

October 7, 2015

Dear Candidate,

Even in this era of intense polarization, where so many issues divide along party lines, one cause continues to unite Americans of all political stripes: reducing the influence of money in elections so our government is truly of, by, and for the people.

New polling released this month found:

- 87% of Americans agree campaign finance should be reformed so that a rich person does not have more influence than a person without money (Bloomberg Politics)
- 78% of Americans – 80% of Republicans, 83% of Democrats, and 71% independents – think the *Citizens United* Supreme Court ruling should be overturned (Bloomberg Politics)
- 91% of Democrats and 91% of Republicans believe that Super PACs and special interest groups should have to disclose their donors (Public Policy Polling)
- 72% of Democrats and 62% of Republicans support citizen-funded elections matching small donations using public funds (Public Policy Polling)

It is clear voters are hungry for candidates with a real plan to make government work for all of us, not just wealthy special interests.

In July, we sent you “[Fighting Big Money, Empowering People: A 21st Century Democracy Agenda](#),” a detailed plan to achieve that goal, and encouraged you to incorporate the plan into your campaign platform.

We hope you will use this month’s primary debate to demonstrate to voters that there are candidates with real plans by not only endorsing the policy solutions in the Fighting Big Money agenda on the debate stage, but also by laying out specifically how you will advance those solutions within your first 100 days in office.

We are cautiously optimistic about the increasing attention on this issue this election, but acknowledge that past candidates have made campaign commitments to prioritize campaign finance reform and then, once elected, have failed to take action.

Bringing this issue to a national audience and making a firm commitment to prioritize reform in your first 100 days during the debate would be a good first step to show voters across the country that you believe our democracy works best when it represents everyone, not just those able to write the biggest campaign checks.

Common Cause
Democracy 21
Democracy Matters
Every Voice
Free Speech for People

Mayday
People for the American Way
Public Citizen Inc.
Represent.Us