C-03-2018: Stop Political Dirty Money Amendment

**Arguments Submitted “For” C-03-2018**

The Stop Political Dirty Money Constitutional Amendment, Prop XXX, assures that all Arizonans have the Right to Know the original source of all major contributions seeking to influence their vote. Wealthy people and powerful corporations are using Dirty Money to try to control our elections. They spend huge amounts of secret cash to defeat some candidates and elect others, never telling us who is really paying for their political ads. That’s just wrong. It’s unfair. But, we can stop them.

Right now, Arizona law lets the Dirty Money forces hide, so we don’t know who they are or what their agenda is. We do know that they are growing stronger with every election, putting their candidates into statewide offices, the legislature, and even on school boards and city councils. In fact, Dirty Money has more power in Arizona than in any other state! We believe we must stop the Dirty Money and clean up our elections -- while there is still time. Our non-partisan campaign has brought together people from all parties and all parts of Arizona. We believe that everyone, no matter how powerful, who tries to persuade us to vote one way or the other must play by the same rules and no one making a major political contribution should be allowed hide.

Please vote “Yes” on Prop XXX, the Stop Political Dirty Money Amendment. Vote “Yes” to make sure we have the “Right to Know”. Vote “Yes” to clean up Arizona politics.

Outlaw Dirty Money Co-chairs Paul Johnson (Independent); Grant Woods (Republican); Jason Rose (Republican) and Terry Goddard (Democrat) www.outlawdirtymoney.com

Terry Goddard, former Phoenix Mayor and Arizona Attorney General and co-chair Outlaw Dirty Money, Outlaw Dirty Money, Phoenix; Paul Johnson, former Phoenix Mayor and co-chair Outlaw Dirty Money, Outlaw Dirty Money, Phoenix; Grant Woods, former Arizona Attorney General and co-chair Outlaw Dirty Money, Outlaw Dirty Money, Phoenix; Jason Rose, Co-chair Outlaw Dirty Money, Outlaw Dirty Money, Phoenix; Nan Walden, Co-chair Outlaw Dirty Money, Outlaw Dirty Money, Sahuarita and Dick Walden, Co-chair Outlaw Dirty Money, Outlaw Dirty Money, Sahuarita

**Sponsored by Terry Goddard**

We need to vote FOR Proposition XXX to help stop political corruption.

The reason for amending the Arizona Constitution is not complicated. But it is urgent. Here’s why.

For as long as there’s been candidates and campaigns there’s been money in politics.

Campaigns would buy everything from t-shirts and bumperstickers to television commercials. Elections were held and there were winners and losers. Pretty simple.

But things aren’t simple anymore and they’re sure not pretty.

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A few years ago the Supreme Court said big corporations and the wealthy had a right to spend as much money as they want to influence the outcome of our elections. So they did.

But they don’t want us to know who they are.

So they “laundered” their dirty money just like criminals and drug dealers do. That way the true source of the “dirty money” could be hidden.

Their money is run through complex web’s of non-profits, untraceable companies, and made up committees with nice sounding names that don’t reveal the original source of the money. And that leads to corruption.

But we citizens have a right to know who’s really paying to influence our elected officials and elections.

That’s what the “Stop Political Dirty Money Constitutional Amendment” is all about. When passed by Arizona voters our Constitution will guarantee the right of all citizens to know who is trying to influence our elections, including the true sources of “Dirty Money.”

It’s a big job, but there is some very good news. Polls show over 85% of us - Republicans, Democrats and Independents want to clean up “Dirty Money.”

We can do this. We can clean up Arizona politics. But we need your help.

Please vote FOR Proposition XXX.

Robert Grossfeld, Mesa

In Arizona, undisclosed corporate campaign contributions, often referred to as dark money, have corrupted our state capitol. APS/Pinnacle West, the monopolistic electric company, supposedly regulated by elected Corporation Commissioners, has secretly injected millions of dollars of customer money into Arizona campaigns for the last two election cycles. APS/Pinnacle West now controls the Commission and many elected officials at the state capitol. Billionaires, like the Koch Brothers and Betsy DeVos, have done the same in our state. Their contributions are not disclosed.

The Outlaw Dirty Money proposition will require disclosure of the dark dirty money. In order to save our democracy, campaign contribution transparency is a must.

We strongly support this proposed new law.

