

Title: Citizens United: Regulating the Deregulated Political Action Committees

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Campaign finance in the United States is dominated by Super PACs unfairly influencing elections by flooding elections with large sums of money and shifting Congress's interests towards corporate interests that fuel the powerful organizations. The donations made from individuals to and from Super PACs go unreported, thereby circumventing contribution limits, and giving those with deep pockets the ability to single-handedly fund political campaigns.

Owing to Super PACs, corporate influences have permeated Congress, with Representatives now rearranging their primary focus to representing the corporate interests that guarantee their reelection; meanwhile, the interests of the people are left unrepresented (Milyo, 2014). Although financing of political campaigns developed with the inception of political campaigns themselves, unequal distribution of electoral power was embedded in the Constitution and did not become a significant issue until the Civil Rights era. However, wealth discrimination in elections was not addressed until much later, with the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, resulting from the growing political influence of television advertising, and initially addressing candidates' self-donating. The Citizens United decision, however, overturned portions of the FECA, giving corporations First Amendment protection, and permitted for the creation of Super PACs (Gulati, 2012). To remedy the inequality created by Super PACs, sponsoring a social movement to push society to shun Super PACs out of existence will be most effective (Overman, 2002). Should such a movement be unsuccessful, it would at least push candidates to sign contractual agreements limiting accepting corporate funds without First Amendment violations via a voter mandate (Sitaraman, 2014).

References

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