

# Unity Statement of Principles: *Solutions to the Undue Influence of Money in Politics*

DEMOCRACY REQUIRES A COMMITMENT TO self-government passed from one generation to the next. We recognize our obligation to preserve our representative democracy as our way of resolving reasonable disagreements on public policy. Like generations before us, we come together as citizens setting aside policy differences and uniting to preserve our democracy, so that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from this Earth. We stand united in support of a comprehensive set of public policies that recognizes the people as

the ultimate check on the corrosive influence of money in politics that is eroding the very foundation of self-government.

This Unity Statement of Principles reflects policies already working in many parts of the country to ensure a democracy where everyone participates and everyone's voice is heard; where everyone knows who is buying influence in our elections and government; and where politicians play by common sense rules and are held accountable with enforceable penalties to deter bad behavior.

**EVERYONE PARTICIPATES:** In a democracy, everyone should have a voice in the decisions affecting their lives. Our system of funding elections should not privilege any particular interest, nor suppress the voices of others. We need to provide incentives that encourage the active participation of small donors in our elections so candidates are accountable to, and dependent on, the people, not moneyed interests.

**EVERYONE'S VOICE IS HEARD:** Our democracy is based on the principle of one person, one vote—not one dollar, one vote. From equal access to the ballot box to the right not to be silenced by big money, democracy requires we recognize each other as equals in the political process. When elected representatives only hear the policy preferences of the very rich it distorts government's responsiveness to the people. We need limits on using money in politics so our democracy doesn't just respond to wealthy and corporate interests but responds to the needs of the people.

**EVERYONE KNOWS:** Voters have the right to know who is trying to influence our views and gain improper influence over our representatives. We need effective disclosure requirements for the use of money at all levels of government because transparency is a foundation for accountability.

**EVERYONE PLAYS BY COMMON SENSE RULES:** Access to and influence over our elected representatives should not be determined by the size of your wallet. We must overturn the effects of cases like *Citizens United v. FEC* and *McCutcheon v. FEC* and reclaim our Constitution to empower people to adopt common sense rules to stop the improper influence of big money on our government.

**EVERYONE IS HELD ACCOUNTABLE:** We need a fair and accessible elections system so our elected officials will be responsive and accountable to the people. This requires the FEC, IRS, SEC, FCC, and state agencies to enforce our laws so those who break them face real consequences that deter bad behavior.

## SIGNERS

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350 Colorado  
350.org  
99rise  
ActivUs  
AFL-CIO  
Alliance for a Just Society  
American Association of University Women  
American Family Voices  
American Sustainable Business Council  
Americans Take Action  
APALA-DC  
Appalachian Coalition for Just and Sustainable  
Communities  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC  
Ben & Jerry's  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
Berkshire Environmental Action Team  
Boston Common Asset Management  
Brave New Films  
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law  
BridgeRoots  
Center for Effective Government  
Center For Environmental Health  
Center for Media and Democracy  
Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of  
Concerned Scientists  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless  
Chicago Democratic Socialists of America  
Christopher Reynolds Foundation  
Citizen Works  
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington  
(CREW)  
Coalition for Human Needs  
Co-operate Colorado  
Coffee Party USA  
Common Cause  
Communications Workers of America  
Community Organizations in Action  
Conference of Major Superiors  
Constitutional Accountability Center  
Corporate Accountability International  
Courage Campaign  
Cow Hollow Fund at San Francisco Foundation  
CT Citizen Action Group (CCAG)  
Daily Kos  
Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise  
Democracy 21  
Democracy for America  
Democracy Matters  
Democracy Matters - UPenn Chapter  
Demos  
Dominican Sisters of Hope  
Eco-Justice Ministries  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Energy Action Coalition  
Energy and Policy Institute  
Environment Texas  
Ethical Markets Media  
Every Voice  
Fair Share  
Food & Water Watch  
Franciscan Action Network  
Free Speech For People  
Friends of the Earth  
Government Accountability Project  
Green Party Alliance at USF  
Greenpeace  
Harrington Investments  
Illinois Democratic Women  
Illinois Right to Know GMO  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Investor Voice  
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement  
Issue One  
Jobs With Justice

Justice Party USA  
Kansas Values Institute  
League of Conservation Voters  
Left Action  
LocalHarvest  
Mercy Investment Services, Inc.  
Metro Denver  
Missionary Oblates JPIC  
Money Out Voters In  
MoveOn.org  
MOVI Wisconsin  
NAACP  
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation  
National LGBTQ Task Force  
National People's Action Campaign  
National Women's Political Caucus  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NCLR Action Fund  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Network of Spiritual Progressives  
New Progressive Alliance  
Newground Social Investment  
North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections Coalition  
NorthStar Asset Management, Inc.  
Northwest Side Housing Center  
Oil Change International  
OurTime.org  
Pax World Management LLC  
Pay to Play  
People Demanding Action  
People For the American Way  
People's Email Network  
Physicians for a National Health Network  
Piper Fund  
Portfolio Advisory Board Adrian Dominican Sisters  
Presente.org  
Progress Florida  
Progress Texas  
Progressive Change Campaign Committee  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Public Campaign  
Public Citizen  
Purdue NORML  
Represent.Us  
Responsible Endowments Coalition  
ReThink Media  
Roosevelt Institute | Campus Network  
RootsAction  
Say No To Big Money  
Sierra Club  
Sisters of Mercy - Institute Justice Team  
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Social Equity Group  
Stamp Stampede  
State Innovation Exchange (SiX)  
Story of Stuff  
Temple Political Science Society  
The Main Street Alliance  
The Other 98%  
The Young Turks - Wolf PAC  
U-M Students for Clean Energy  
UConn Students for Sensible Drug Policy  
UI Amnesty International  
UM Divest and Invest Campaign  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, U.S. Province  
US PIRG  
USAction  
Vermont PIRG  
Voices for Progress  
WAmend  
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign  
Women Donors Network  
Working America  
Young Democratic Socialists  
Zevin Asset Management, LLC

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**SIGNERS AS OF APRIL 20, 2015**