

# 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](mailto: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, J.D. Scholten a candidate for office of U.S. House of Representatives  
in Iowa's 4th Congressional District certify that the answers in this questionnaire represent  
my own views.



SIGNATURE

4/20/18

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.

I'm encouraged to see that your questionnaire also included the Democracy for All Act and Buckley v. Valeo as well as McCutcheon v. FEC. Without a doubt, we need to fight to overturn Citizens United, but that's just the start. Additionally, I believe we should consider taxing SuperPACs as well.

When running for office, one question I hear constantly is, "What's your #1 issue?" There are many issues that are major priorities for me: health care, the environment, and income inequality are three of the biggest, but when you look at it, these three issues and most of the things I stand for all have one thing in common: big money in politics is obstructing their progress. Big pharma and insurance companies lobby against reasonable drug prices and universal health care. Big oil lobbies against cleaner, renewable sources of energy. And the one percent continues to push for tax cuts, like the one passed this year that ultimately end up putting more money in the pockets of the most wealthy and hurting everyday working Americans. For these reasons, ultimately, campaign finance reform should be everyone's #1 issue. We absolutely need to get the influence of big money out of politics. One promise I have made to voters is this: my vote will never be for sale, I will fight to remove the influence of big money in Congress, and I will always put the needs of the people of this district first.

I'm a working-class candidate who truly understands the struggle of trying to compete in an uneven playing field. In order to change the system of big money controlling politics, we need to first change the way our elections are run, and that begins with taking big money out of the election process.