Bill Mundell and Sandra Kennedy Former Arizona Corporation Commissioners

William Mundell, Paradise Valley and Sandra Kennedy, Phoenix
DARK MONEY - secret contributions to political campaigns - is a corrupting influence on the state capitol and policy making in Arizona. This “Stop Political Dirty Money Amendment” will require the disclosure of all major campaign contributions in our state. Bravo!

Secret corporate campaign contributions by APS and other special interests have polluted our political process and allowed for the control of the Corporation Commission and the state capitol. Right wing and left wing dark money is bad. This is a nonpartisan issue. The end doesn’t justify the means. Integrity counts.

We can end dark money in Arizona by passing this amendment. It demands disclosure. It requires transparency. It’s good government.

Please vote YES!

Chris Herstam, Proud Arizona resident for 60 years, Phoenix

The Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans, representing over 44,000 retirees, fully supports the Constitutional Amendment to Outlaw Dirty Money.

The laws in Arizona have allowed corporate interests to take advantage of the opportunity to hide their identity, use intermediaries, and influence elections. Large, anonymous donations to political campaigns have led to misleading and negative ads, phone calls, and more suspect, under-the-radar political activities.

Retirees have a vast stake in Arizona politics - issues such as pensions, health care and long term care are but a few of our policy issues that are ultimately decided based on election results.

The voices of the people have been drowned out by the millions of dollars in hidden campaign contributions, and our state is suffering because of it. Elected officials are supposed to be representing the people, not their campaign donors.

Voters have a right to know who large campaign contributions are coming from. Transparency and clarity in government is necessary for voters to make informed decisions when they vote, as well as to hold their legislators accountable. Voters need clear information about where the original sources of those large donations are coming from.

The current system allows for mega donors to form a web of dirty money and disguise it under a different name or organization, deceiving and misleading voters. Implementing a fine for improper disclosure ensures accountability for those donating, and keeps a clear record for voters to reference when making their choice.

The issue of dark money doesn’t just affect one political party or the other. All Arizonans are impacted by misleading and deceitful candidate information. On behalf of our members, we fully support the Constitutional Amendment to Outlaw Dirty Money because the people of Arizona deserve the information and opportunity to hold their elected officials accountable.
The non-partisan League of Women Voters of AZ urges a YES vote on Proposition _____, also known as the Outlaw Dirty Money Initiative.

The League of Women Voters encourages all eligible citizens to register to vote, to become informed about the candidates and the issues and then VOTE. However in order to become informed, voters must be able to ‘follow the money,’ and know who are the original major contributors – corporations or individuals that campaign for and against candidates and ballot measures.

Current Arizona law does not require disclosure of where the money comes from for political campaigns. This means the names of significant donors are easily hidden from public view.

Voter apathy is a major factor in the increasing low voter turnout in elections. A reason that many people give for not voting is that they believe ‘dark/dirty money’ from big corporations or wealthy individuals are pulling all the strings behind candidates. They believe that their voices – their VOTE does not make a difference.

Proposition _____ will help overcome the cynicism in voting by making sure those corporations or individuals that contribute significant amounts of money to political campaigns are identified! The public will also know to whom their elected representatives are beholden.

The U.S. Supreme Court’s “Citizens United” decision opened the door for unlimited money to influence our elections. This decision is still the law today and we respect the law. But, the League of Women Voters believes that a functional democracy also requires transparency and that voters have a right to know who is influencing elections, which is what Proposition _____ will usher into the Arizona election process.

The members of the League of Women Voters say “Vote YES on Proposition _____.

Robyn Prud’homme-Bauer, Co-President, League of Women Voters of Arizona, Clarkdale

Should a person elected to office answer to the voters or the donors? Most people would answer voters. After 90% of Tempe voters made it clear they wanted transparency in their local elections, state legislators responded by passing a law making that illegal. That should give you a clue who they respond to.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court Citizens United decision in 2010, secret money has flooded into our political system from the bottom to the top. Fully transparent political funding nationally was evident in only 29% of the races in 2014 down from 76% in 2006. A Harvard study in 2014 found Arizona to be the most corrupt state in the nation. A Brennan Center for Justice study in 2016 found that, “Arizona saw by far the biggest surge in dark money, with the amount in 2014
rising 295 times – nearly 300 times – the level in 2006.” Special interest groups, often with a
direct financial incentive, donate to super PACs who then report only the group and not the
actual donors. This activity has increased by 60% between 2006 and 2014. Such spending is
evem more harmful in down-ballot races. Contributing a small amount of secret money into a
school board or justice of the peace race can make it impossible for a truly local, grass roots
candidate to get elected.

