

Fair Elections Now!



The Coffee Party Movement gives voice to Americans who want to see cooperation in government. We recognize that the federal government is not the enemy of the people, but the expression of our collective will, and that we must participate in the democratic process in order to address the challenges we face as Americans. As voters and grassroots volunteers, we support leaders who work toward positive solutions, and hold accountable those who obstruct them.

The Problem: 97% of Coffee Party members who voted online agreed that money in politics is undermining our democracy.

- *Legislators influenced by big money and special interests.*
- *Toxic media environment where powerful interests use ads to trump facts.*
- *Members have to spend too much time raising money*
- *Civic-minded people of average means cannot afford to run for office.*

Fair Elections Now Act: 95% of Coffee Party members who voted online favored taking decisive action to educate and lobby for the Fair Elections Now Act.

- Recent polling by McKinnon, Lake and Westen shows that of the likely 2010 general election voters, the Fair Elections Now Act receives (63% total support, 39% strong support) with only 23% opposed and 15% undecided. Support is high across party lines (74% support among Democrats, 60% among independents, 53% among Republicans).
- An ABC News/Washington Post poll shows that 8 in 10 Americans oppose the Supreme Court's ruling that allows unfettered corporate political spending, with 65 percent "strongly" opposed. Nearly as many backed congressional action to curb the ruling, with 72 percent in favor of reinstating limits. The poll reveals relatively little difference of opinion on the issue among Democrats (85 percent opposed to the ruling), Republicans (76 percent) and independents (81 percent).
- An April Zogby poll shows 78% of Arizonans like their Clean Elections program.
- According to Common Cause, most voters (73%) believe that large campaign contributions from the banking industry to Congress were a major factor in causing the current crisis on Wall Street. 79% are worried that Congress won't be able to tackle important issues like the economic crisis, energy, health care, and global warming because of the influence of large campaign contributors.

Notable quotes about Fair Elections:

"We would not dream of having special interests pay the salaries of members of Congress – they get paid by the public for whom they act. Why, then, do we not flinch when special interests pay many times their salaries for their election campaigns?"

"It's time ordinary Americans had their voices heard. Our elected officials should be concerned with solving our problems and concerns, not those of special interests who can afford to pay for special treatment."

"The problem with Congress isn't so much that individual members of Congress are rotten apples. The real problem is that the barrel is rotten. How can members remain objective when their ability to get elected depends on courting huge donations from special interests?"

Contact _____

For more information: www.coffeepartyusa.com; www.fairelectionsnow.org; www.fixcongressfirst.org