

CITIZENS UNITED RESOURCE PAGE

[WATCH THIS 9 MIN VIDEO FOR INTRO](#)

[here is a pdf of the case](#) Kennedy's majority opinion starts on p8. Stevens's dissenting opinion starts on p. 83

G: from the Majority Opinion of the case CU v FEC! (written by justice kennedy). a key point, methinks:

See page 9:

“Substantial questions would arise if the courts were to begin saying what means of speech should be preferred or disfavored.” --point being that with changing technologies, how could there be government oversight/regulation of campaign messaging? more: “We must decline to draw, and then redraw, lines based on the particular media or technology used to disseminate political speech from a particular speaker.”

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/pdf/08-205P.ZO>

Also, on page 10 the essential summation of the argument: “The Court found unconstitutional 441b’s (the mccain feingold law) restrictions on corporate expenditures as applied to non-profit corporations what were formed for the sole purpose of promoting political ideas, did not engage in business activities and did not accept contributions from for profit corporations or labor unions.”

Guinan: A chart:

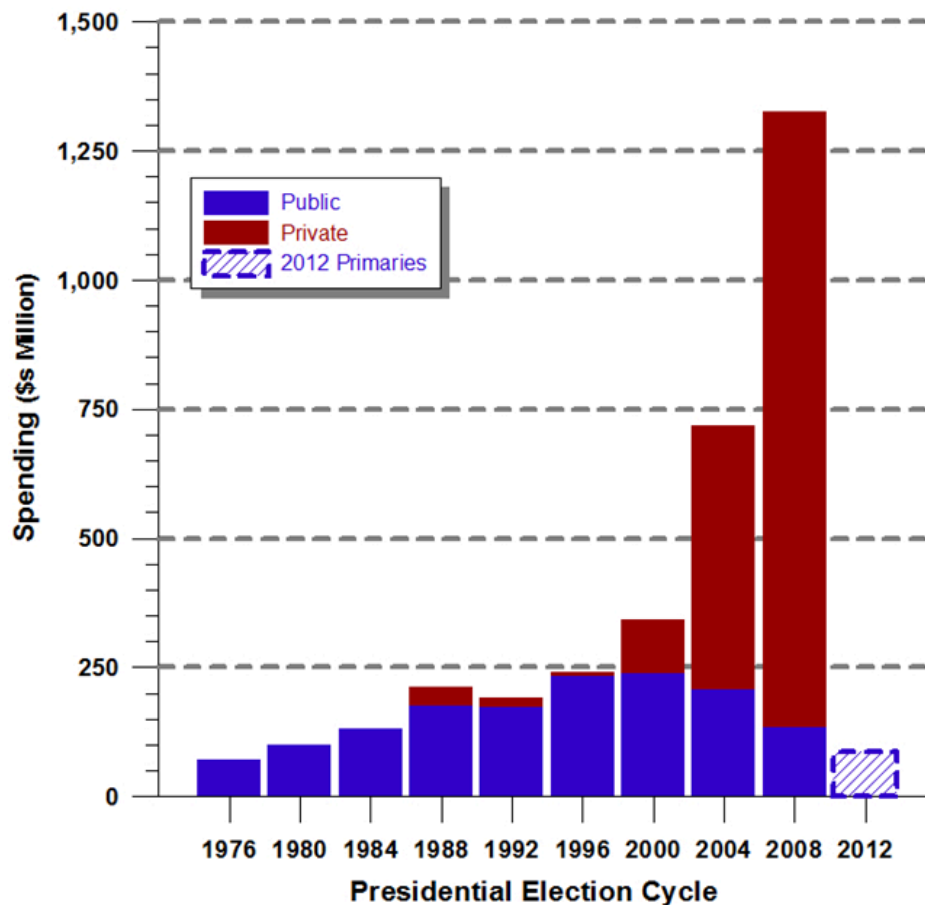
[Try this link for charts and graphs of campaign spending](#)

Here's [the map of the us proportional to campaign spending](#).

<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/cleanslatenow/pages/158/attachments/original/1334340462/handoutchart.png?1334340462>

What it Takes to Become President

Trends in Presidential Campaign Spending 1976 to 2012



Pray: The following song by Pink is addressed to the previous POTUS, George W. Bush. The video appears to have been produced independently. It has more than 1 million views. Would this video be a violation of future campaign finance rules that might limit the resources one could spend to promote or criticize a candidate, or point of view?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmMS9XVla00>

The lyrics are:

Dear Mr. President,
Come take a walk with me.
Let's pretend we're just two people and
You're not better than me.
I'd like to ask you some questions if we can speak honestly.
What do you feel when you see all the homeless on the street?
Who do you pray for at night before you go to sleep?
What do you feel when you look in the mirror?

