

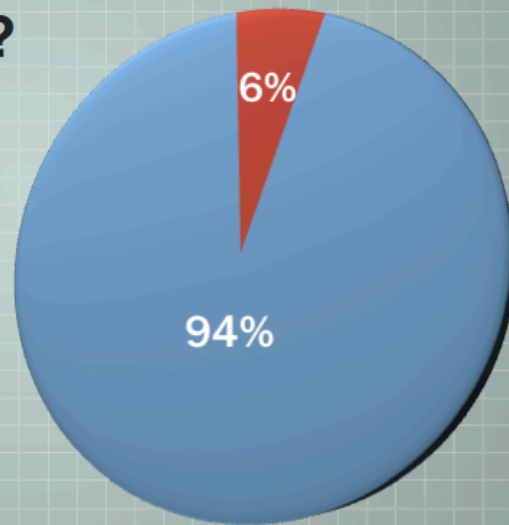
“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider's poll
for the week of October 3.*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

Will corporate money change how campaigns are run?

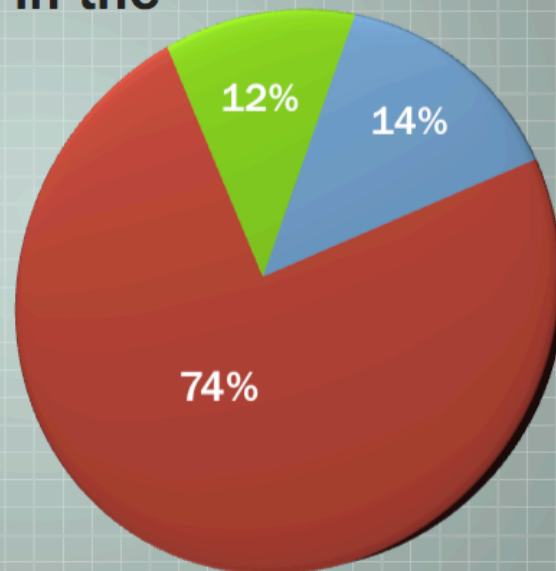
- Yes
- No



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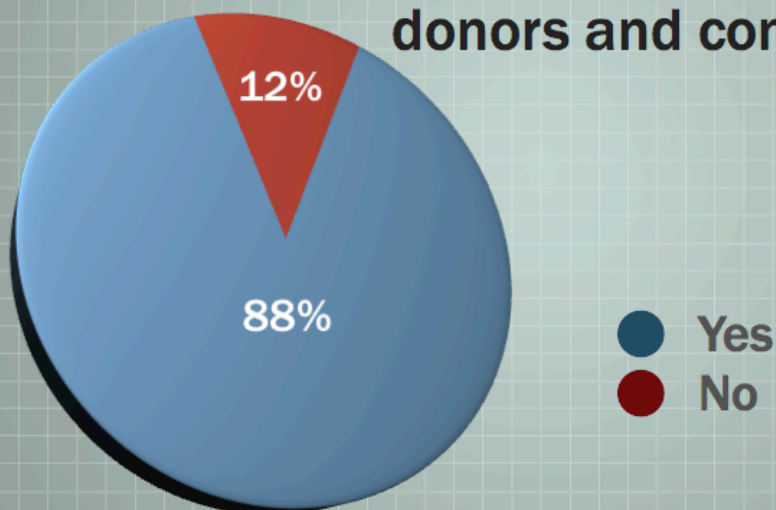
Who'll spend more in the presidential race?

