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**United Republic is a bold, new challenge to the undue influence of well-financed special interests over American politics and government.**

## Get Money out of Politics: Stop lobbyist bribery, End secret money & Empower voters.

• 1

### **STOP POLITICIANS FROM TAKING BRIBES**

**Prohibit members of congress from soliciting contributions from the interests they regulate, and prevent them from benefiting interests that directly or indirectly spend heavily to influence their elections.**

Politicians routinely host fundraisers, and invite lobbyists to contribute to their campaigns. Members of congress who sit on powerful committees get extraordinary amounts of money from interests regulated by those committees. The result is a congress made up of politicians dependent on those special interests in order to raise the money necessary to win reelection. Politicians are forced to create laws that are favorable to those interests, often at the expense of the public interest.

• 2

### **LIMIT SUPER PAC CONTRIBUTIONS AND "COORDINATION"**

**Require Super PACs to abide by the same contribution limits as other political committees. Toughen rules regarding Super PACs and other groups' coordination with political campaigns and political parties.**

The Supreme Court's Citizens United and subsequent court cases ruled that SuperPACs have the right to raise and spend unlimited money influencing elections, so long as the SuperPACs do not coordinate with the candidate campaigns. Since Citizens United, we've seen tremendous coordination between campaigns and their Super-PACs, making a mockery of the "independence" that the courts thought would exist. SuperPACs have become extensions of the campaigns, and allow mega-donors to exert undue influence on election outcomes.

• 3

### **PREVENT JOB OFFERS AS BRIBES**

**Close the "revolving door" so that elected representatives and their senior staff can no longer sell off their legislative power in exchange for high-paying jobs when they leave office. 7 years for all members and 5 senior congressional staff. (currently 2 years for Senate; 1 year for House; 1 year for senior staff)**

Today, politicians routinely move straight from Congress to lucrative lobbying jobs on K Street, in order to influence their former colleagues and friends. Senior staffers who work for congressmen do the same thing. This corrupts policymaking in two ways: members and their staff anticipate high-paying jobs on K Street, and routinely do favors to their future employers while still in Congress; and once out of congress they enjoy undue access and influence to members of Congress. The biggest spenders hire these influencers, and win policy as a result.

• 4

### **CALL LOBBYISTS LOBBYISTS**

**Significantly expand the definition of, and register all lobbyists to prevent influencers from skirting the rules.**

Today, the definition of who is a lobbyist - and who is not - is weak. The result: members of congress and their staff, even when they are in the cool down phase when they may not lobby (1 year for US House members, 2 years for Senators, and 1 year for senior staff) work as "historical advisors" to skirt the law while receiving big money to influence policy.

### LIMIT LOBBYIST DONATIONS

**Limit the amount that lobbyists and their clients can contribute to federal candidates, political parties, and political committees to \$500 per year and limit lobbyist fundraising. Federal contractors already are banned from contributing to campaigns: extend that ban to the lobbyists, high-level executives and government relations employees and PACs of federal government contractors.**

Lobbyists currently must abide by the same contribution limits (to candidate campaigns) as everyone else: \$2500 per election. Lobbyists "bundle" these \$2500 contributions with other lobbyists, and individuals working for special interests that seek to influence politicians. This adds up to serious money, and serious undue influence.

### END SECRET MONEY

**Mandate full transparency of all political money. Require any organization that spends \$10,000 or more on advertisements to elect or defeat federal candidates to file a disclosure report online with the Federal Election Commission within 24 hours. List each of the organization's donors who donated \$10,000 or more to the organization to run such ads. This includes all PACs, 501c nonprofits, or other groups that engage in electioneering.**

Elections are being flooded with secret money funneled through "501c" organizations that are not required to disclose the names of donors. 501c's either spend money directly to influence elections, or make unlimited contributions to SuperPAC's. This allows secret political donors to flood elections with money, and influence outcomes.

### LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD WITH A SMALL DONOR TAX REBATE

**Empower voters by creating an annual \$100 Tax Rebate that voters can use for qualified contributions to one or more federal candidates, political parties, and political committees. In order to be eligible to receive Tax Rebate contributions, candidates, political parties, and political committees must limit the contributions they receive to no more than \$500 per contributor per calendar year or contributions from entities that are funded exclusively by Tax Rebates and small-dollar contributions.**

Nearly \$6 billion was spent on the 2012 elections, and the vast majority came from big special interest donors. In 2008, less than 0.5 percent of Americans contributed \$200 or more, and less than 0.1 percent of Americans contributed \$2,300 or more. Politicians become dependent on this tiny percentage of the population. To change this, we need to dramatically increase the number of small donors to politics, so that politicians become dependent on everyday Americans and not moneyed interests. That's how we get politicians who actually fight for the general public.

### DISCLOSE "BUNDLING"

**Require federal candidates to disclose the names of individuals who "bundle" contributions for the Member or candidate, regardless of whether such individuals are registered lobbyists.**

### ENFORCE THE RULES

**Strengthen the Federal Election Commission's independence and strengthen the House and Senate ethics enforcement processes. Provide federal prosecutors additional tools necessary to combat corruption, and prohibit lobbyists who fail to properly register and disclose their activities from engaging in federal lobbying activities for a period of two years.**

Federal agencies routinely fail to enforce the anti-corruption rules that already exist because their leadership are appointed by those they are supposed to regulate. The result is a wild-west elections system, where even lax rules can be skirted or broken with impunity.

## Sounds tough? It is. But this is why it will work

- Reform will only occur at a moment of crisis. We will harness public anger and demand for change.
- We must start with the people, not Congress, and gather an unprecedented coalition.
- We must engage liberals, conservatives and independents. Highly visible spokespeople from all quarters will aid us.
- Politicians will only act if forced to by electoral pressure. We will unseat politicians who don't cooperate.
- The solution must be comprehensive. Incremental reform won't work: it has to come as a package.

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