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## Why You Should Care

### Corporate Money Buys our Politicians

Our 2010 election cycle saw the creation of a host of new nonprofit corporations designed to raise independent campaign funds for pro-big business candidates. These super-PACs dominated the 2010 election results and created a House of Representatives controlled by a corporate-friendly majority, ready to do the bidding of their campaign contributors. Now, all the major political actors have realized that they have to be corporate-friendly if they are going to be successful in our pay-to-play electoral system

### Roberts Court Frees Corporate Monster

John Roberts, who spent his legal career as the most successful corporate lawyer in Washington, is now leading the US Supreme Court toward eliminating all restrictions on corporate campaign contributions. Not only did their 2010 decision allow corporations to contribute unlimited amounts from their corporate treasuries to independent political campaigns, there is not even a requirement that the source of these corporate contributions need to be revealed.

### Corporate Agenda Destroys the Planet

From climate change to the destruction of the middle class, our biggest environmental and social problems are caused by the pro-corporate political agenda that is implemented by corporate-financed politicians. The corporate agenda prohibits rational solutions to green-house gas emissions and has held working wages at the same level for 40 years, while shareholder returns and executive pay has increased ten-fold in the same period.

### Citizens Need to Control Our Democracy

Corporations, not the general citizenry, control our electoral process. Our democracy must be controlled and financed by the common citizens of the country if our political system is really going to fulfill its role of protecting the common good and promoting a bountiful future for all. Only through citizens promoting publicly financed elections and removing illegitimate, court-created Constitutional rights for corporations will this be possible.



## What You Can Do

### Join the Move to Amend the Constitution

To end corporate corruption of our political system, we need to amend the US Constitution to make it clear that corporations do not have the same constitutional rights as natural persons. The Move to Amend grassroots movement is helping local communities across the country support such an amendment. You can join an existing MTA group or start a new group in your town. See [movetoamend.org](http://movetoamend.org) for more information.

### Track the Money Buying Your Elections

Shine a bright light on the political corruption in your local political area. Check out the Sunlight Foundation, [opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org) or [followthemoney.org](http://followthemoney.org) to understand: who is financing your elected officials, who they are beholden to, and what kind of favors your representatives are doing to keep the special interests happy and loyal.

### Promote Publicly Financed Elections

Join the long-established drive for publicly financed elections. Help create a system of clean elections in your community and state. See [publiccampaign.org](http://publiccampaign.org) for help. You can also encourage your federal representatives to support the federal Fair Elections Now Act that will create a campaign finance system that depends on small local donors rather than on large national and multi-national corporate funds

### Allow States to Regulate Corporate Contributions

At least 24 states have regulations on corporate campaign contributions that are now jeopardized by the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision that overturned a Michigan law prohibiting "corporations from funding the advocacy for or against state candidates." Make sure that your state defends its right to control corporate funding of elections. Montana's law is already being challenged (see page 14) and a decision is expected by the end of the year.