

APGoPo Unit 4

RESISTING CAMPAIGN REFORM

Issue Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Definition – Promoting a particular position or an issue paid for by interest groups or individuals but not candidates• SC ruled that groups were free to run ads during the campaign season as long as the ads did not use words such as “vote for” or “vote against” a specific candidate, “defeat” or “elect”• Interest groups found ways to avoid disclosure or to communicate an electioneering message
Independent Expenditures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Definition – Money spent by individuals or groups not associated with candidates to elect or defeat candidates for office• Current finance laws do not constrain independent expenditures by groups or individuals who are separate from political candidates due to free speech• Political parties have the same rights to make independent expenditures afforded to groups and individuals
Super PACs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Definition – Type of organization that can receive unlimited money from individuals, unions, and corporations• <i>Citizens United v. FEC</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ SC rejected longstanding ban on unions and corporations using their general funds on ads about the election or defeat of a candidate• Independent expenditures only – cannot coordinate directly with a candidate running for office

CONTINUING PROBLEMS WITH CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- Rising costs of campaigns
 - Since the FECA became law in 1972, total expenditures by candidates for the House have more than doubled after controlling for inflation, and they have risen even more in Senate elections
- Declining competition
 - The high cost of campaigns dampens competition by discouraging individuals from running for office (challengers in both parties are underfunded)
- Dependence on PACs for congressional incumbents
 - PACs do not want to offend politicians in power, and politicians in power want to stay in office
 - Politicians turn to individual donors who can contribute \$500 or \$1,000 to their campaigns
 - Donors want access and politicians to respond to their concerns and/or pass certain policies
 - PAC defenders argue there is no proven link between contributions and legislators’ votes
- Candidates’ personal wealth
- Growth in individual contributions and use of the internet to fund campaigns