

2018 END OF YEAR UPDATE

Free Speech For People

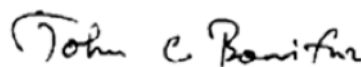
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THE STRENGTH OF OUR DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN TESTED THIS YEAR LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

We are experiencing a watershed moment in history, one in which we must come together to fight to protect our Constitution and the very foundations of our democracy. In 2018, we watched as powerful, monied interests continued to encroach upon our democracy and overwhelm the voices of everyday people. We saw the current administration continue its onslaught of constitutional and human rights violations. But 2018 has also brought hope and progress, and that happened because of your support. Because you are standing with us, we are fighting back.

With your support, we have worked tirelessly to reclaim our democracy for we, the people. This year, we have greatly expanded our innovative work to challenge foreign corporate influence in our elections; we are moving forward with our groundbreaking case to abolish Super PACs; we are defending low campaign contribution limits in the states; we are advancing political equality for all; and we are defending our Constitution by challenging the unprecedented corruption of the White House and holding those at the highest levels of government accountable to the law.

Thank you for standing with us at this critical moment in history. Together, we will reclaim our democracy.



John Bonifaz

YOU ARE HELPING TO END FOREIGN CORPORATE MONEY AND SUPER PAC SPENDING IN ELECTIONS

Foreign interference in federal, state, and local elections poses a serious threat to the integrity of our elections. Although federal law prohibits foreign nationals from spending in U.S. elections, the Supreme Court's 2010 ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* swept away longstanding precedent barring corporate money in our political process. Since that ruling, we have witnessed growing amounts of foreign corporate money flowing into our elections.

Following the successful passage in October 2017 of our innovative ordinance in St. Petersburg, Florida, the first of its kind in the nation which ends foreign corporate money and super PAC spending in local elections, we are advancing similar legislation in cities across the country. In August 2018, New York City Public Advocate Letitia James introduced a proposed local law to prohibit foreign-influenced entities from spending money in New York City elections. We worked closely with the NYC Public Advocate's Office in drafting this legislation. In August 2018, we joined civic leaders in San Francisco to file a proposal before the local Ethics Commission recommending a limit on contributions to PACs (thereby ending super PACs) and a ban on spending in local elections by foreign-influenced corporations.

Your support is helping us to challenge foreign corporate money and super PAC spending in our elections!

YOU ARE HELPING TO ABOLISH SUPER PACS

Your support of Free Speech For People has allowed for the advancement of our case to abolish super PACs. Political action committees act as political money machines designed to work around campaign contribution limits and inject unlimited secret money into our elections. In June 2017, we filed an amended complaint before the federal district court challenging the dismissal of our July 2016 complaint filed in our case, *Lieu v. FEC*. Following this filing, the FEC requested our complaint be dismissed. In March 2018, we received a favorable ruling, allowing for our complaint to proceed and denying the FEC's motion to dismiss the complaint. As this case progresses, we are moving closer to abolishing super PACs and bringing *Speechnow v. FEC*, the federal appeals court decision which allowed for unlimited super PAC spending in elections, for consideration before the U.S. Supreme Court.

YOU ARE DEFENDING STATE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

We continue to provide key legal support in the defense of state contribution limits and, in doing so, we are furthering important new legal arguments for campaign finance reform efforts. In Montana, we defended state contribution limits through the filing of a series of amicus briefs since July 2014. Our briefs have emphasized the importance of low contribution limits in fostering political equality and creating a representative government. In May 2018, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld Montana's historically low campaign contribution limits.

In May 2018, Free Speech For People filed an amicus brief in support of Seattle's democracy voucher program, a nationally-recognized public campaign financing system enacted by voter initiative in 2015 and first used in the city's 2017 election. This filing followed the release on May 1, 2018, of a new report we produced which concludes that the program strengthens local democracy by enabling candidates to raise the vast majority of their funds from constituents, as opposed to out-of-city donors.