Those who support dark money (see the Citizens United decision) claim that money is speech so
under Free Speech principles they can contribute all they want. However, when a person speaks,
others can hear. The information is public. The speaker is identified. Today it’s likely to be taped
by someone and put on You Tube or Facebook immediately. When you donate money through a
secret system, it’s not public. You’re not speaking; you’re seeking wrongful influence.

Dianne Post, Legislative Action Coordinator, National Organization for Women Arizona, Phoenix
Sponsored by National Organization for Women-Arizona

Prop XXX will help stop government corruption.

As voters and taxpayers, we deserve an honest and transparent government, beginning with
honest and transparent elections. The Stop Dirty Money Constitutional Amendment is an
important step to getting there.

Prop XXX is a simple but compelling change in law. Groups spending more than $10,000 on a
political campaign will have to disclose the identity of anyone who donates $2,500 or more.
When my 88-year-old grandmother donates $25 from her fixed income to her favorite candidate,
she has to disclose her identity. Now, we can make dark money play by the same rules.

As a former county prosecutor and Assistant Attorney General, I’ve been fighting to hold people
accountable for much of my career. As a fourth-generation Arizonan, I’ve watched big money
and powerful special interests gain more influence than the voters in our state. More than sixty
percent of donations spent on statewide candidates in 2014 came from undisclosed donors –
which means we have no idea who they are, where they’re from or what they want. With Prop
XXX, we’ll have a right to know who they are so we can see for ourselves what role they’re
having in crumbling public schools, underpaid teachers, higher utility rates, and attempts to
remove health coverage for those with pre-existing conditions.

It’s time to put a stop to secret donors – of any political party – having more of a say than the
people of Arizona.

I believe in accountability and transparency, and I know that the majority of my fellow
Arizonans do as well. Please join me and vote YES for Prop XXX. This is our moment to make
our voices heard, fight for the future of Arizona, and restore honesty and transparency to our
elections and government.
As long lived politically active citizens we support this amendment to the Arizona Constitution. Politics is how human society can make changes that support life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Money donated to political causes can be used to inform voters and encourage participation. Sometimes money is donated with an intention to influence political action for personal gain. At present money can be donated by foreign corporations or governments, or by corporations or individuals to influence policies in ways that are harmful to the general public. It is important that the public is aware of who has donated money to decrease corruption and harm. If the entity donating money has honorable intentions there is no reason to hide their donation behind a sham organization. This amendment is important to the general good.

Ask yourself: Why in the world would the billionaire Koch Brothers in Kansas care about school vouchers in Arizona?? The answer: A poorly-educated electorate is easier for the Kochs and their political lackeys to influence and control--to their political and financial advantage. The proposed “Outlaw Dirty Money” amendment to Article VII of the Arizona Constitution will not prevent political spending to influence our elections. But it will shine a light on the cowardly donors who prefer to lurk in the shadows, hiding behind money laundering organizations with innocuous names like “Freedom Partners Action Fund”.

Like most Arizonans, I can accept differences of opinion when it comes to the issues. But I cannot abide by cowardice, obfuscation, smokescreens, and a lack of transparency. When voters know who is bankrolling political activities, they can understand the motivation and make more informed voting decisions.

This grassroots referendum is supported by Republicans, Democrats, Greens, and Independents who value transparency and a fair election process. The billionaire Koch Brothers of Kansas are spending obscene sums of money to defeat this referendum. That should tell you all you need to know.

Transparency improves the efficiency of any system- including our representative democracy.

Over the 30 years I spent in state government, I saw first hand (from the inside) how important transparency is in holding government agencies and elected officials accountable to the people. The 1st Amendment for a free and fair press is among the most critical things that hold elected officials and government agencies accountable. A major gap in this accountability is the lack of transparency regarding who is using money to influence your vote. That’s because, right now, there’s very little disclosure of who’s trying to influence the outcome of Arizona elections.
Proposition xxx is a simple and common-sense measure that’ll ensure that at least you know who’s trying to talk you into what. People, corporations and other entities will no longer be able to hide their financial support of candidates and other policy decisions. Anyone spending more than $10,000 to oppose or support candidates or ballot measures will need to disclose who contributed $2,500 or more- and the money will need to be tracked back to its original source.

