



The Growing Anti-Corruption Movement

Does the Government Represent the People?

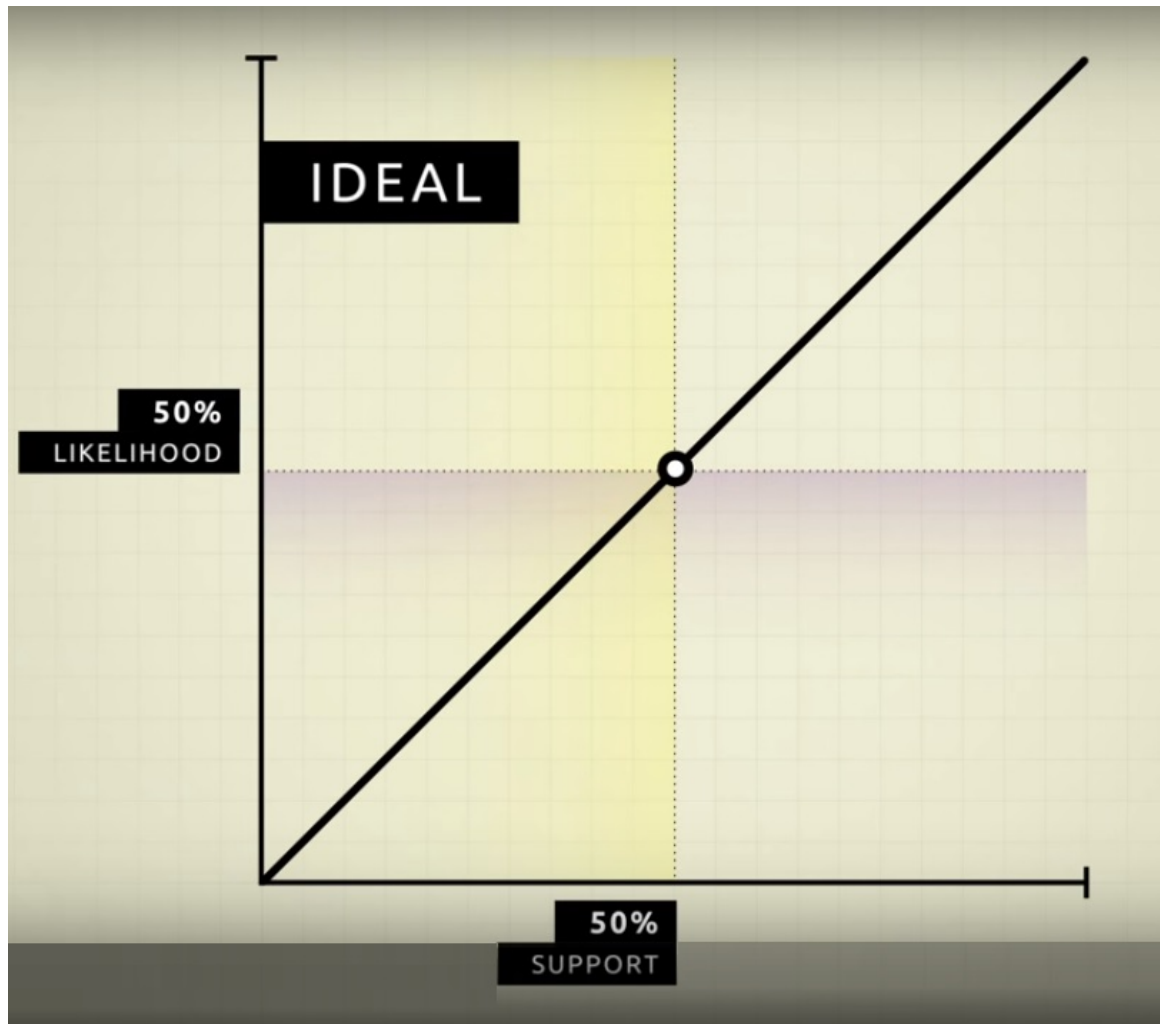
“The preferences of the average American appear to have only a miniscule, near-zero, statistically non-significant impact upon public policy.”



--Martin Gilens (Princeton)

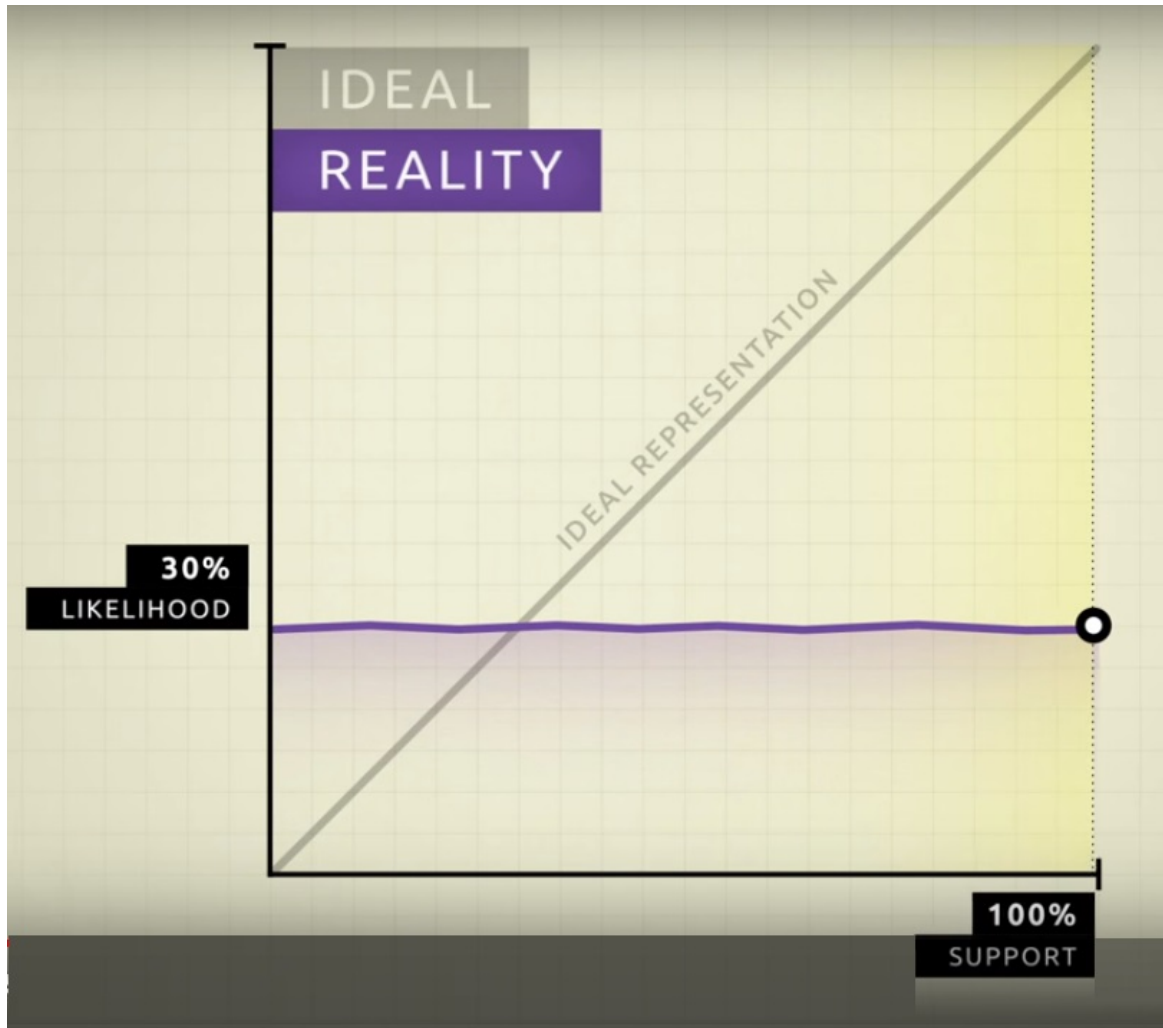
--Benjamin Page (Northwestern)