Your support of Free Speech For People is ensuring state governments reflect the will of voters, not big money interests!

YOU ARE HELPING TO CONFRONT THE CORRUPTION OF THE PRESIDENCY

We continue to build and expand our campaign to challenge the unprecedented corruption of the White House. And, we continue to gain momentum in this work! To date, more than 1.4 million people have signed on in support of impeachment proceedings against the president. In 2018, we expanded the grounds for impeachment to include obstruction of justice, cruel and unconstitutional imprisonment of children and their families, conspiracy to violate federal campaign finance laws, and other abuses of power and the public trust, resulting in ten legal grounds for impeachment.

This program also includes the following initiatives:

- *Victory - Divestment of public pension funds from Trump-owned businesses:* We declared victory in our campaign calling for the divestment of public pension funds from the Trump SoHo Hotel. Last November, the private equity fund which owns the hotel ended its contract with the Trump Organization to market and manage the property, breaking a chain of illegal payments from state and local pension funds to the President.
- *Victory – Challenging abuse of the pardon power:* Following President Trump's pardon of former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, we launched, with allied partners, a legal

challenge to the pardon calling for the appointment of a special prosecutor to defend Arpaio's conviction. In April 2018, a special prosecutor was appointed by the federal appeals court, and Sheriff Joe Arpaio's attempt to vacate his conviction for criminal contempt was denied.

- *Dissolve Trump, Inc.:* In August 2018, we renewed our campaign calling upon the New York Attorney General to investigate whether to initiate charter revocation proceedings against the Trump Organization in New York State, due to the corporation's collusion with the President to violate the two anti-corruption provisions of the U.S. Constitution and federal campaign finance laws.
- *The Constitution Demands It:* In August, 2018, Free Speech For People released a new book, [The Constitution Demands It: The Case for the Impeachment of Donald Trump](#), providing the comprehensive legal case for the impeachment of President Trump.


Thank you for standing up for our democracy and our Constitution!

YOU ARE ADVANCING POLITICAL EQUALITY FOR ALL

With your support, Free Speech For People fights for a healthy democracy that works for all people. In April 2018, we led, with Demos and Fordham Law Professor Zephyr Teachout, a filing with the FEC in support of a request for an advisory opinion for a congressional candidate who required childcare in order to be able to campaign for office. In a 4-0 decision issued in May 2018, the FEC ruled childcare was a legitimate campaign expense eligible for payment by campaign funds. As stated in our advisory opinion, providing candidates with the ability to use campaign funds for childcare assistance will support political equality by providing the necessary support to overcome barriers to political participation which disproportionately impact women candidates.

In July 2018, we co-released with United for a Fair Economy, the report: *Blackout in Puerto Rico: How 120 years of corporate dominance and political inequality stifles self-determination today*. This report discusses the history of political inequality and corporate dominance in Puerto Rico, and also analyzes how the current system of money in politics affects Puerto Rico's financial crisis and hurricane recovery efforts.

The strength of our democracy may have been tested this year, but Free Speech For People has risen to the occasion - and it is because of your support. We are standing together and fighting to reclaim our democracy of, by, and for the people. Through our innovative work, Free Speech For People serves at the forefront of the movement to create a healthy democracy that works for all. We are thankful for your support and we look forward to sharing more victories in the year ahead.



WITH YOUR SUPPORT, Free Speech For People will continue the fight to hold power to account, to advance a new jurisprudence on money in politics, and to build the grassroots movement to reclaim our democracy.

In addition to gifts received from individual donors throughout the year, Free Speech For People is proud to have received support from the following foundations and organizations in 2018:

Amalgamated Transit Union

The Clements Foundation

Endeavor Foundation

Gaia Fund

Need to Impeach

The Overbrook Foundation

Park Foundation

Proteus Fund

Wallace Global Fund

WhyNot Initiative

Free Speech For People is grateful for all who supported our work in 2018.