

A background image showing a calm lake reflecting the surrounding mountains and a dense forest. The scene is shrouded in a thick, white fog or mist, creating a serene and somewhat mysterious atmosphere. The colors are muted, with various shades of blue, green, and white.

# No Money Elections

# The Problem

- The Money

- An overwhelming majority of Americans (70-80% in recent surveys) recognize that our current system of private campaign finance gives corporations and wealthy individuals unfair influence over our elected officials
- People who give money campaigns expect a return on their investments – we all know this

- The Parties

- The parties care only about scoring points against each other. We (the people) are left without a functioning government, and the many issues in need of attention (health care, education, you name it) remain unresolved

- The Supreme Court

- “Money is speech”, says the Supreme Court. If you have a lot of money, you have a loud voice – if not, your opinion just doesn’t matter.

# The Solution

- Eliminate private money from campaigns and from the process of influencing legislation
- Manage campaigns via an election forum that provides free and fair communication between the people and the candidates during campaigns
- Engage the public in the process of governing via a legislative forum that provides free and fair communication between the people and their legislators
- Select candidates via interviews conducted by citizens chosen at random from the voting public
- Elect candidates via open primaries and general elections



# How Do We Get to the Solution?

- A Constitutional amendment

- Congress won't do it
  - They are serving their “true constituency” (corporations and wealthy individuals)
  - The “true constituency” expects results for their money
- The Supreme court won't do it
  - They have already ruled in favor of the “true constituency”
  - Remember “Citizens United”?
- The parties won't do it
  - They are too busy scoring points against each other, and;
  - They are helping their members serve the “true constituency”

–WE have to do it

# How Do We Do it?

- Constitutional amendments are a normal part of our democracy
  - There have been 27 amendments already – this will be our 28<sup>th</sup>
- It won't take more than a few hours of your time
  - You don't have to join a political party
    - They won't listen to you anyway
  - You don't have to demonstrate in the streets
    - That rarely results in any progress
      - Remember the “Occupy” movement?
  - You don't have to go to Washington
    - Our congress is detached from our reality, anyway
- We're not going to ask you for money
  - That would be hypocritical, wouldn't it?
- We just need to give a petition to our state representatives
  - They work for us and it's about time we let them know who their real bosses are

# Summary of the Amendment (slide 1 of 2)

*See full text on Amendment Page*

- Any expenditure of private funds or in-kind services to influence elections or legislation will be illegal. Period.
- We the People create an Office for Voter Information for each of our 435 Congressional Districts, each overseen by a board elected directly by us.
  - Each District Board is responsible for assisting its citizens to select candidates, communicate with candidates, manage elections and communicate with representatives for all federal and state elected offices.
- We select our candidates by interviewing them, in person.
  - Our district boards review all candidate applications and select a short list of the most qualified candidates for us to interview.
  - Our District Boards select groups of us at random from the list of eligible voters and break us into groups of four to interview each prospective candidate.
  - We decide which applicants become candidates.



# Summary of the Amendment (slide 2 of 2)

*See full text on Amendment Page*

- Our Boards create an Election Forum website and a Legislative Forum website for each district.
  - The Election Forum website provides a free and open venue for every U.S. citizen to communicate directly with our candidates.
  - The Legislative Forum website provides a free and open venue for every U.S. citizen to communicate directly with our representatives.
  - You don't have to buy the attention of your candidate or representative.
- Our Boards manage campaigns by arranging speeches, debates, press conferences, town-hall meetings and other events for us to meet and discuss issues with the candidates.
  - No more ugly campaign advertising. No more pointless "rallies". No more media stunts.
  - We are required to be adults to vote, shouldn't we act like adults during campaigns?
- We tell our representatives what we want them to do. They are our employees.
- We have government that is accountable to all of us, not to the highest bidder.
- We govern ourselves.

# The Petition

- Simply fill in the blanks, as appropriate, in the petition (see Petition page), and print and mail one copy of the following petition to both the Senator and Representative in your State Legislature.
- Better – Hand-deliver each copy and discuss the petition with each of your representatives.
- Best – Meet your representatives with a group of your friends and/or family.



A serene landscape photograph of a calm lake reflecting the surrounding environment. In the background, misty mountains rise above the water's surface. The right side of the image shows a forested shoreline with its reflection in the water. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and ethereal, with a soft, hazy light. A solid teal vertical bar is positioned on the far left edge of the frame.

**That's it!**