



House Joint Resolution 31

Constitutional Amendment on Corporations and Rights

Representative Zack Fields, March 11, 2026



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Alaskan Voters



- In 1996 comprehensive campaign finance law was enacted by the 19th Legislature.
- In 2003 the 23rd Legislature raised the campaign contribution limits.
- In 2004 a ballot initiative on contribution limits passed with 73% of the vote.
- In 2015 the limits were challenged by three private individuals and a political party and in 2021 the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals removed these restrictions.

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

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

YES - 113,130

NO - 41,836



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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.



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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



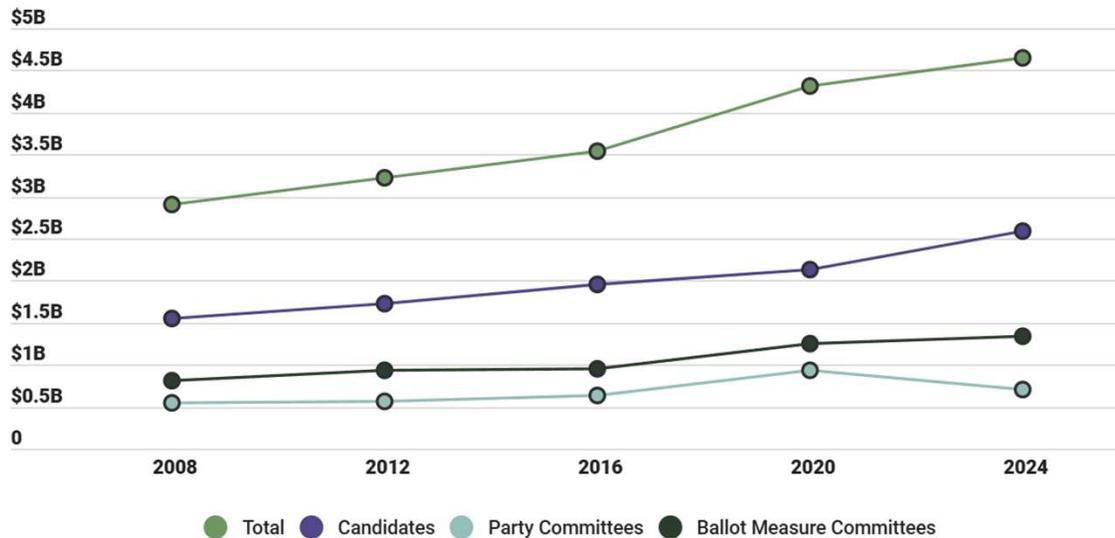
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State-level Funding



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.





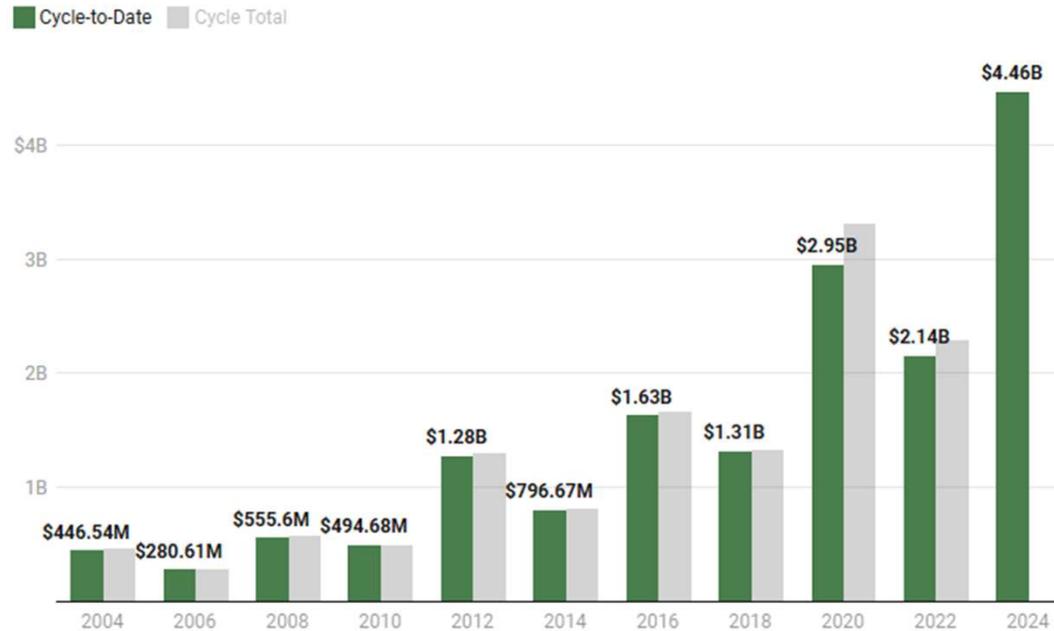
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Outside Spending



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.