Are you proud?
How do you sleep while the rest of us cry?
How do you dream when a mother has no chance to say goodbye?
How do you walk with your head held high?
Can you even look me in the eye
And tell me why?
Dear Mr. President,
Were you a lonely boy?
Are you a lonely boy?
Are you a lonely boy?
How can you say
No child is left behind?
We're not dumb and we're not blind.
They're all sitting in your cells
While you pave the road to hell.
What kind of father would take his own daughter's rights away?
And what kind of father might hate his own daughter if she were gay?
I can only imagine what the first lady has to say
You've come a long way from whiskey and cocaine.
How do you sleep while the rest of us cry?
How do you dream when a mother has no chance to say goodbye?
How do you walk with your head held high?
Can you even look me in the eye?
Let me tell you 'bout hard work
Minimum wage with a baby on the way
Let me tell you 'bout hard work
Rebuilding your house after the bombs took them away
Let me tell you 'bout hard work
Building a bed out of a cardboard box
Let me tell you 'bout hard work
Hard work
Hard work
You don't know nothing 'bout hard work
Hard work
Hard work
Oh
How do you sleep at night?
How do you walk with your head held high?
Dear Mr. President,
You'd never take a walk with me.
Would you?

6 years later, the impact of Citizens United still looms large:

<https://sunlightfoundation.com/2016/01/21/6-years-later-the-impact-of-citizens-united-still-looms-large/>

Citizens United Explained:

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/citizens-united-explained>

Super PAC contributors:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/eleven-donors-plowed-1-billion-into-super-pacs-since-2010/2018/10/26/31a07510-d70a-11e8-aeb7-ddcad4a0a54e_story.html

Arguments for Citizens United:

<https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/politics/232535-in-support-of-citizens-united-against-targeting-political-speech>

<https://www.oyez.org/cases/2008/08-205>

How 2016 Compares To 56 Years Of Presidential Campaign Spending

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/56-years-of-presidential-campaign-spending-how-2016_b_5820bf9ce4b0334571e09fc

[1](#)

Background to Citizens United vs FEC, the legal cases before the case was brought to the Supreme Court

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Citizens-United-v-Federal-Election-Commission>

“Overturning Citizens United would be a disaster for free speech”

<https://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/campaign/294665-overturning-citizens-united-would-be-a-disaster-for-free-speech>

“10 Ways that Citizens United Endangers Democracy”

<https://www.demos.org/policy-briefs/10-ways-citizens-united-endangers-democracy#10.-Risks-Reducing-Respect-for-the-Supreme-Court-->

<https://publicintegrity.org/politics/the-citizens-united-decision-and-why-it-matters/>

<https://www.vox.com/the-big-idea/2018/5/7/17325486/citizens-united-money-politics-dark-money-vouchers-primaries>

Vox News, a typically Liberal news source used a very conservative title, *It's time for liberals to get over Citizens United*. They are claiming that these large corporations are “buying the elections”, and people need to relax more about this

These graphs show how Political spending has increased since Citizens United vs FEC

[://www.commoncause.org/democracy-wire/8-charts-that-show-how-money-has-exploded/#](http://www.commoncause.org/democracy-wire/8-charts-that-show-how-money-has-exploded/#)

“Contribution Limits” This source goes through the contribution limits for the 2019-2020 elections, how limits work, designated and undesignated contributions, and more.

<https://www.fec.gov/help-candidates-and-committees/candidate-taking-receipts/contribution-limits/>

“Most Americans Want to Limit Campaign Spending, Say Big Donors Have Greater Political Influence” This source describes what democrats and republicans would statistically say about campaign finance laws.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/05/08/most-americans-want-to-limit-campaign-spending-say-big-donors-have-greater-political-influence/>

“Why Limit Political Donations?” This source, by the New York Times, goes through different people’s opinions on the issue.

<https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2013/10/06/why-limit-political-donations>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4J5Zx5YotBU> This video will help you get a better understanding of the case and exactly what we are talking about.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/21/opinions/citizens-united-decision-election-disaster-udall-sarbanes/index.html> This article outlines the effect Citizens United has had on U.S. lawmakers. The article brings statistics on issues that would be supported in congress were it not for corporate money baking congress members. CNN also presents the bills and amendments law makers are trying to pass to avoid these corporate biases.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/companies-are-influencing-politics-by-donating-millions-to-politicians-2018-9#citadel-llc-8>

<https://www.demos.org/policy-briefs/election-spending-2012-post-election-analysis-federal-election-commission-data>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2013/11/does-more-campaign-money-actually-buy-more-votes-investigation/355154/>

more:

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/money-and-elections-a-complicated-love-story/>

Are corporations privileged to citizen rights-

<https://www.npr.org/2014/07/28/335288388/when-did-companies-become-people-excavating-the-legal-evolution>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-government-and-civics/us-gov-political-participation/us-gov-campaign-finance/a/lesson-summary-campaign-finance>

<https://www.history.com/topics/united-states-constitution/citizens-united>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/30/opinion/taking-n-citizens-united.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/06/opinion/citizens-united-corruption-pacs.html>

<https://www.theusconstitution.org/blog/the-highlight-reel-from-justice-stevens-citizens-united-dissent/>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17487870.2016.1258312>

<https://milnepublishing.geneseo.edu/good-corporation-bad-corporation/chapter/11-corporations-and-politics-after-citizens-united/>

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/24529/20140407/more-than-200-million-spent-on-nys-lobbying-report-finds>

<https://publicintegrity.org/politics/state-politics/copy-paste-legislate/you-elected-them-to-write-new-laws-theyre-letting-corporations-do-it-instead/>