- Candidates
- Third Parties
- Don't know



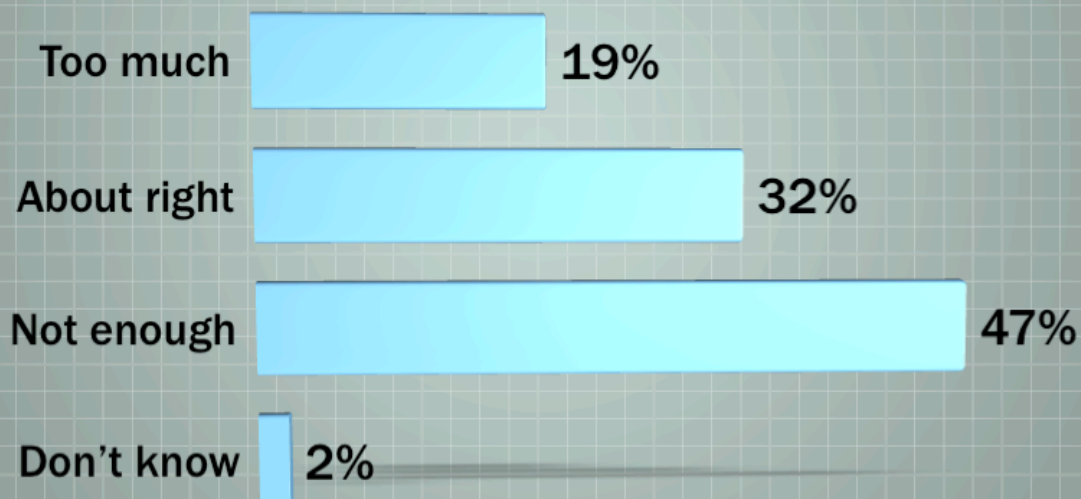
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Should political non-profits disclose donors and contributions?



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Is enough attention paid to campaign finance?



Because of recent court rulings, corporate money is allowed in politics to an extent never seen before. Will that make any difference in how campaigns are run?

- "I suspect only for single issue campaigns... I don't foresee corporations or labor unions buying ads opposing elected officials or endorsing one candidate over another candidate by name."

- "Unlimited money for Super PACs, which allows big donors to get around contribution limits for federal races."

- "More money, more campaign options — both good and bad."

- "These large blocks of cash allow handlers to fund media campaigns for or against candidates, or to simply tar candidates, almost at will. These readily available corporate funds lend themselves to the flexibility of TV advertising, where time can be bought almost instantaneously, ads can be created quickly, and space availability is pretty much unlimited except in the final week or so."

- "How could it not?"

- "It will give corporations excessive influence to buy elections"

- "There is a strong correlation between money and turnout."

- "Campaigns will have to deal with groups outside the campaign structure driving messages apart without coordination with the campaign."

- "Not on the state level. In this economy most corporations are not going to open up their corporate treasuries for political campaigns."

They will continue to play at the same level through their respective PACs."

- "It's not supposed to, with the prohibition against coordination, wink-wink, nudge-nudge"

- "Of course it will.... we are already seeing it have an impact."

- "It could make a difference in Texas because the big PAC's have traditionally been 'hands on' in working with the candidates they support. If corp money comes in, coordination with campaigns becomes restricted."

- "Completely changes the dynamics of presidential campaigns."

- "Shadow campaigns for candidates."

- "Lots more corporate money will be spent in House races through the soft PACs"

- "Is there a major candidate for president who doesn't have a parallel super PAC? Heck, even Bachmann has one, but she likes a super PAC has super powers."

- "Candidates may in some cases lose control of their campaigns and messaging."

- "The people either get involved, learn where the candidates stand on the issues, and act on that understanding OR let the corporate world buy their candidates and we all suffer the consequences."

- "The SuperPacs will run media campaigns parallel with and more hard-hitting than the candidate's official campaign."
- "Unlimited funds for the Republicans to support their candidates."
- "Yes, but it will take a few cycles."
- "Very few will actually participate"
- "It's not the corporate money--it's the unlimited amounts. Watch the 'Super PAC' filings--much of their money is from individuals. That's why the biggest change is on the federal level; Texas elections already allow unlimited individual money."
- "Consultant-centric campaigning will reach pathological levels of control; the middle will risk total obliteration."
- "It appears that business, at least some, have awakened to the fact that government agencies like the EPA and environmental groups are organized and do not have the interest of the capital markets in mind."
- "Throw out the old rule book and get ready for a strange new day where money rules -- as it always has -- but now we can be blatant about it."
- "We have a bought and paid for system in Texas. This exacerbates the situation... no doubt."
- "Don't forget it allows union money too. In Texas, this gives unions a big advantage because of the Texas laws that restrict coordination much more strictly than at the federal level. As players, corporate and union, become more sophisticated, we will see more take advantage of the ruling."
- "Will benefit incumbents and further alienate voters."
- "I don't think it's a difference. I think it will be more of the same...a lot more."
- "Will be harder for average TV viewer to know who is behind ads and blur the line b/w campaign ads and express advocacy ads..."