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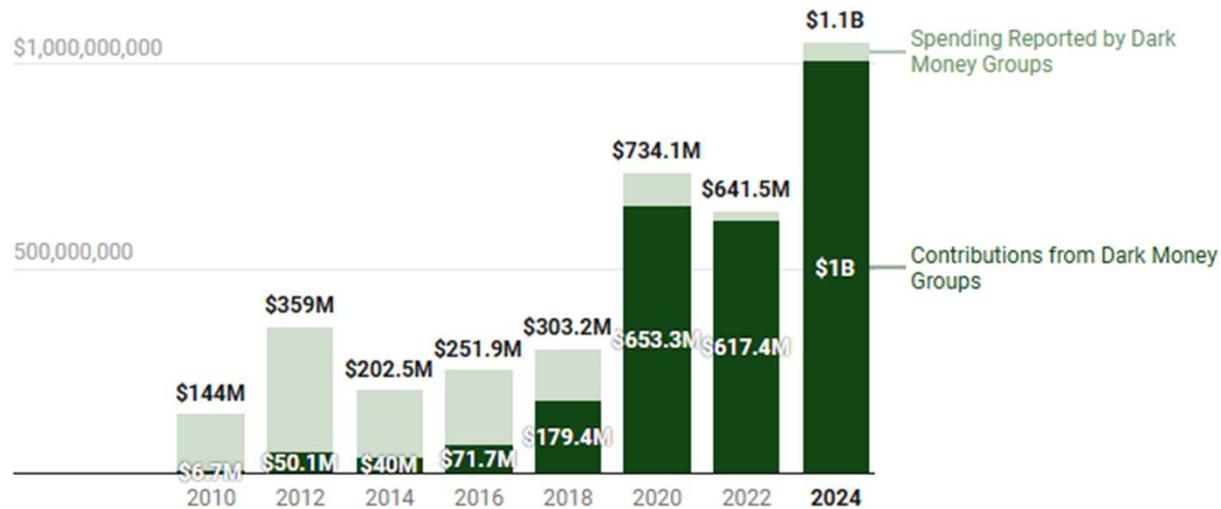


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Contributions from dark money groups & shell companies soar in 2024

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



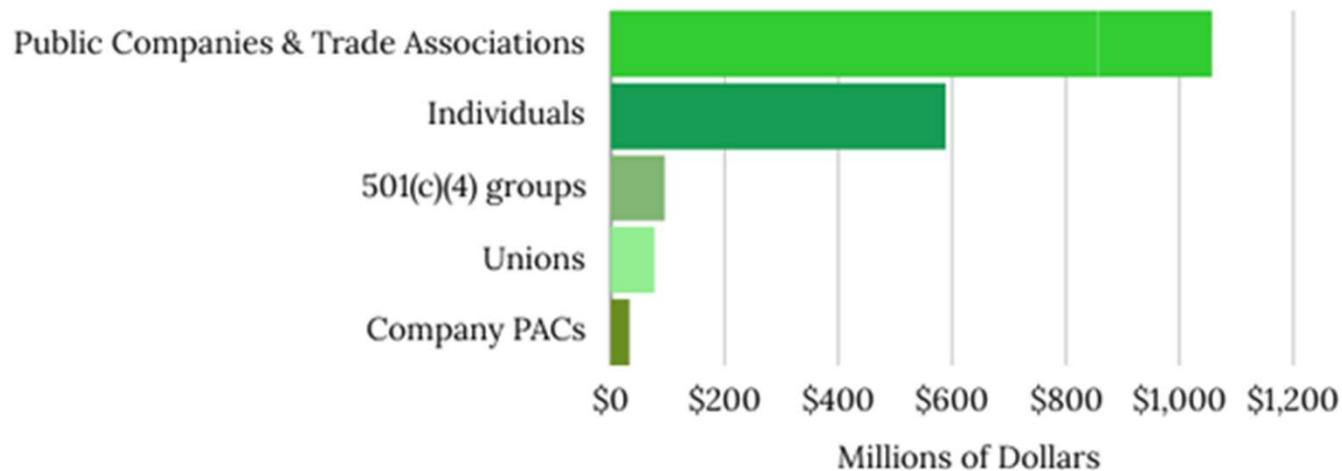
Source: OpenSecrets analysis of contributions from dark money groups and shell companies as of Nov. 4, 2024. • [Embed](#) • [Download image](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)



