

Unit 5 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
5.11 Campaign Finance



ESSENTIALS

Federal legislation and case law pertaining to campaign finance demonstrate the ongoing debate over the role of money in political and free speech, as set forth in:

- *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976) – which rules that campaign spending is a form of protected speech under the First Amendment, but upheld restrictions on political campaign contributions by individuals
- Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (2002) – which was an effort to ban soft money and reduce attack ads with "Stand by Your Ad" provision, "I'm [candidate name] and I approve this message"
- *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC)* (2010)—which ruled that political spending by corporations, associations, and labor unions is a form of protected speech under the First Amendment

Debates have increased over free speech and competitive and fair elections related to money and campaign funding (including contributions from individuals, PACs and political parties).

Different types of political action committees (PACs) influence elections and policy making through fundraising and spending.

1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon? [Write your response like a claim statement]

2. What is the likelihood of reforming our campaign finance laws? Explain.

DEFINE: Hard money

DEFINE: Soft money

DEFINE: *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976)

DEFINE: *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010)

Write a short paragraph where you argue the proper role of money in our politics. Include a claim statement along with substantiating evidence. Pretend you are an expert testifying before a Congressional committee. What are the chances of your ideas becoming law? Explain.

**INVESTITGATE: Complete the following CHART
FEDERAL CAMPAIGN Contribution Limits 2019-2020**

Any surprises?
How has this changed over time?

RECIPIENTS

DONORS	Candidate Committee	PAC*	State/Local Party	National Party Committee	Additional Nat'l Party**
INDIVIDUALS					
CANDIDATE COMMITTEE					
PAC Multicandidate					
PAC NON-Multicandidate					
STATE/LOCAL Party Committee					
NATIONAL PARTY Committee					

*"PAC" here refers to a committee that makes contributions to other federal political committees. Independent-expenditure-only political committees (sometimes called "super PACs") may accept unlimited contributions, including from corporations and labor organizations.

**The limits in this column apply to a national party committee's accounts for: (i) the presidential nominating convention; (ii) election recounts and contests and other legal proceedings; and (iii) national party headquarters buildings. A party's national committee, Senate campaign committee and House campaign committee are each considered separate national party committees with separate limits. Only a national party committee, not the parties' national congressional campaign committees, may have an account for the presidential nominating convention.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

Top 10 PAC Contributors to Candidates, 2015-2016

PAC NAME	Total Amount	DEM pct.	REP pct.
National Assn of Realtors	\$3,973,350	42%	58%
National Beer Wholesalers Assn	\$3,322,700	43%	57%
AT&T Inc	\$2,953,750	38%	62%
Honeywell International	\$2,861,364	40%	60%
National Auto Dealers Assn	\$2,659,250	28%	72%
Lockheed Martin	\$2,612,750	38%	62%
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	\$2,573,398	36%	64%
Internat'l Brotherhood Elec. Workers	\$2,570,650	96%	4%
American Bankers Assn	\$2,444,007	21%	79%
Credit Union National Assn	\$2,380,350	47%	53%

Source opensecrets.org

Based on data released by the FEC on November 27, 2017

Use the information graphic to answer the questions.

- Identify a PAC that gives a higher percentage to Democrats over Republicans.
- Describe a similarity or difference between PACs that give heavily to Democrats and those that give heavily to Republicans, and draw a conclusion that explains the similarity or difference.
- Explain how PAC contributions, as shown in the information graphic, demonstrates the success or failures of public policy that attempts to make our elections competitive and fair.