If it passes, at least you’ll know more about who’s supporting a candidate or a policy or a TV advertisement, and you’ll be better able to make a well-informed decision.

Sounds simple enough, right? It is. Join me in voting for transparency. Please vote Yes on Proposition xxx.

Will Humble, Arizona Department of Health Services Director (2009-2015), Phoenix

VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION XXXXXXXX
This proposed amendment to the Arizona State Constitution would identify and make public the sources of contributions to political offices and political issues in Arizona which are now hidden from public view. Unknown or out-of-state interests and monies could no longer have secret influence over Arizonans.

The amendment would require that the sources of all monies over $10,000 contributed to Arizona political campaigns and other issues of interest in this state be publicly disclosed and made available to all Arizonans.

In 2010 the US Supreme Court decided that political contributions are a form of “free speech. However, none of our constitutional rights and freedoms come without reasonable and legal conditions. For example, Freedom of Assembly and Freedom of Speech may legally be restricted to reasonable times/places.

This amendment similarly puts a reasonable condition on “big” monies donated to campaigns in Arizona, i.e., the requirement that the identities of these donors must be available to Arizona residents so that we can evaluate what is best for us, not for unknown or out-of-state interests.

We urge a “YES” vote on this proposed amendment.

Maureen Brooks, alliance4action (a4a), Green Valley

“Dark Money” is like a Sidewinder Missile. “Dirty Money” is like a heat-seeking missile – it’s headed someplace.

This proposition is, to me, its own response: What society would choose public or private funding that is not readily transparent and accessible to the citizenry?

Ask: Who benefits - and how - through restricting the flow of information?

“Dark Money” is money so dark you can't see through. “Dirty Money” gets under your fingernails, you just can't get it out....

Layne Longfellow, Ph.D., Retired, Prescott
In an election, knowing who is financing a candidate’s path to victory will tell you more about that candidate’s values than all the glossy mailers, TV commercials, and speeches ever will. If that candidate wins, they know who helped get them into office and what they need to do to stay there.

In recent years, out-of-state contributions have poured into Arizona to support pet national causes such as universal vouchers for private education that drain precious resources from public schools. The wealthy backers of these initiatives have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to elect a Legislature friendly to their interests, all behind a curtain of secrecy enabled by so-called “social welfare organizations” which do not have to disclose their donors.

Arizonans have a right to know who specifically is spending large amounts of money to influence policy in our state. A vague name claiming to represent the interests of children, the environment, or a better Arizona is not enough to determine whose aims they are ultimately serving. It makes a difference, to us, for example, whether support for a candidate is coming from those who believe in the fundamental idea of public education or those who do not. Voters deserve that information to cast an informed vote.

In the past eight years, campaign finance has gotten more complicated, not less, as corporations and wealthy donors look to shield their influence from voters at a time when they are rightfully suspicious of corporations and wealthy donors. Now, more than ever, the admonition of All the President’s Men rings true—follow the money. Prop. XXX will allow us to do just that. Vote YES on Prop. XXX

Timothy L. Ogle, PhD, Executive Director, Friends of ASBA, Phoenix

I urge you to vote “YES” to Outlaw Dirty Money. The “Stop Political Dirty Money Constitutional Amendment” would guarantee the right of all citizens to know who is trying to influence our elections. A recent Supreme Court ruling upheld the right of large corporations and the wealthy to pump unlimited contributions into elections, while remaining hidden from the public. As a result, powerful, wealthy people and corporations spend money on negative attack ads, fake phone calls, misleading mail and anything else they think will work in their favor. But Arizona voters have no idea who is behind these deceptive messages or what their agenda might be. Their money is run through complex webs of non-profits, untraceable companies, and made-up committees with nice sounding names that don’t reveal the original source of the money. And that leads to corruption. Dirty money hides in the shadows, steals our elections and then exerts undue influence on our elected officials.

Pro-Dirty Money individuals and organizations argue that requiring full disclosure risks the “privacy” of contributors and is “dangerous.” What these opponents conveniently forget is that in Arizona, contributors to political campaigns are already disclosed and have been for decades. It’s just the big dirty money people hiding behind fake organizations that remain anonymous. The widespread political corruption created by this massive influx of unidentified special interest funding needs to end.