Who Influences Government Policy?



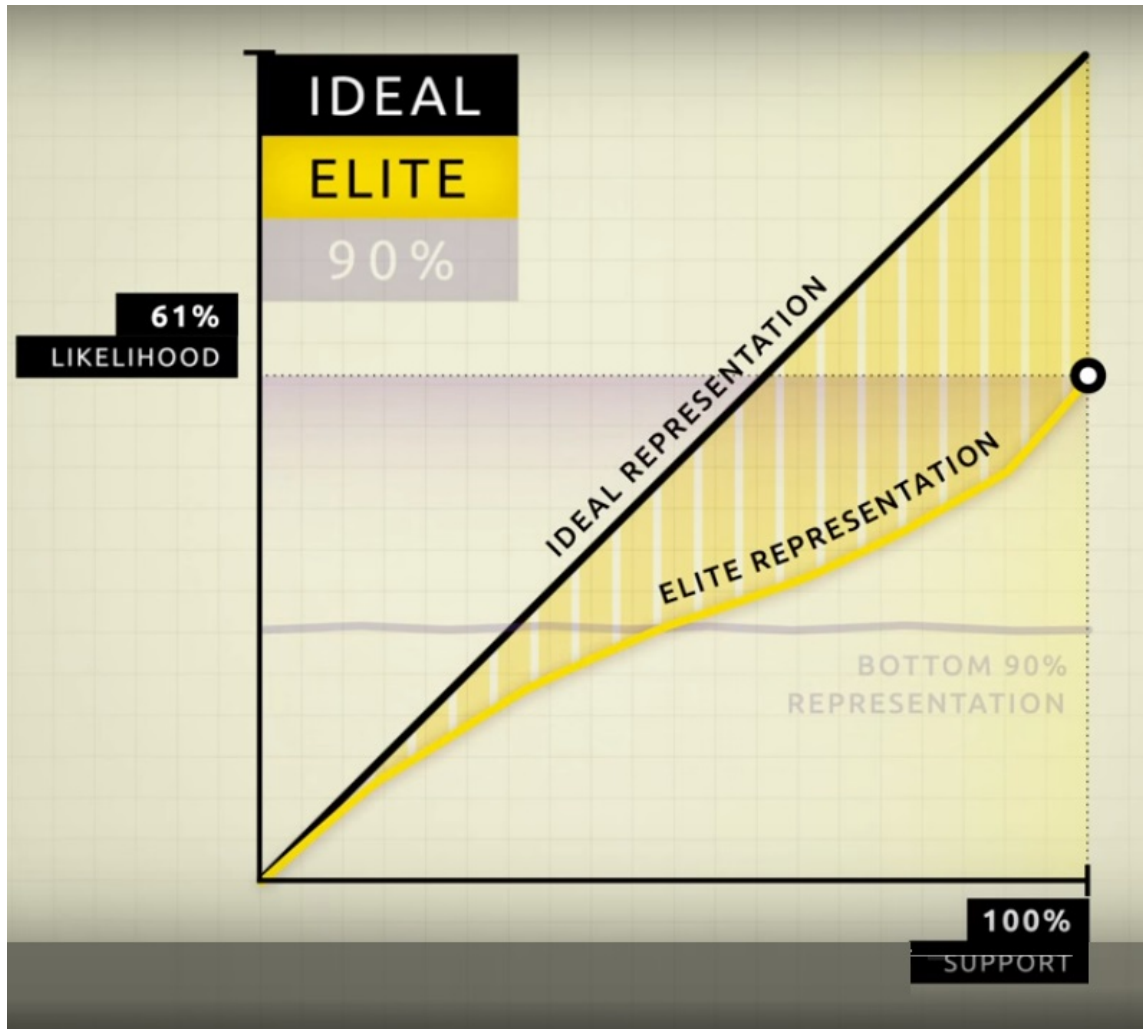
- The more popular an idea is the more likely it is to become law
- The less popular, the less likely

Who Influences Government Policy?



- No matter how popular an idea, there's a 30% chance it becomes law
- Public sentiment's influence is flat

Who Influences Government Policy?



