

ST PETE FL PASSES ORDINANCE TO BAN BIG MONEY IN CITY ELECTIONS

In August of 2014, St Pete passed a resolution that said:

- corporations are not people and money is not speech.

On October 5, 2017, St Petersburg, FL, became the first municipality in the country to pass an ordinance that:

- 1) abolishes super PACs and
- 2) prohibits spending by foreign influenced corporations in city elections.



st.petersburg
www.stpete.org

1st city to ban super PACs

More than 30 partner organizations and thousands of residents spoke and acted in support.

The ordinance became law January 1, 2018.

Download the ordinance: freespeechforpeople.org

TAKE ACTION NOW!



Read the documents at websites
Ask questions
Learn your Council member's views



- LWVSPA.org/CFR
- freespeechforpeople.org
- tampabay.americanpromise.net
- Opensecrets.org



Join each organization
Donate to FSFP: <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/fsfp> for ongoing legal support



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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Campaign Finance Reform

The LWVSPA, American Promise~
Tampa Bay and Free Speech for
People team up to **Keep BIG MONEY**
out of St Pete Politics



1st city to ban unlimited campaign contributions

FOR **FREE SPEECH**
PEOPLE .ORG



AMERICAN PROMISE

The Roots of Big Money in Politics

In 1971, Lewis Powell, soon to be Supreme Court Justice, authored "the Powell Memo," concluding that society had become depraved, and the moral authority and leadership role of the corporation had been degraded. He called for corporate empowerment, activist courts, and fundraising to elevate the influence of the corporation in American life and politics. The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC, 1973), was born to realize those goals.



*Lewis Powell,
SCOTUS,
1972*

Citizens United & Free Speech

ALEC is a non-profit organization that brings politicians and special interest groups together to write model conservative legislation for federal and state governments. ACCE (American City County Exchange, 2014) brings that same agenda to municipalities. The Citizens United decision of 2010 affirmed that corporations are people, that money is free speech, and speech is not limited. They newly opined that groups can use unlimited amounts of money (through Super PACs) to influence elections so long as they don't directly coordinate with a campaign. Now, BIG MONEY interests drown out the speech of ordinary people, and our politicians are beholden to those BIG MONEY spenders.

Big Money FACTs

FACT: 85% of all Americans, regardless of party affiliation, do not agree that money is free speech and they oppose big money in politics.

FACT: Before Citizens United (CU), 2010, campaign contributions, through PACs, were capped at \$5,000. CU gave rise to the new entity—super PACs, allowing unlimited contributions to be spent on campaign activities.

FACT: Since CU, spending on political campaigns has risen exponentially, reaching over \$1B in 2014, from \$50M in 2004.

FACT: Since 2014, Big Money has shown up in city-wide, county-wide, even judicial and school board elections.



FACT: Because of Big Money spending, the St Pete FL Mayoral race was the most costly in its history, topping \$3M between the 2 main party candidates.

The St Pete Campaign Strategy

The core team developed a strategy focused on 1) brand, messaging and media; 2) City Council member leadership and engagement; 3) programs and events; 4) organizational collaborations; and

5) ground game advocacy efforts. We branded the campaign with imagery and slogans and developed a social media presence with hashtags. We identified a City Council champion, but worked with every council member and the mayor to educate them on the broadness of these impacts and to address their individual concerns. We brought in scholars to address City Council, did educational forums in the community, held rallies and press conferences, and did radio and news media spots. We trained and encouraged our organizational partners and city residents to call, speak, write, e-mail and fill in surveys in support of the ordinance and directed to City Council. We focused our messages on personal and relevant impacts for residents and organizations, and good government issues. We were collaborative, persistent and present.



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