



House Joint Resolution 31

Constitutional Amendment on Corporations and Rights

Representative Zack Fields, March 11, 2026



House Joint Resolution 31

Alaskan Voters



- A previous ballot initiative posed to Alaskans passed in a landslide.
- In 2015 the limits were challenged and in 2021 the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals removed these restrictions.

*The initiative appeared on the November 2, 2004 election ballot and was **approved** by a vote of:*

YES - 113,130

NO - 41,836

[Alaska Initiative Petition Bill Language –
https://www.elections.Alaska.gov](https://www.elections.Alaska.gov)

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 1
Campaign Contribution Limits, Lobbying and
Disclosure
03DISC

This initiative would decrease the maximum amount an individual may give a candidate or group from \$1,000 to \$500, and decrease the amount an individual may give a political party for any purpose from \$10,000 to \$5,000. It would decrease the amount a group may give a candidate, or group, from \$2,000 to \$1,000. It would decrease the amount a group may give to a political party from \$4,000 to \$1,000. It would require groups to disclose the name, address, occupation, employer, date and amount given by each contributor for contributions more than \$100 during a calendar year. It would reduce from 40 to 10 the hours a person who is not a professional lobbyist could lobby in any 30-day period before having to register as a lobbyist. It would require legislators, public members of the select committee on legislative ethics, and legislative directors to disclose outside income sources greater than \$1,000.

Should this initiative become law?

YES

NO



House Joint Resolution 31

Judicial Activism



- *Thompson v. Hebdon* (9th Cir., 2021)
 - Removed Alaska's ballot initiative on campaign contributions.
- *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010) is a prime example of jurists creating laws – reserved for the legislature.
 - No limitations on corporate funding in political speech.
- *First National Bank of Boston v. Belotti* (1978)
 - The right to influence elections is protected First Amendment speech.
- *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976)
 - Political money and financial contributions are equal to speech.



House Joint Resolution 31

Dissenting Opinions



- “In my opinion, a corporation – an artificial being, invisible, intangible, and existing only in contemplation of law – cannot claim the immunity given by the Fourth Amendment, for **it is not part of the “people,”** within the meaning of that Amendment. **Nor is it embraced by the word “persons”** in the Amendment.” –Justice John Marshall Harlan, 1906
- “I do not believe **the word ‘person’ in the Fourteenth Amendment includes corporations...** neither the history nor the language of the Fourteenth Amendment justifies the belief that corporations are included within its protection.” –Justice Hugo Black, 1938
- “Corporations have **no conscience, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires.** Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and **their “personhood” often serves as a useful legal fiction.** But they are not themselves members of “We the People” **by whom and for whom our Constitution was established.**” –Justice John Paul Stevens, 2010



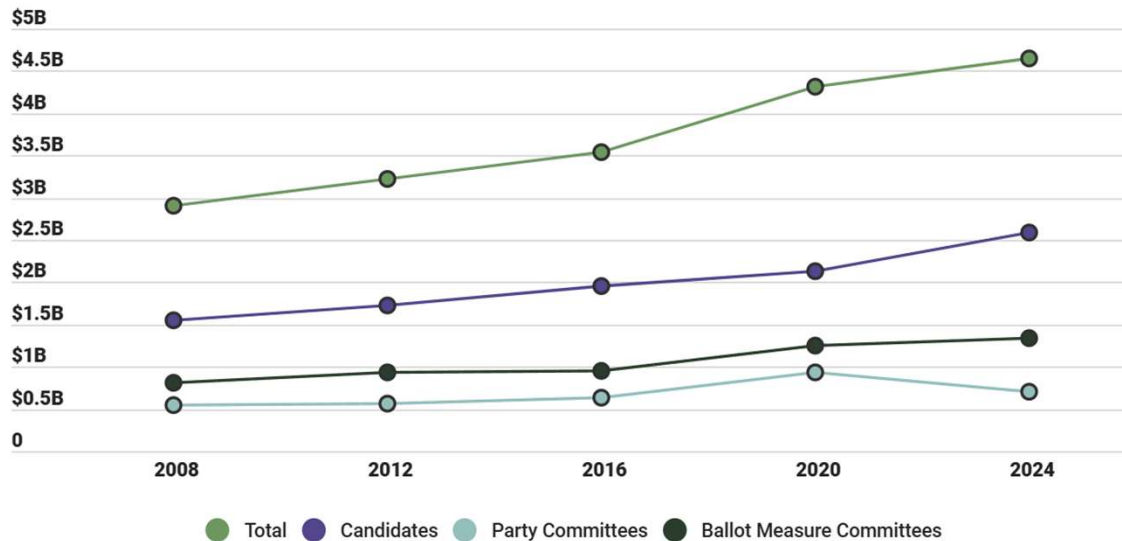
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Fundraising Increases