- When economic elites want something, it's more likely to happen
- When they don't, they can completely block it from happening

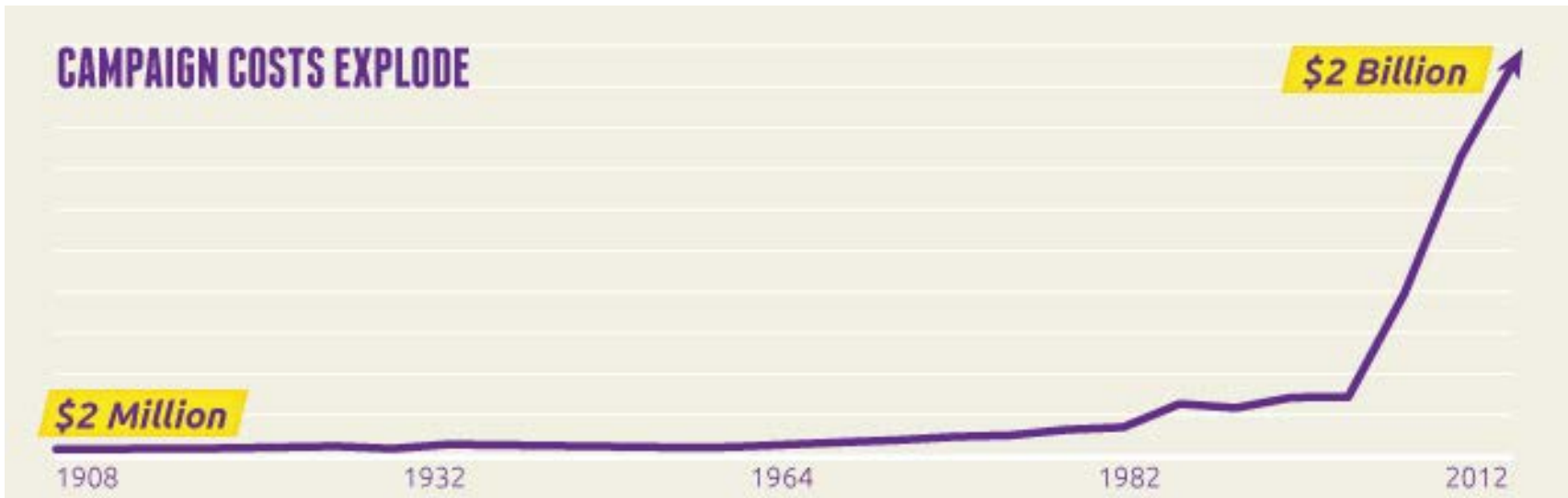
Corruption is Legal In America



Examples of political corruption:

- Personal money in direct exchange for favors – **illegal**
- Campaign spending and donations in exchange for favors – **not really illegal**
- Threats to launch a smear campaign against politicians that vote against their interests – **not really illegal**
- Payment later in exchange for favors now – **nothing is done to stop “the revolving door”**

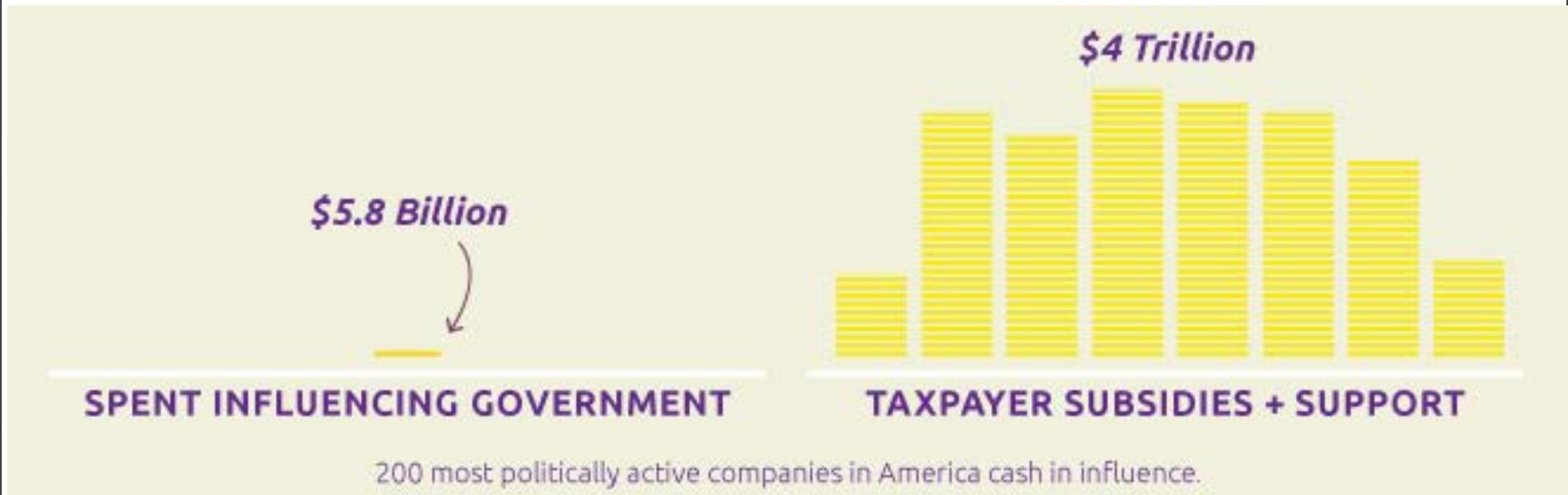
Escalating Corruption



- In 2016, an average winning Senate candidate spent \$10.4 million

Source: Represent.us

Corruption is Profitable



- 200 politically active companies earned a return of 750 times their investment

Source: Represent.us

The Influence of Mega-Donors

MONEY WINS ELECTIONS



91% of the time, the candidate with the most money wins the election.

A FEW DONORS DOMINATE



Two-thirds of political donations come from just 0.2% of Americans.

CONGRESS BEGS DONORS



Members of Congress spend 30 to 70% of their time fundraising.

- The candidate with the most money wins
- Two-thirds of political donations come from 0.2%
- Members of Congress spend 30-70% of their time fundraising

Source: Represent.us

Background

1969-1972 vast regulatory expansion:

- **Environment: EPA formed in 1970**
- **Occupational Safety: OSHA formed in 1970**
- **Consumer Protection: Dozens of landmark consumer protection laws were passed**



CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

ATTACK ON AMERICAN FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM

TO: Mr. Eugene B. Sydnor, Jr.
Chairman, Education Committee
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

DATE: August 23, 1971

- 1971: Future Supreme court justice Lewis Powell:
- “The American economic system is under broad attack.”
 - Business must acquire political power and use it aggressively in the scale of financing available through joint effort.