House Joint Resolution 31 527 Committees



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



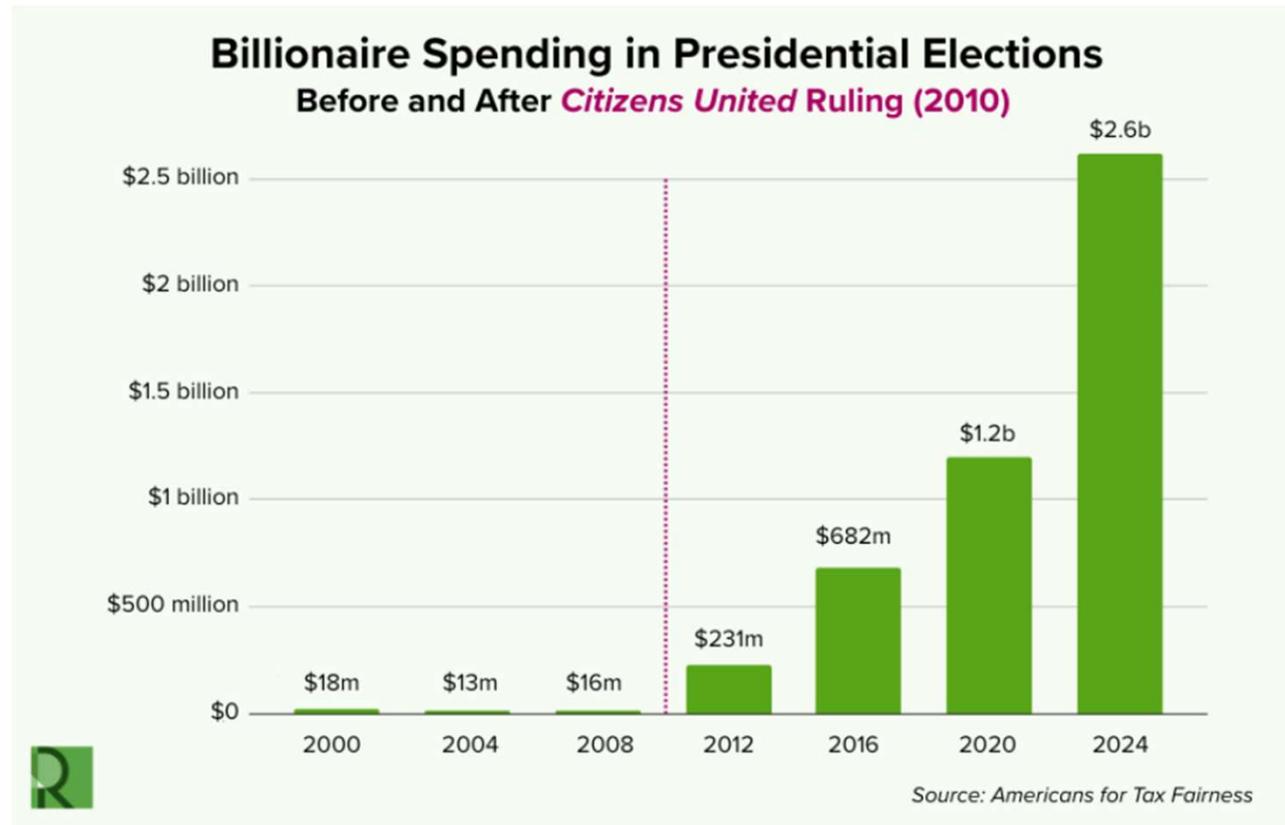
Source: US Internal Revenue Service

- 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.



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Before and After





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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?