State-level political fundraising projected to top \$4.6 billion

OpenSecrets projects that fundraising by state-level candidates, party committees and ballot measure committees will exceed \$4.6 billion for 2023 and 2024 elections.



*OpenSecrets' projection for the 2024 cycle includes funds raised by candidates for partisan & nonpartisan state offices, GOP & Democratic party central committees, legislative caucus committees and statewide ballot measure committees.
Source: OpenSecrets analysis of state-level political contribution data collected through Nov. 4, 2024.
Prior election cycle totals are adjusted for inflation.



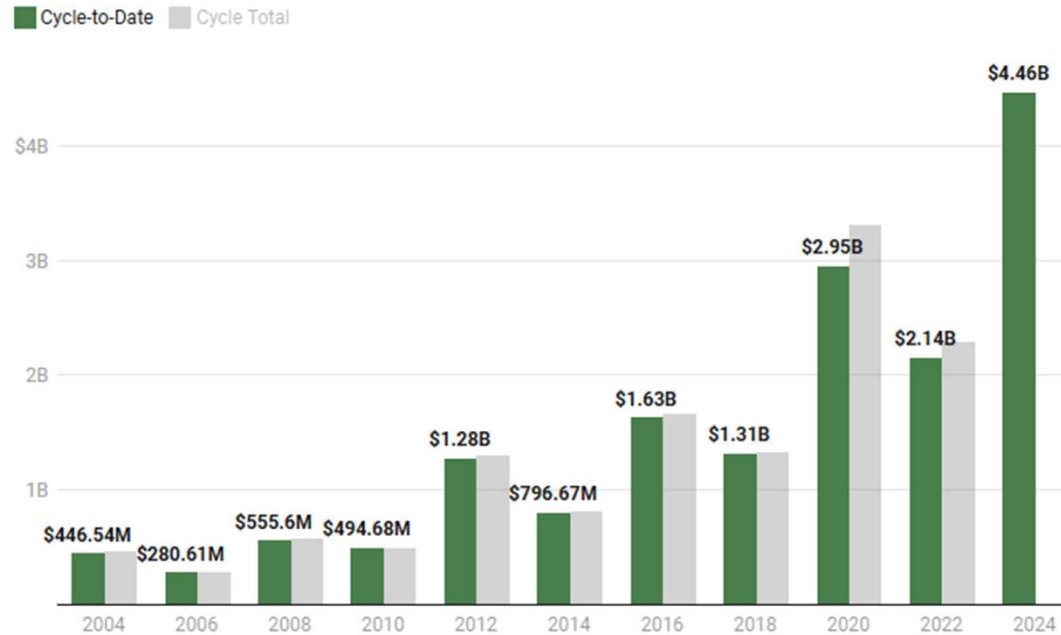
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Fundraising Increases



Outside spending on 2024 elections shatters records

Outside spending on 2024 federal elections has hit a record \$4.5 billion, with more than half of that spending coming from groups that do not fully disclose the source of their funding.



OpenSecrets analysis of federal campaign finance reports through Nov. 5, 2024, compared to outside spending reported through the same date in prior two-year election cycles. Cycle-to-date totals include spending on independent expenditures, electioneering communications, and communication costs.