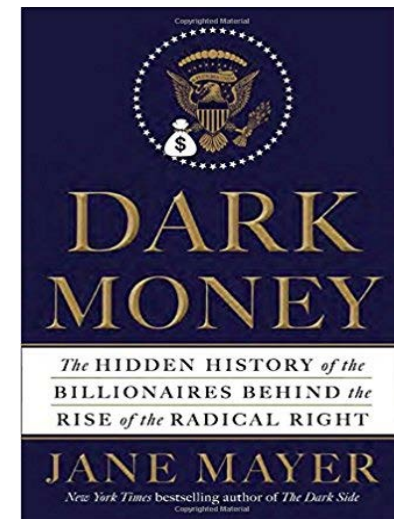
Citizen's United v Federal Election Commission

- In January, 2010, the Supreme Court held (5-4)
- Political spending is protected under the First Amendment's freedom of speech protection
- Allowed for-profit and non-profit corporations and unions to spend **unlimited** amounts of money on political activities, as long as there is no direct contribution to a political party or candidate

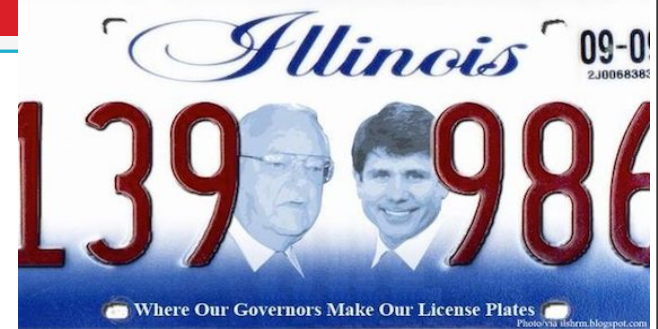
Dark Money

Non transparent funds spent independently of campaigns to influence elections

- Outside spending by Super PACs and other tax-exempt non-profits grew from \$70 million in 2006 to **\$1.4 billion in 2016**
- Funds dedicated to casting the government as the enemy rather than the democratic representation of its citizens:
 - Think tanks
 - Academic programs
 - Advocacy groups
 - Lobbyists
 - Synthetic grassroots groups
 - Legal groups to work the courts
 - Model State Legislation



Illinois Corruption



- Illinois ranks 4th among the most corrupt states
- Corruption costs average \$1,308 per person annually.
- Aggregate corruption costs are estimated at \$500 million -- and may be in the billions.
- State spending is HIGHER in corrupt states
 - MORE on construction, government wages, law enforcement, infrastructure
 - LESS on education, health care and social services
- Corruption has a negative impact on economic development recruiting

Majority of Americans Agree

- 94% of Democrats
- 91% of Independents
- 87% of Republicans

Source: www.demos.org/publication/

**Too much
corporate
money in
politics!**

Political Systems Change



- **Common Cause**
 - Watchdog group for open, ethical, accountable government
- **Represent.Us**
 - Works to pass powerful, bundled anticorruption laws
- **League of Women Voters**
 - Advocates for Representative Government
- **Better Government Association**
 - Chicago-based investigative journalism non-profit organization
- **Reform for Illinois**
 - Encourages government integrity, accountability, and transparency
 - Maintains the **Illinois Sunshine Database**
- **Illinois Ballot Integrity Project**
 - Works to correct election-integrity issues (election machine hacks)
- **Fair Vote Illinois**
 - Non-partisan advocate for electoral reform
- **Unite America**
 - Bridges the partisan divide by supporting independent candidates

Common Cause

Our Democracy  **2018**

- Congressional Candidate Survey: 18 yes or no pro-democracy reform questions
- Issues such as money in politics, voting rights, gerrymandering, net neutrality and ethics
- 120 members of next year's congress went on the record to support democracy reforms

Fixing Corruption: Represent.Us

[Play video](#)



Set a New Legal Standard

The American Anti-Corruption Act:

- I. Stop political bribery*
- II. End secret money*
- III. Fix our broken elections*

The AACA's authors state that its provisions are based on existing laws that have withstood court challenges



THE
AMERICAN
ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT

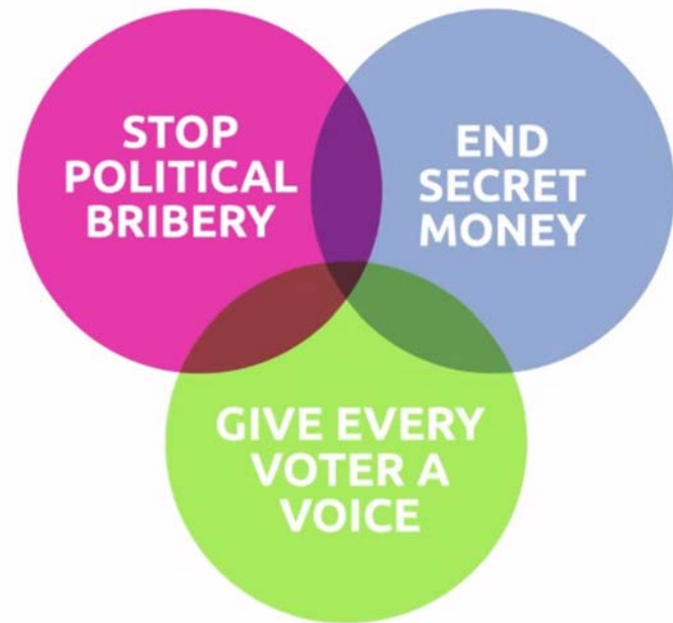
Stop Political Bribery

- Make it illegal for politicians to take money from lobbyists
- Ban lobbyist bundling
- Close the revolving door
- Prevent politicians from fundraising during working hours



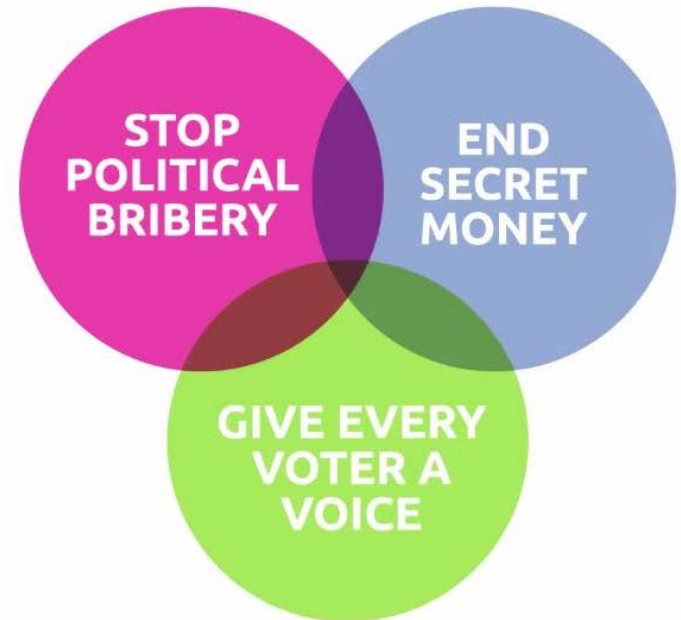
End Secret Money

- Immediately disclose political fundraising and spending online
- Stop donors from hiding behind secret-money groups

