the system that Citizens United has perpetuated. These ideas all require that we elect representatives who are ready, willing and able to attack the issue head-on and I am the candidate who will lead this charge in the IL-13th district. I will continue to look for ways to get this money out of politics while we push for a constitutional amendment.