

5.11 Campaign Finance

Explain how the organization, finance, and strategies of national political campaigns affect the election process.

1. The mother's milk of politics is money. For most of our history money in politics
 - a. Was unregulated
 - b. Was outlawed
 - c. Was strictly regulated
 - d. Was collected under the table

2. What is the most commonly held perception about the modern political campaign?
 - a. The candidates spend too much time talking about the issues
 - b. The media spends too much time focusing on the fringe candidates
 - c. Controlled by fat cats with their deep pocketbooks
 - d. We have truncated the schedule so as not to give enough time to the candidates

3. Recent campaign finance reforms passed by Congress have had the expressed purpose of
 - a. Leveling the playing field
 - b. Protecting the rich
 - c. Amending our understanding of free speech
 - d. Protecting third and minor parties

4. The Federal Election Campaign Act [FECA] of 1971 was the first major piece of legislation that addressed money in politics. It included all of the following provisions EXCEPT
 - a. Created the Federal Elections Commission (FEC)
 - b. Put strict hard money limits on campaigns
 - c. Allowed for soft money to be used only for issue advocacy and get out the vote efforts
 - d. Prevented political parties from participating in funding political campaigns

5. *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976) is considered a landmark Supreme Court case that addressed campaign finance. Its most enduring legacy is
 - a. Both hard and soft campaign money cannot be limited
 - b. Campaign money is protected under the First Amendment's free speech clause
 - c. Candidates cannot give more to their own campaign than private citizens can
 - d. Political Action Committees (PACs) can only give to the national political parties

6. Political Action Committees (PACs) were created to circumvent restrictive campaign laws. PACs primary responsibility is to
 - a. Collect money and give it candidates
 - b. Disseminate negative campaign ads
 - c. Recruit volunteers to work door-to-door for the candidates
 - d. Vet potential vice presidential candidates

7. The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act [BCRA] of 2002 was another attempt to reform big money in politics. Hard money limits were indexed to inflation and unlimited soft money was banned. Which of the following was an unintended consequence of this reform measure?

- a. Political parties grew weaker
- b. PACs too were banned
- c. Fewer elections were held
- d. Less ideological candidates

8. All of the following are true of independent expenditure groups EXCEPT

- a. They cannot coordinate with a candidate's campaign
- b. They can collect unlimited amounts of money
- c. They help reduce the perception that big money is behind politics
- d. They can also be called 527s and Super PACs

9. Many additional reforms have been proposed to limit big money in politics. Many have proposed publicly financed campaigns. Which of the following best describes a publicly financed campaign?

- a. Tom's campaign is fully funded by the federal government
- b. Tom's campaign is fully self-funded by his own personal wealth
- c. Tom's campaign can only spend money given by his own constituents
- d. Tom's campaign must fully disclose the exact amounts of the money received

10. The relatively new roots of campaign finance reform in American elections can be found in all of the following reasons EXCEPT

- a. Perception that money buys influence
- b. Historic role played by fat cats in American politics
- c. Annoyance with excessive TV ads
- d. Attempt to bring transparency to our political system

11. What type of campaign finance is directed toward issue advocacy and not given directly to candidates?

- a. Hard money
- b. Soft money
- c. Bundled money
- d. PAC money

12. Though still prevented from giving money directly to candidates, this highly charged U.S. Supreme Court case opened the door for corporations to give money to campaigns through independent expenditures.

- a. Buckley v. Valeo (1976)
- b. FEC v. Akins (1998)
- c. McConnell v. FEC (2003)
- d. Citizens United v. FEC (2010)