

11 Shocking Facts About Campaign Finance

<http://www.thenation.com/blog/165778/eleven-shocking-facts-about-campaign-finance>

George Zornick on January 20, 2012 - 11:57am ET

It's been two years since the Supreme Court handed down its decision in *Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission*, allowing a torrent of secret money to flow into the political process. ***The corrupting influence of big money was distorting the democratic process for years before that decision, but it unquestionably made the problem worse, exacerbating both the volume and secrecy of campaign donations.***

Here are 11 disturbing facts about the extent to which money is playing an increasing role in our politics:

1. The amount of expenditure and electioneering communication spending by outside groups has **quadrupled since 2006**. [[Center for Responsive Politics](#)]
2. The percentage of spending coming from groups that do not disclose their donors has risen from **1 percent to 47 percent** since the 2006 mid-term elections. [[Center for Responsive Politics](#)]
3. In 2010, members of the House of Representatives had campaign receipts totaling **\$1.9 billion** in 2010—up from \$781 million in 1998. This is an increase of almost **60%**. [[Committee for Economic Development](#)]
4. In 2010, for the first time in at least 20 years, outside groups spent **more on political advertising than party committees**. [[Center for Responsive Politics](#)]
5. **72 percent** of political advertising by outside groups in 2010 came from sources that were **prohibited** from spending money in only 4 years before in 2006! [[Committee for Economic Development](#)]
6. In 2004, **97.9 percent** of outside groups disclosed their donors. In 2010, only **34.0 percent** did so. [[Committee for Economic Development](#)]
7. In 2010, the US Chamber of Commerce spent over **\$31 million** in campaign ads. Yet they did not disclose a **single donor**. [[Committee for Economic Development](#)]
8. About 1 in 10,000 Americans, or **26,783** individuals, donated more than \$10,000 to federal campaigns in 2010. However, their donations accounted for almost 1/4 (**24.3%**) of total campaign donations. [[Sunlight Foundation](#)]
9. On average, those donating more than \$10,000 gave **\$28,913** – more than the median individual income of \$26,364! [[Sunlight Foundation](#)]
10. Crossroads GPS, a SuperPAC led by Karl Rove, says it will spend **\$240 million** on the 2012 elections. [[On the Media](#)]
11. As of late last fall, President Obama had raised **\$15.6 million** from the **financial sector** for his 2012 re-election. [[Washington Post](#)]