

IN TEXAS, JULY 4, 2007

A Declaration of Independence from the Corruption of Big Money

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for the People to dissolve the dependencies which have corrupted their elected officials and to assume the role that their Founding Fathers and Mothers intended, a decent respect to the opinions of humankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to separate their elected representatives from the undemocratic influences of Big Money.

To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. Our current system of campaign finance is flawed: It violates the principle of One Person, One Vote, and diminishes our Vote by allowing Big Money to have an undue influence on the political process. It diminishes the Free Speech rights of non-wealthy voters whose voices are muted by Big Money donors who can and do monopolize paid political communications. It undermines the First Amendment value of open and robust political debate. It fuels the public perception of corruption and undermines public confidence in the Democratic Process. It creates an environment that invites corruption by making it competitively impossible for well-meaning candidates to decline big contributions. It costs Texans millions of dollars in spending designed only to benefit Big Money donors. It attracts Legislators who refuse to consider bills that mandate Fair Redistricting of legislative and judicial boundaries. It inhibits communication by candidates with the electorate. It disadvantages challengers because Big Money tends to favor incumbents. It burdens candidates and office holders with the incessant rigors of constant fundraising and thus decreases their availability to voters. It has obstructed the Administration of Justice by requiring Candidates for Judicial offices to court wealthy Special Interest donors. It has deprived us, in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury thanks to "Tort Reform" laws passed by Big Money advocates.

As a result:

Our government has refused its obligation to the General Welfare, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. It has refused to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, instead substituting Laws that favor Special Interests. It has created False Arguments that suggest our vote could be stolen by people who are not legally entitled to cast ballots. It has repeatedly enacted laws that increase burdens on working people in favor of Special Interests.

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated attempts at Campaign Finance Reform have been answered only by repeated injury.

We, therefore, the Citizens of Texas, appealing to all Activists herein, do solemnly publish and declare that any Candidate who so chooses ought to be Free and Absolved from all Allegiance to Big Money, and we mutually pledge to each other our dedication to the cause of Clean Elections along with our sacred Honor.