Will more money be spent in the presidential race by the campaigns themselves or by Super PACs and other third parties?

- "Probably about a 50/50 split between the Super PACs/Corps. and actual campaigns."
- "Everything is now going through third parties - regardless of party affiliation. Neither side is holier than thou."
- "Candidates will still spend more but we won't know if all third parties are included. What you can be sure of is that there will be informal and indirect collusion that may not be prosecutable."
- "This is the danger of this badly flawed decision of the court's right-wing majority. Spending by these new

'people', as the decision calls corporations, will soon outspend the total spending of all official candidate committees of candidates for President, the U.S. House and Senate, the campaign committees of each party in each house, and the National Committees of each Party ... combined."

- "Campaigns overall, but probably by an uncomfortable margin."
- "This is a truly scary prospect"
- "It was close in 2008, before the court ruling."
- "There is no such thing as a Super PAC. All PACs are the same and can accept the same types of donations and have the same regulatory structure. Some PACs will just raise more money than others."
- "Candidates will still raise and spend more money, but the dirty tricks will be done by third party Super PACs - just ask Toomey."
- "It might not happen this cycle, but if the current law is left intact the third parties will eventually become the main source of funds."
- "Every special election for congress we've seen since the Citizens United decision has seen third-party

spending dwarfing what the campaigns spent."

- "It depends on WHO the GOP candidate is and how well he can do on his own. The Super PACs know that this is a do or die election for capitalism. They should NOT be restrained."
- "It's getting out of hand folks but those with the dough prefer it this way."
- "The gap is closing, especially for major candidates"
- "Candidates will spend three-quarters of a billion to a billion, while the Superposes cumulatively on each side may spend almost that much."
- "I think you'll see a shift over the next 10 years from the campaign itself running the entire campaign to campaigns paying for the candidate to do his thing and third parties ruling the airwaves and doing all the hit pieces."
- "time honored strategy of disguising candidates' backers, philosophies and debt owed to the owners box"
- "Best jobs in the business are going to go to the accountants who will be counting money like a Vegas casino."
- "All I know is MORE will be spent."

Should non-profit organizations that participate in political advertising be required to disclose donor names and contribution amounts?

• "Yes. We should have disclosure and transparency on political ads. The Koch Brothers have been able to hide

long enough. A little sunshine is good for everyone!"

- "Political Action Committees have to disclose, do they not?"
- "They should. But the same groups who 'advocate' for open and transparent government are the first to keep their donor list secret."
- "Non profits should not only disclose they should have a purpose beyond bundling money. If non-profit corporations are to be considered people Fred Wertheimer's recent suit asks that they have a purpose independent of politics itself. Otherwise they are just the Doppelganger of the campaign or party."
- "Of course."
- "The rules should be the same for everyone."
- "My initial thought - limited disclosure would likely be a good idea . . . say, if one donor contributed over 25% of the total annual funding."
- "Disclosure has a legitimate function that serves a public interest; when regulation goes beyond that, the state enables a system ripe for intimidating people with unpopular views. We will never have 'open and honest' debate if people have to live in fear of expressing their views."
- "Good luck with that."
- "Supporters of candidates worth their salt should not work in the shadows."
- "All contributions, over a specified mount, should be identified."
- "There are no 'nonprofit' organizations heavily involved in the upcoming presidential campaign. They are all involved because they expect major financial benefits in the forms of subsidies, tax reform, and the like."
- "Who with pure intentions would even question such a requirement?"
- "Let the sunshine in"
- "The Texas model works--let anyone contribute as much as they want, but make those taking the money have to own up to those contributions (trial lawyers, Bob Perry, etc.). The (c)(4) groups are going to come under increased scrutiny from the IRS with their non-disclosure and campaign activities."
- "Short of campaign limits transparency is only chance to make the backers and their asks a relevant / salient campaign issue"
- "There should be no limits but full disclosure"
- "Just another hole that needs plugging."
- "If we required disclosure, then everyone would know what only a few know now -- that the Koch family is behind Michael Sullivan and other front groups."
- "But only if Unions and corporate groups also fully disclose."
- "The hell with limits if the sun shines in. Full transparency and let her rip! Everyone should be required to disclose."