Created with [Datavrapper](#)



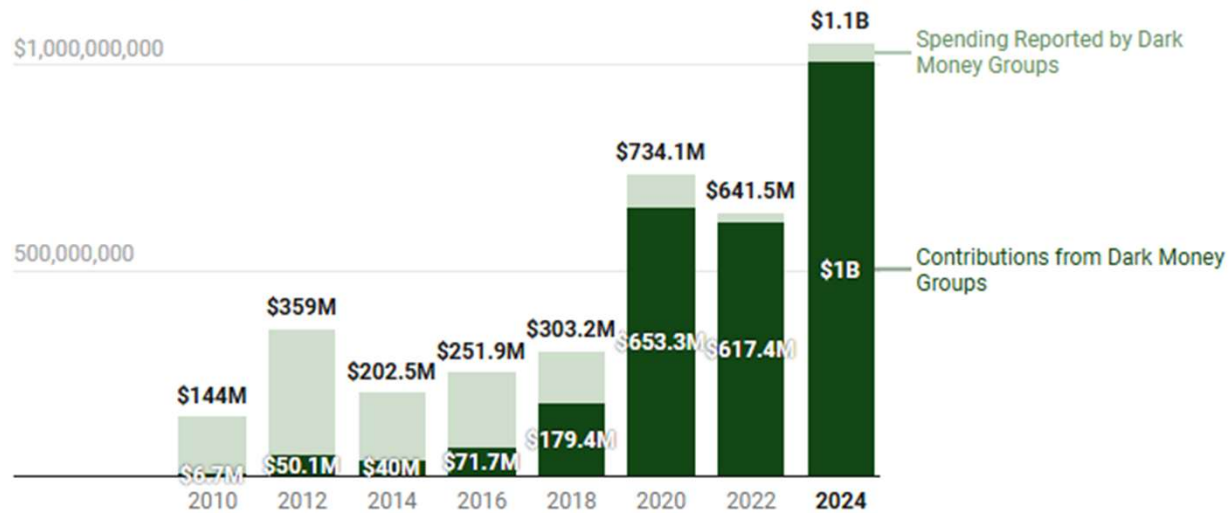
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Fundraising Increases



Contributions from dark money groups & shell companies soar in 2024

Over \$1 billion in dark money from anonymous source was steered to independent political committees like super PACs spending on 2024 federal elections.



Source: OpenSecrets analysis of contributions from dark money groups and shell companies as of Nov. 4, 2024. • [Embed](#) • [Download image](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

