



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE**

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## **Why Delaware Needs to Request a Constitutional Amendment to Address Money in Politics April 2021**

*The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should: Enhance political equality for all citizens; protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns; ensure transparency and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections; and combat corruption and undue influence in government. (LWVUS Position on Money in Politics)*

**The League of Women Voters of Delaware supports SCR 16**, which calls on the US Congress to propose and send to the states a constitutional amendment to make clear that Congress and the states have the power and authority to regulate and limit the amounts of money collected and spent in elections and for referendums and ballot measures.

### **Why is a Constitutional amendment needed to address Money in Politics?**

A Constitutional amendment is the only way to reverse the Supreme Court decisions allowing unlimited spending to influence elections, which the Court has called “protected free speech.” Once these decisions were handed down by the Supreme Court, money began pouring in to influence our election process.

### **How much money is spent to influence recent national elections?**

This number is increasing every election cycle. In 2008 it was \$4 billion; in 2016 it was \$6 billion; in 2020 it was \$14 billion! \*

### **How much money is currently needed to win a Congressional election?**

In 2020, the average winner spent \$2 million per House seat and \$27 million per Senate seat. \*

### **How much time does a member of Congress spend calling donors to ask for money?**

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee recommends that members spend 4 hours every day making calls to prospective donors. \*\*

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\*<https://www.opensecrets.org/elections-overview/cost-of-election?cycle=2020&display=T&infl=N>

\*\*[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/call-time-congressional-fundraising\\_n\\_2427291](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/call-time-congressional-fundraising_n_2427291)