Rate the amount of attention paid to money in politics by the public and the media:

- "The broadcasters are benefiting the most from campaign dollars and yet they are part of the background noise stating over and over how much the corporate money in politics is corrupting the election process. It is interesting that most folks forget that political action committees have existed since the early 1940s; the first PAC was actually called the 'Political Action Committee' and was founded as a political arm of a 'union' the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO).... it quickly became the generic term for all of its successors."
- "It is the policy they should focus on. The money is just a medium. Both sides spend way more than they ever have in the past, but they match each other in throw weight."
- "Can't ignore it, but money only helps to an extent. A bad candidate or bad campaign isn't helped by all the money in the world."
- "The media can't get to large chunks of the information"
- "Not much now, and even less later as it becomes obvious that corporate and other monied interests are controlling every significant policy in the nation. The public is quickly developing calluses on the part of its collective conscience that reacts to such indignities. The collapse of strong independent news organizations is very much part of the cause."
- "The mother's milk of politics needs as much scrutiny as possible."
- "Campaign finance remains a mystery to most people, including some in the press."
- "If the sources of third party money are identified in a timely way, this may change."
- "Money in politics is a high priority for the media it remains a low priority for the public."
- "Certainly the 'media' are obsessed with it."
- "Wish voters would defeat more politicians that feed at the special-interest corporate \$ trough."
- "BCRA is a joke. Federal candidates are forced to spend 90% of their time raising money rather than campaigning, talking about public policy, where they stand. We need no contribution limits coupled with full, immediate disclosure."
- "Attach criminal, and not civil, penalties to violations, and this gets more interesting."
- "Money speaks to the character of the candidates--as well as their policies."
- "The public has a right to know who is buying the politicians."
- "Until there is a scandal, it will be business as usual."

- "The media only talks about those donors who got something positive from the candidates they support. They never talk about the vast majority of donors who give and then never ask for or anything, which skews the public's perception of money in politics."

- "It's not the amount or who collected the most this quarter, it's what is done with it."

- "It's a complete joke -- possibly the biggest travesty of our system.... my children will look back at this period and wonder if has lost our minds... much the same way my generation shakes it head at the system that existed 30-40 years ago."

- "The media and pundits bemoan it, the public expects it, and the big wheels - they keep on turning."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Louis Bacarisse, Charles Bailey, Reggie Bashur, Walt Baum, Dave Beckwith, Rebecca Bernhardt, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Snapper Carr, Janis Carter, Tris Castaneda, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, George Cofer, Rick Cofer, John Colyandro, Hector De Leon, Tom Duffy, Jeff Eller, Craig Enoch, Jack Erskine, Alan Erwin, Ryan Erwin, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Scott Gilmore, Daniel Gonzalez, Jack Gullahorn, Bill Hammond, Sandy Haverlah, Albert Hawkins, Ken Hodges, Laura Huffman, Shanna Igo, Deborah Ingersoll, Cal Jillson, Mark Jones, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Pete Laney, Dick Lavine, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Homero Lucero, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Dan McClung, Scott McCown, Robert Miller, Bee Moorhead, Steve Murdock, Craig Murphy, Keir Murray, Keats Norfleet, Pat Nugent, Sylvia Nugent, Todd Olsen, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Bill Pewitt, Jerry Philips, Wayne Pierce, Kraege Polan, Jay Propes, Andrea Rado, Bill Ratliff, Carl Richie, Kim Ross, Mark Sanders, Jim Sartwelle, Stan Schlueter, Bruce Scott, Steve Scurlock, Bradford Shields, Dee Simpson, Ed Small, Todd Smith, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Jason Stanford, Bob Strauser, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Russ Tidwell, Bruce Todd, Trey Trainor, Wendell Ware, Ken Whalen, Darren Whitehurst, Seth Winick, Peck Young, Angelo Zottarelli.