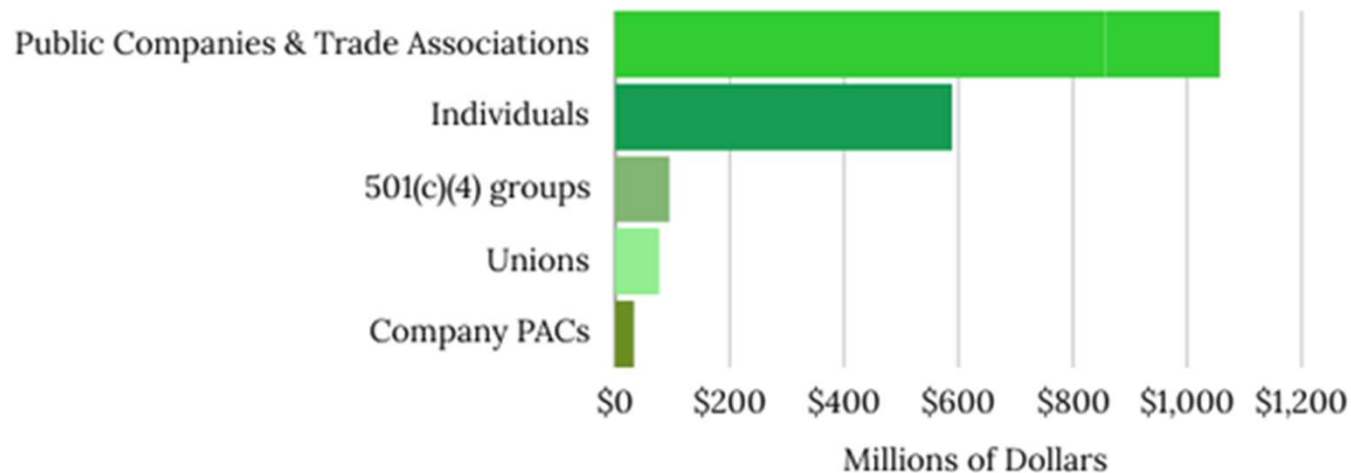


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Corporate Donations



Dominant categories of donors to all six 527 committees, 2010 - 2024



Source: US Internal Revenue Service

- A 527 Committee is one of six tax-exempt partisan, state-focused political committees named for §527 of Internal Revenue Code under which they are governed.

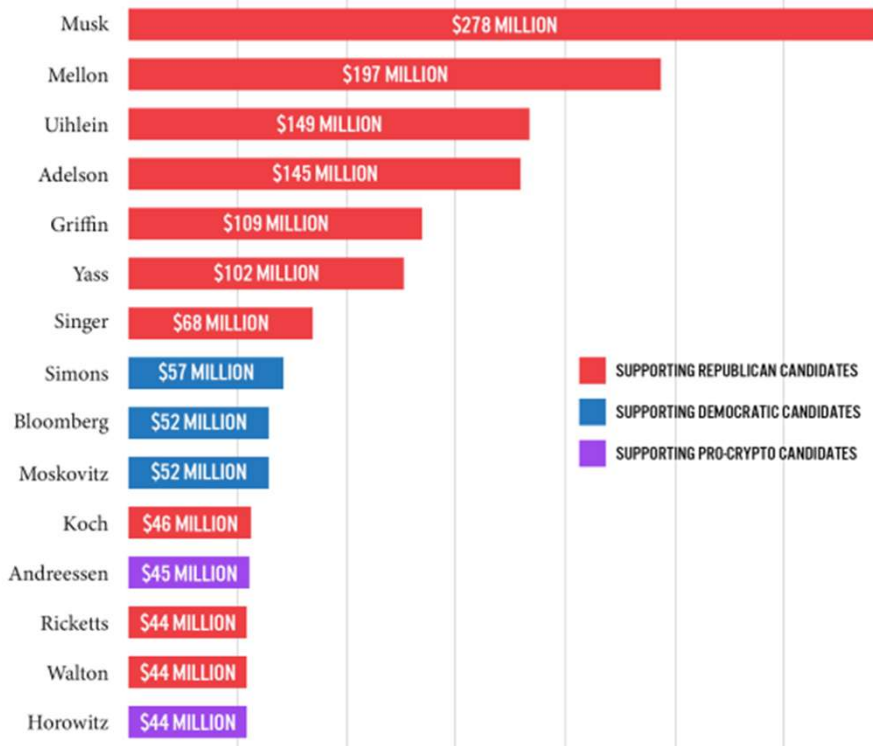


House Joint Resolution 31

Top Donors



TOP 15 BILLIONAIRE-FAMILY ELECTION SPENDERS



Source: [Americans for Tax Fairness](#)

