

Defend Democracy

America is a fantastic country, but we need to be active in defending democracy. Yes, democracy has been under attack, by our politicians.

Politicians tell us that they work for us, but what they don't tell you is that they get paid by people who live outside our districts. I'm not just talking about campaign contributions (I am) but more importantly I'm talking about the crazy ways politicians can get secretly paid - when they DON'T work for you.

Here is something you should know.

The supreme court decision in 2010 to allow large campaign contributions also included the law that a congressional committee would make sure those contributions were Legal. Without that we can't tell who paid for what and where that money went. Since that time Republicans have been in control of congress and of this oversight committee. Sadly, the Republican officials have failed to perform their duty, specifically on monitoring contributions made to Republicans. Huh. Weird isn't it? See, it's one way the Republican's make money.

Anyone can give money to a super pac. People who live far away from a district will give. But, when a super pac comes to an end, there's a lot of extra money that disappears into double-secret accounts. It doesn't take much guess work to realize that this money can go directly to pay our politicians, who probably performed some task for a person outside of our district.

Ta-Da! Republicans don't enforce campaign finance rules on their fellow Republicans because they all get paid that way. This is bad for democracy, I don't care what your politics are, Liberal, Conservative, whatever, because the corporations get a bigger say than you do.

Here's another thing you should know. After the financial collapse of 2008, laws were created to keep corruption in check. Maybe you heard the collapse of 2008 was about bad mortgages. Really it was caused by corruption. The best time to make money is war time, and a financial collapse. To stop corruption, new laws were created. This year the Republicans have stripped power from those anti-corruption laws so that now, companies can send all their money out of the country to secret accounts, without revealing where it went, or why it went to someone.

If you say, "Heck it's their money, they can do what they want," just think about this. All the dollars that leave the country going into secret bank accounts are not coming back and are not circulating around this country. They are not here creating more jobs and better pay here. See? The Republicans don't care about you or your jobs. They just want to be sure their friends can take as many U.S. dollars out of the country for their own uses, outside of America. And! Your congressman might have a secret bank account too. Who knows?

So what's wrong with a little corruption? If it get's things done, who cares? It does hurt you directly. Another law was made to protect retirement accounts from being raided by the banks. Banks are gouging our 401k retirement funds of 1% per year. Banks used to pay us for our money. Now, it's ridiculous that you should have to pay so much on money you earned over years of saving, not on per-trade transactions, but on total saved up. If you made it to \$100,000 (which most of us don't) that's a thousand dollars a year!

Now, some states have said, "This is wrong", and they began offering alternative rates for as low as .02%. They are doing a good job for less money.

Republicans are now moving to block states from offering this alternative. They want the banks to be able to charge whatever they want to charge, it doesn't matter that someone else could do it better for less cost to **you**. We aren't talking tax dollars here. We're talking about what came out of your paycheck specifically to go toward your retirement, or the retirement of your family.

You! Me! We have to pay more because our elected representatives seem to care what bankers make rather than what you and I need to feed our families. Remember those secret offshore accounts? Back Room Republicans are telling us that they have our interests in mind, instead they work really hard for people who don't even live in our district. That's not democracy.

Bankers take your money, they send it out of the country, and they pay our politicians to look the other way. It all adds up to the death of America. Democracy is at risk. The voices and the votes of you and me worth less when billionaires and businesses can pay our politicians to do work for rich people and not us. Our government is in the hands of banks and large corporations. Do you think they care if you have a job? Do you think they care how much your medicine costs? Evidence shows us that they don't.

What do I want? I want to put democracy first in everything I vote for. Defend Democracy. I ask that we all only support candidates who agree to actively pursue the following:

*End the two-party system of lies and corruption.

*End closed primaries. Vote for who you want, not against who you fear.

*End large campaign contributions and end super pacs.

*End lobbyists in Washington. The only people that should be talking with our representative is you and me. Not the unions, not the bankers, not the corporations.

These are simple things that can restore democracy to our country. These things can get people to stop fighting against each other, and instead we can hold our representatives accountable. The social issues, while they are important, are a distraction. We should be careful to avoid getting caught up in those because both Democrats and Republicans only want us to vote against someone, or against something.

Don't you want to vote for someone, to vote for something? I know I do.

Where are solutions? We only have fighting among each other. Something needs to change.

Call your Representative and ask if she or he will fight for these things, fight for democracy.

If we end all that corruption and it turns out that being a representative doesn't pay very well, then maybe it's time to find someone different, someone who will support the people of our district instead of the super-rich, Goldman-Sachs types who don't even live here. We need someone who will be a representative because it's the right thing to do, not because he makes a lot of money on the down low.

Ask your representative if she or he will tell you the truth. If not, vote him/her out of office.

This is not a political endorsement of any candidate.

Feel free to copy and distribute this as a volunteer contribution.

Created for ProcessParty.com as volunteer labor.

You may choose to visit and leave a reasonable comment to participate.