



How We Stomp Out Dark Money in Oregon

For Oregonians tired of seeing floods of money corrupt our political system, the opportunity for transformative change is here. The Stomp Out Dark Money campaign aims to **amend the Oregon Constitution to deny corporations the power to influence elections with money** — much of it flowing in secrecy. This would ensure that only people have a say in our elections, as it should be, and that all money in elections is ultimately traceable to an individual.

Citizens United opened the floodgates to corporate money in elections

The U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United* held that corporations have a First Amendment right to make unlimited independent political expenditures. This ruling opened the floodgates to corporate money. Corporate money in federal elections is already 50 times more than in 2010, when *Citizens United* was decided. That does not count similar spending in state and local elections. Much of this is “dark money” — money flowing through non-profits and shell companies, obscuring its original source.

State law gives corporations their power, and state law can take it away

Corporations are artificial entities created by law — state law, specifically. A state is not required by anything in the U.S. Constitution to allow corporations to exist or operate within the state. State law allows corporations to exist and determines what powers they enjoy.

Oregon — like all states — gives corporations practically unlimited powers. This unrestrained power allows corporations to meddle in our elections, and they have not been shy.

Oregon can choose to redefine the powers it grants to corporations. We can decide that artificial entities created by state law shall lack the power to spend money in elections. Doing so renders *Citizens United* irrelevant as it pertains to corporations. If a corporation lacks the power to do something, the issue of its “rights” never arises.

Stomp Out Dark Money restores power to the People

The Stomp Out Dark Money petition amends Oregon’s Constitution by redefining the powers of corporations and all other artificial entities. Specifically, it denies them the power to (1) spend money on candidate elections, ballot measures, and political parties; and (2) vote in government elections. While corporations can still establish political action committees, every dollar going into those political action committees must be traceable back to a real person.

In so doing, Stomp Out Dark Money closes the floodgates of corporate money pouring into elections, including the big flows of dark money. Ultimately, the petition ensures that power over our elections stays where it belongs: with **We The People**.

Get involved: stompoutdarkmoney.org