Billionaires Buying Elections: They've Come to Collect

BILLIONAIRE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUTSIDE SPENDING GROUPS IN TOP HOUSE RACES

TOP 10 HOUSE CANDIDATES SUPPORTED BY BILLIONAIRE OUTSIDE MONEY			TOP 10 HOUSE CANDIDATES ATTACKED BY BILLIONAIRE OUTSIDE MONEY		
CANDIDATE	RACE	BILLIONAIRE SPENDING IN FAVOR	CANDIDATE	RACE	BILLIONAIRE SPENDING IN FAVOR
Don Bacon	NE-02	\$2,591,768	Derek Tran	CA-45	\$6,628,838
Derrick Anderson	VA-07	\$2,412,889	Mondaire Jones	NY-17	\$6,572,000
Michelle Steel	CA-45	\$2,245,215	Curtis Hertel	MI-07	\$6,173,743
Nick Begich III	AK-01	\$1,886,366	Jared Golden	ME-02	\$6,092,680
Zach Nunn	IA-03	\$1,559,418	Josh Riley	NY-19	\$5,933,231
John McGuire	VA-05	\$1,532,422	Susan Wild	PA-07	\$5,337,203
Bob Good	VA-05	\$1,490,638	George Whitesides	CA-27	\$5,202,883
Sam Liccardo	CA-16	\$1,455,056	Mary Peltola	AK-01	\$5,174,205
Cameron Hamilton	VA-07	\$1,428,472	Amish Shah	AZ-01	\$5,075,230
Derek Merrin	OH-09	\$1,428,061	Will Rollins	CA-41	\$5,051,267

Source: [Americans for Tax Fairness](#)

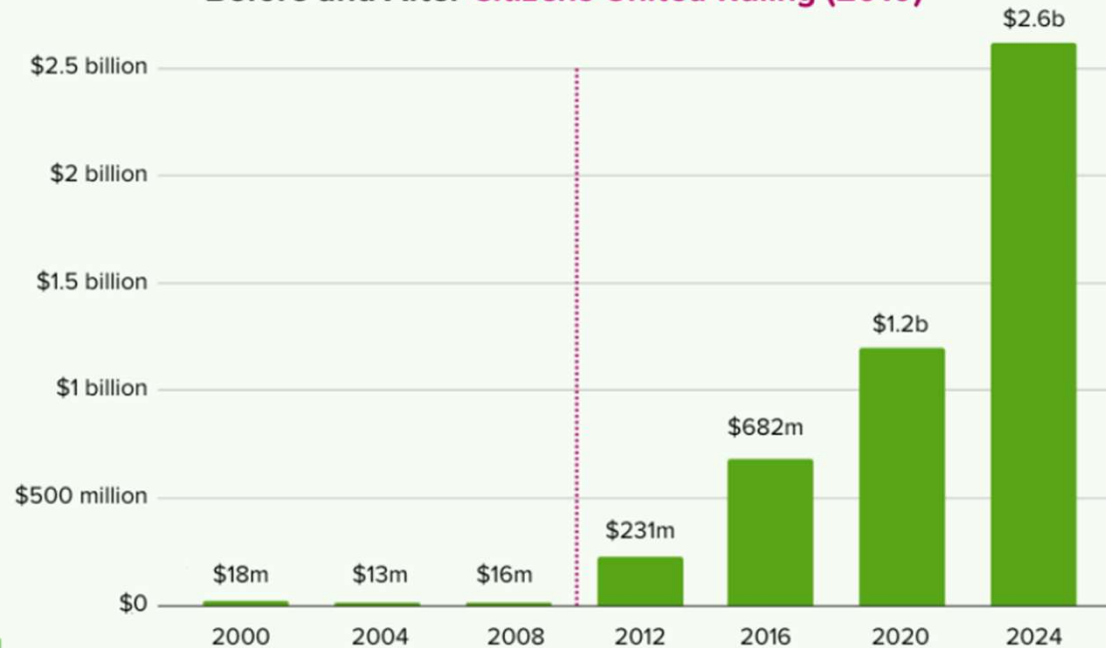


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Before and After



Billionaire Spending in Presidential Elections
Before and After *Citizens United* Ruling (2010)



Source: Americans for Tax Fairness



House Joint Resolution 31

Key Takeaways



- There has been an undeniable massive increase in corporate influence in our elections.
- As a separate and co-equal branch of government, it is our duty to correct the judiciary's incorrect interpretation of corporate personhood in political expenditures.
- With this Resolution it is up to the Alaskan electorate to determine who shall have the power to influence elections.



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Questions?