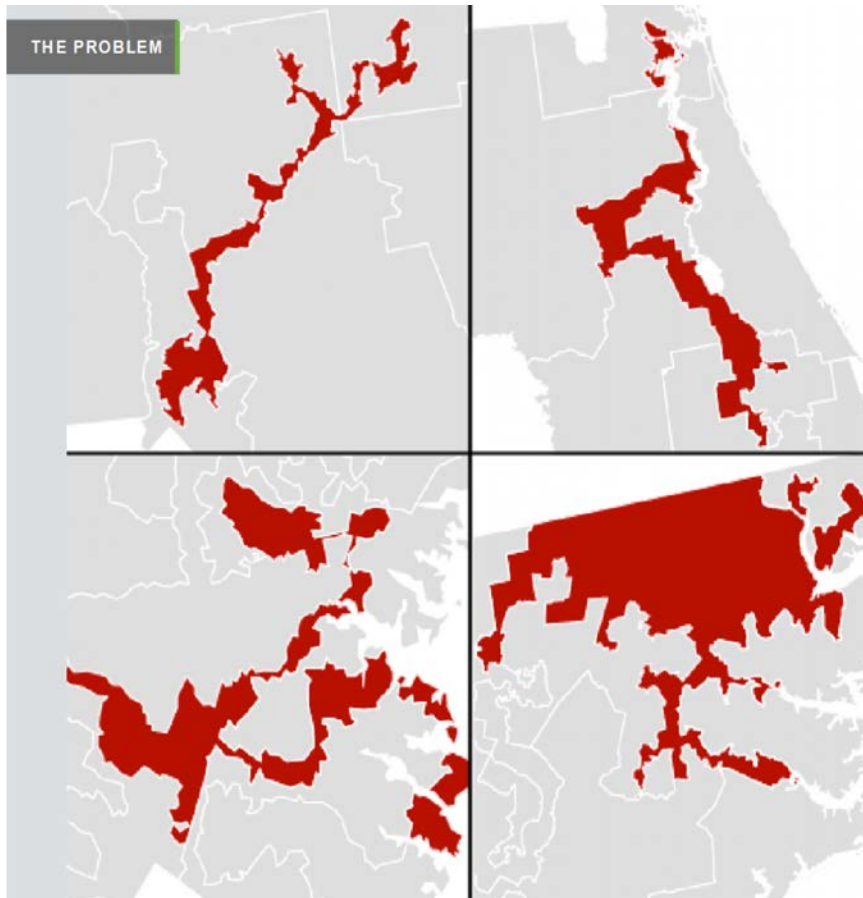


Fix Our Broken Elections

- End gerrymandering
- Makes all candidates compete in a single open primary
- Ranked Choice Voting lets voters rank their top candidates
- Change how elections are funded



Gerrymandering



- **Gerrymandering:** Winning candidates redraw their districts to choose their voters
- **Result:** 86% of house races are not competitive

Common Cause v. Rucho

Common Cause filed “motion to affirm” with SCOTUS
Outcomes for partisan gerrymandering:

1. Maintain status quo
2. Order a new map
3. Agree to hear oral arguments

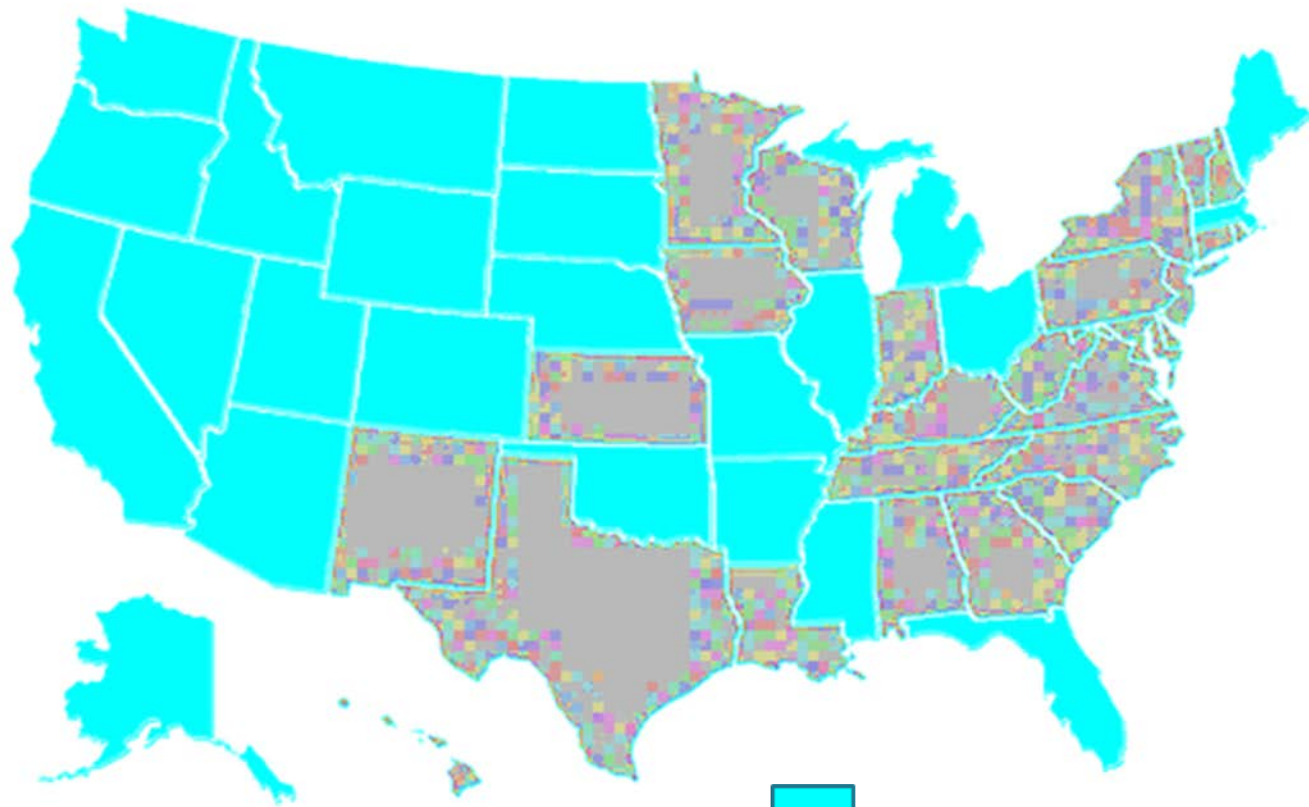


Represent Us Strategy

1. Set a new standard: **American Anti-Corruption Act**
2. Build a left-right grassroots movement of millions.
3. Pass local and state reform laws
4. Fight for an Illinois Anti-Corruption Act
5. Achieve National victory

Ballot Initiatives: Direct Democracy

Bypass entrenched politicians putting anti-corruptions laws directly to a public vote.



 = Ballot Initiative State

Anti-Corruption Successes!



- In 2014,
 - The first citywide Anti-Corruption Act in Tallahassee, Florida pushed through by progressives and tea party activists
- In 2016,
 - First statewide Anti-Corruption Act passed in South Dakota
 - The state legislature brazenly repealed it
- In 2018,
 - South Dakota Anti-Corruption Amendment on the ballot
 - Lobbyist misinformation campaign defeats Amendment
 - Represent South Dakota is reorganizing for the next round
 - Voters passed 15 of 16 anti-corruption campaigns on Election Day, bringing the 2018 total to 23.
 - That's the most anti-corruption reforms passed in a single year in U.S. history.

Anti-Corruption Successes!

- **Comprehensive Anti-Corruption Laws**
 - Alaska, North Dakota, Missouri, Denver
- **Anti-Gerrymandering Laws**
 - Ohio, Michigan, Colorado, Utah
- **Ranked Choice Voting**
 - Maine, Memphis
- **Ethics/Lobbying Reform**
 - New Mexico, Florida
- **Automatic Voter Registration**
 - Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, Washington
- **Campaign Finance Laws**
 - Baltimore, New York
- **Transparency Laws**
 - Phoenix, Tempe, AZ



The movement will build on these wins to pass even more statewide anti-corruption measures in 2020

Direct Democracy in Illinois

- Citizens of Illinois may only initiate “structural and procedural” constitutional amendments
- The process is prohibitively difficult
- Many initiative scholars do not truly count Illinois as an initiative state



IL: Current Legislative Bills

- **SB 0615** Lobbyist Revolving Door Ban
- **SB 2089** Requires greater transparency of dark money groups
- **SB 1330** Campaign Ad Regulation requiring donor disclosure
- **HB 3655** Creates an open-primary system
- **SB 0780** Ranked Choice Voting
- **HB 5531** Small donor democracy matching system
- **HJRCA43 and SJRCA26** Fair maps amendment
- **HB 712 and SB 834** Election Day Audit of 10% of votes cast
- **SB 0063** Leveling Signature Requirements for Independents and Non-Established Parties

Two-Party System Failure

- Focused on protecting the two party system
- Create enormous hurdles for third-party candidates and independents to get on the ballot
- Appeal to party extremists – those most likely to vote in the primaries
- Compete on extreme ideology, not solutions

