

Problems with Money in Politics

- 1) Money buys media advertisements that greatly influence voters.
- 2) Voters mostly do not know who is paying for political advertisements.
- 3) Wealthy Americans and corporations use vast wealth to control the outcome of elections.
- 4) The control of elections buys control of elected officials, legislators and our government.

lwvbc.org, Teams at work, Money in Politics

Political Corruption

The League of Women Voters believes that political corruption includes the following:

- A candidate or officeholder agrees to vote or work in favor of a donor's interests in exchange for a campaign contribution;
- An officeholder or staff gives greater access to donors;
- An officeholder votes or works to support policies that reflect the preferences of individuals or organizations in order to attract contributions from them;
- A candidate or office holder seeks political contributions implying that there will be retribution unless a donation is given; and
- The results of the political process consistently favor the interests of significant campaign contributors.



Working to Ensure Representative Democracy

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should:

- Enhance political equality for all citizens;
- Ensure maximum participation by citizens in the political process;
- Protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns;
- Provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices;
- Ensure transparency and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections;
- Enable candidates to compete equitably for public office;
- Ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public; and
- Combat corruption and undue influence in government.

Campaign Money Spent in 2016
Federal Elections:

6.4 Billion Dollars

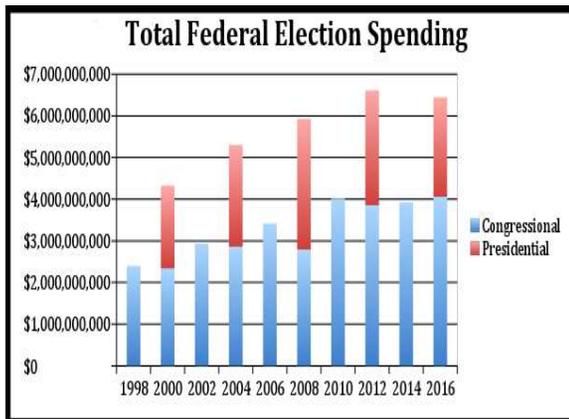
Campaign Money Spent in 2018

Colorado Primaries:

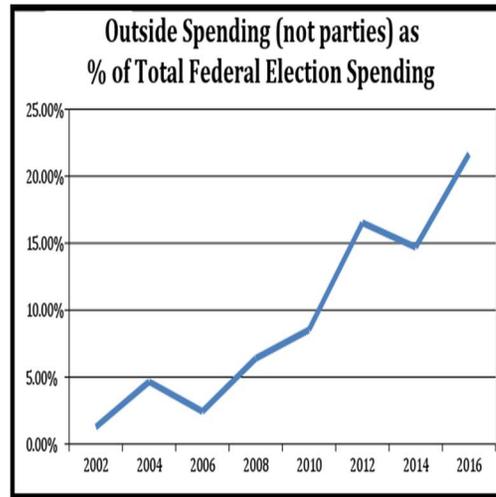
11 Million Dollars

Why Does Money Buy Elections?

Voters are **persuaded** by
psychologically sophisticated
political advertising.



The Center for Responsive Politics



The Center for Responsive Politics

The percentage of election
spending from the wealthiest
Americans is growing.

\$1 Billion came from the Top 40
Donors in 2016.

What Can We Do?

**Avoid learning
about candidates
through TV, radio
and printed ads or
social media.**

Learn about Candidates in these ways:

1. Online at vote411.org
2. Forums sponsored by the League of Women Voters
3. Independent news (See separate list of some credible news sources.)
4. Candidate websites

Solutions to Money in Politics:

- 1) Public grants to qualified candidates
- 2) Public matching of small donations at a high ratio
- 3) Public Campaign vouchers provided to all registered voters for distribution to candidates.

Credible News Organizations

(Media Bias/Fact Check)

Associated Press

Ballotpedia

Center for Public Integrity

Center for Responsive Politics

Christian Science Monitor

Congress.gov

C-Span

Factcheck.org

Harvard Political Review

Maplight

Pew Research

Reuters

Sunlight Foundation

The Economist

United Press International