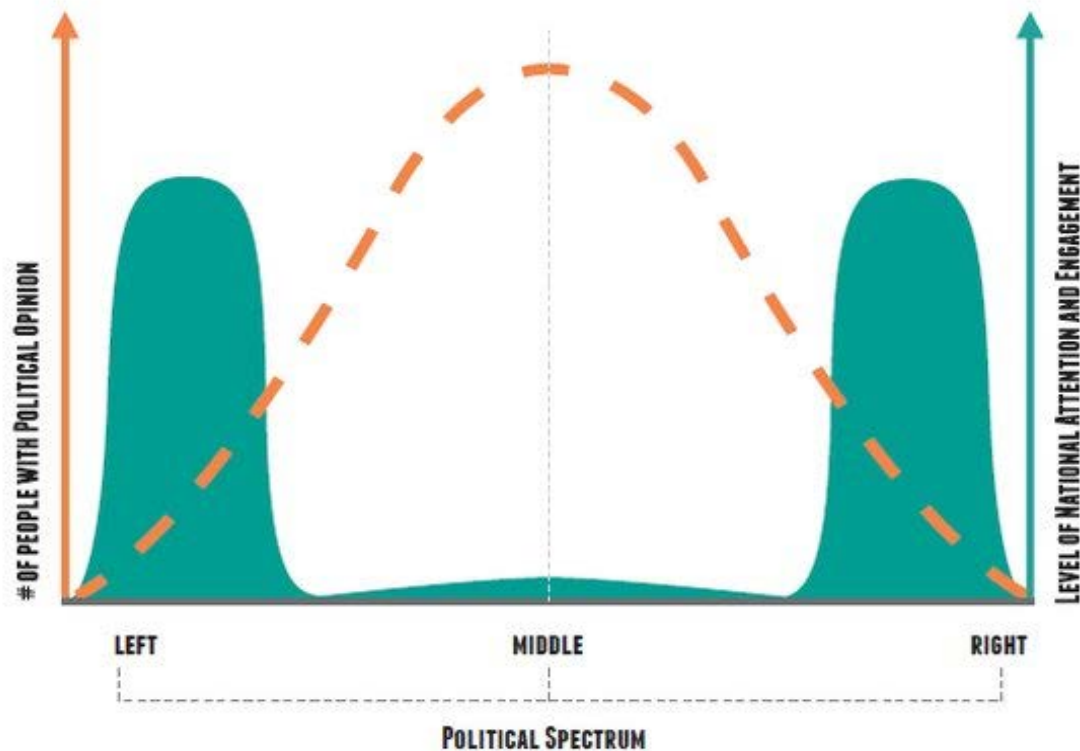


Wedged: A Zero Sum Game

GREENE - FOGG CURVE

Spectrum of opinions vs national political engagement on a given issue

■ Distribution of Political Opinions ■ Distribution of National Engagement

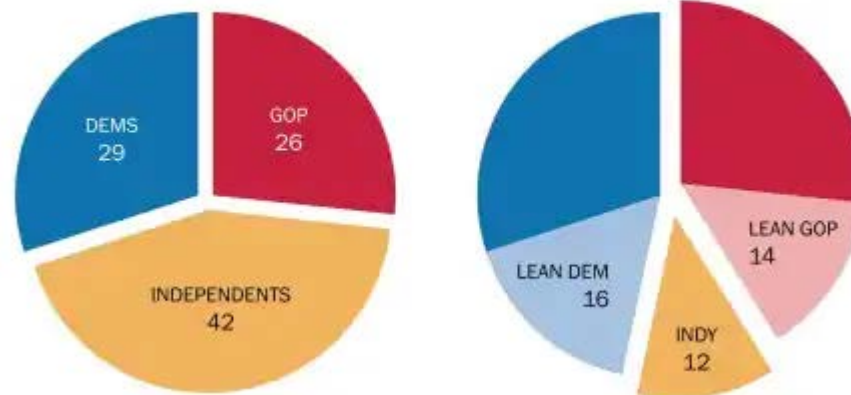


“You Just Ain’t Got The Votes”

- An overwhelming, left-right coalition of voters
- Unceasingly demand legislators implement reform

Party identification among Americans, January 2016

Data from Gallup.



The Reunited States Project



Mediator's Foundation's
Bridge Alliance: working
to build a **Transpartisan
movement** to bridge the
partisan divide

Transpartisan: valuing inclusive solutions that transcend and include all political party positions and promote cross-spectrum collaboration for the benefit of all

BIPARTISAN

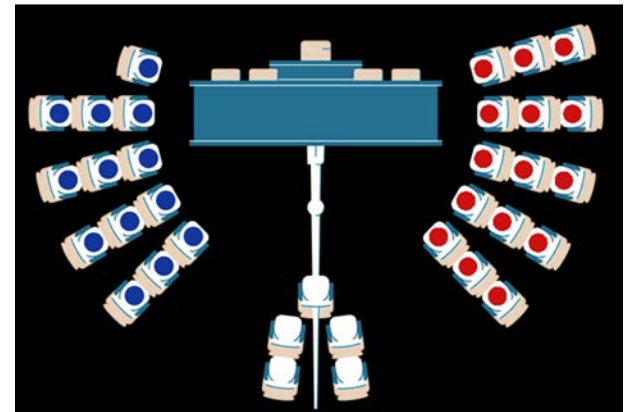
- Transactional
- Compromise
- Negotiation
- 2 sides only
- Leaders only
- Debate
- Roberts Rules of Order
- Tribal

TRANSPARTISAN

- Relational
- Common & Higher Ground
- Collaboration
- multi-stakeholder leaders
- We the people
- Dialogue
- Civility, dignity, compassion
- Integral (parts of a whole)

Unite America: Fulcrum Strategy

- A movement of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents committed to bridging the partisan divide
- Fulcrum Strategy: elect independent candidates to narrowly divided legislatures
- Represent “We the People” instead of special interests.
- Use that leverage to forge common ground solutions to our largest challenges



National Week of Conversation

- Bridge the partisan divide
- Reach out to people with different political views
- Form one-on-one or small group dialogue circles
- Listen and build relationships
- Engage in meaningful discussions about our country's issues
- Seek common ground solutions

national
week of
conversation



Just Democracy Illinois AVR Lobbying Success!



- August, 2017 Automatic Voter Registration became law in Illinois
- Passed unanimously with bi-partisan support
- AVR is gaining momentum across the country. Currently 14 states and D.C. have AVR
- Benefits:
 - Increases registration rates
 - Cleans up voter rolls
 - Saves money

Ballot Access Lawsuits

Pennsylvania and Illinois

- Pennsylvania signature requirement 15,000 versus 2,000 and assigned court fees of \$80,000 to \$100,000
- Discouraged minor party candidates/Independents from running
- Constitution, Libertarian and Green parties of Pennsylvania sued
- 2016 ruling leveled signature requirements and dropped the financial penalty for challenges
- In Illinois, Gill v Scholz is challenging the 5% versus 2% petition for independent US House candidates

Clean Money Squads



- Currently operating in Pennsylvania and Virginia, both non-initiative states
- Non-partisan, non-profit 501c(4)
- Connects voters with reform candidates -- across the political spectrum
- Candidates and office holders must:
 - formally endorse and commit to actively fight for American Anti-Corruption Act initiatives
 - Run transparent campaigns that do not accept special interest donations

Anti-Corruption Quarterly

“Without a paper, a journal of some kind, you cannot unite a community.”

--Mahatma Ghandi

REPRESENT  DUPAGE COUNTY

ANTI-CORRUPTION QUARTERLY

June, 2018



Fixing corruption isn't just possible, it's already happening

DUPAGE COUNTY ETHICS RESOLUTION

In recognition of our growing anti-corruption movement, on May 23, a representative of the DuPage County Board presented Represent Us DuPage County with a Resolution Supporting Strong Ethics Regulations Across Governmental Bodies, enacted on May 15

KEY NATIONAL GERRYMANDERING VICTORY

In May, Ohio voters passed Issue 1, a ballot initiative that fights gerrymandering in congressional districts, with 75% of the vote. This is a huge victory in the fight to give power back to the voters.

Ohio is a center point of American politics, and one of the most gerrymandered states in the country. Gerrymandering (intentionally drawing districting lines to skew election results) is a major reason why Ohio's elections are almost always uncompetitive. In 2016, no congressional race was closer than an 18-point margin. That means before the election even starts, a win is decided, making it nearly impossible for voters to hold politicians accountable.

BGA Weekly Newsletter

- Non-partisan, fact-based reporting on Illinois government and politics
- Investigative stories on abuses of power and government waste
- Politifact Illinois, a fact-checking enterprise
- Reviews and analyzes policy proposals
- Maintains databases
 - Illinois public salaries
 - Pension insolvency



Witness Slips for House Bills and other Action Alerts



The screenshot shows the Illinois 100th General Assembly Witness Slip form. The header includes the Illinois State Seal and the text "Illinois 100th General Assembly Witness Slip". The left sidebar contains navigation links for Home, House, Senate, ILGA.GOV, Help, and Register, along with a "Go" button. The main content area is titled "RECORD OF COMMITTEE WITNESS - ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES". It displays "N/A" for the Bill or Resolution Number and "Judiciary - Criminal Comm" for the committee. The date is "Tuesday, March 27, 2019" and the subject matter is "Other (Subject Matter):". Below this is section "I. IDENTIFICATION" with a note that all fields are required unless noted as optional. The form fields include Name, Address, City, State (set to IL), Zip, Firm/Business Or Agency, and Title.

 Illinois 100th General Assembly
Witness Slip

General Assembly:
100th G.A. (2017-2019) Go

Home
House
Senate
ILGA.GOV
Help
Register

ILLINOIS AMBER ALERT
24-HOUR FREEBURN TEXT BY
ILLINOIS AMBER ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CENTER FOR
MISSING & ABUSED CHILDREN

RECORD OF COMMITTEE WITNESS - ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| N/A | Judiciary - Criminal Comm |
| BILL OR RESOLUTION NUMBER | Tuesday, March 27, 2019 |
| | Other (Subject Matter): |

I. IDENTIFICATION

All fields are required unless noted as optional.

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Firm/Business Or Agency:

Title:

Representation Day

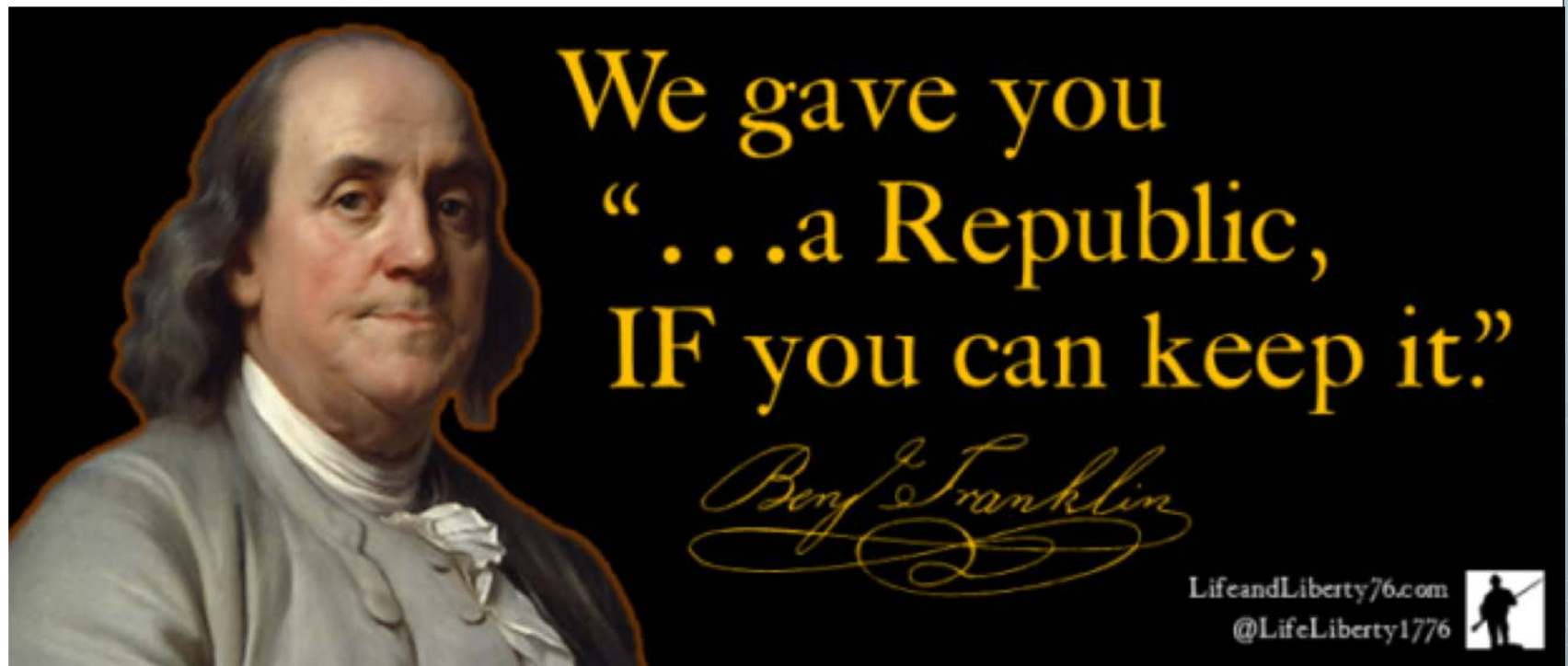


LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®



- Late April, 2019
- Anti-corruption speakers
- Ranked choice voting demonstration
- Left-right dialogue circles
- Corruption – Democracy Tug of War
- Dunk the Lobbyist Tank
- Political reform orienteering
- Democracy rally/costume parade
- Elected Officials Invitations

Benjamin Franklin said,



Join the Movement

- Vote in both primary, mid-term and presidential elections
- Sign the **I Support the American Anti-Corruption Act** petition:
 - Level 3: Follow Represent Us DuPage County on Facebook
 - Level 2: Quarterly e-newsletter, plus action alerts
 - Level 1: Volunteer with Represent Us DuPage County
- Spread the word:
 - Talk to friends, neighbors and family about these issues
 - Help market this presentation
 - Forward our Anti-Corruption Alerts and quarterly newsletter
 - Attend Representation Day



Question and Answer

Citizen's United v Federal Election Commission

- Prior to the 2008 election, Citizens United sought to air a film critical of a presidential candidate
- This violated a federal statute prohibiting any corporation or union from electioneering communication near an election



28th Amendment

Two Paths to an Amendment

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graph TD; A[Two Paths to an Amendment] --> B[A constitutional convention  
2/3 of the states]; A --> C[2/3 vote of both houses AND  
Ratification by 3/4 of states]
```

A constitutional convention
2/3 of the states

2/3 vote of both houses **AND**
Ratification by 3/4 of states

- Given the current power of special interests, a constitutional convention poses a threat
- Winning support from Congress and state ratification will require tremendous coordinated effort



California Anti-Corruption Measures

- California Citizens redistricting commission authorized by voters in 2008.
- Enactment of Top Two Nonpartisan Primary in 2012
 - More competitive elections
 - All voters have equal participation
 - Candidates must now build diverse coalitions of voters rather than toeing the party line.
- Ranked Choice Voting used in San Francisco, Berkley and San Leandro, California