Arizona voters have the right to know who is paying for political ads and to make voting decisions based on complete information. The passage of this Constitutional Amendment would...
force the person who contributes over $10,000 to influence an Arizona election to reveal the source of that money, and to also identify the “original source” of all contributions over $2,500. This is simply common sense, and we deserve this Right to Know.

Maureen Kelly Gibbs, Registered Arizona Voter, Flagstaff

I am asking that you please vote FOR Proposition C-03-2018, “The Outlaw Political Dirty Money” amendment to the Arizona Constitution. Ever since a US Supreme Court’s decision in Citizens United, Arizona's elections have been flooded with anonymous cash trying to influence our elections. And it’s not just the fact that the people spending the money are hiding; it’s also how they’re spending their money often times to attack unfairly or spread outright falsehoods.

Now, please understand, none of us who support this constitutional amendment want to ban the free speech rights of anyone to express their political opinions. But that’s not the issue here. Liberals and conservatives alike believe that all of us have a Right to Know who is spending political money. As the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said, speaking out in public about one's political beliefs is an act of courage. Hiding from view is cowardice. Political donations in Arizona have always been disclosed with the contributor’s name and address and how much they contribute. That’s the law in Arizona for all of us, except for a select few. The only donors they are trying to protect from disclosure are the billionaires and corporations who want to influence our elections and our elected officials without letting us know who they are.

During all of my years as Arizona Attorney General, there wasn’t a single instance of a donor being harassed because of a disclosure. I know of none since. The only way to bring the Dirty Money forces out into then open is by passing Proposition C-03-2018.

Joel Grant Woods, Former Arizona Attorney General, Phoenix

Please vote “Yes” for the Stop Political Dirty Money Amendment. Under current law, Arizona voters don’t know who’s buying politicians’ votes because the legislature, dominated by politicians who won their seats with the help of anonymous donations, won’t permit it. When 91% of the citizens of Tempe voted in March to require disclosure of donors who influence elections through corporations and so-called “educational organizations” the legislature voided their vote. Politicians instinctively know the value of contributions from anonymous sources. A candidate’s donor list is a much more accurate predictor of their post campaign behavior than their public speeches. That’s why two members of the Arizona Corporation Commission are eager to hide the source of anonymous contributions (allegedly from the utilities they regulate) that put them in office! Dirty-money supported politicians claim their donors will be intimidated by voters who find out who their corporate and PAC supporters are. It’s a misleading argument. Campaign finance laws already require individuals who give more than $50 to identify themselves. The lack of any restraint allows corporations, the wealthy and well-connected to give unlimited amounts to influence elections, and their greedy recipients don’t fear disclosure. According to AZ Central, in the 2014 general election, groups outside the political campaigns spent $27.3 million dollars to influence the vote. Twelve million dollars of that was spent on the
Governor’s race! No wonder the corrupt politicians in Phoenix want the flow of anonymous donations to continue! At least 46% of that was dark money spending from anonymous donors. Who can forget the more than one million dollars in dark-money spending that flowed into Arizona at the last minute to defeat a sales tax that would have funded public education? Dark money corrupts the political process. Please vote “Yes” for ballot initiative C-03-2018.

Robert Allen, Concerned Arizona Voter, Marana

I, Daniel Valenzuela, encourage all Arizonans to join with former Attorney General Terry Goddard and others on both sides of the political aisle in support of Prop XXX. Dirty Money is a pox on our political process. Currently, special interests can hide their dollars offered in support of candidates for office. Prop XXX will ensure transparency by requiring disclosure of all contributions so voters know just who is behind campaigns of those seeking the public’s trust. I have experienced the attacks of Dirty Money forces myself in each of my campaigns for the Phoenix City Council. I know all too well how this sinister system undermines our election process. I ask that you join me in voting YES on Prop XXX.

Daniel Valenzuela, Phoenix

Put us out of business! Please.
“Following Money In Arizona’s Politics”. Using that tag, www.ArizonasPolitics.com has reported on the anonymization of campaign monies in Arizona since the Citizens United case blessed the practice in 2010. (That year, national Democrats tried to hide their support for an ad in AZ’s AG race.) When then-Treasurer-now-Governor Ducey expanded dark money’s use in 2012 initiative campaigns, we began covering the fallout (which continues to this day). In 2014, Arizona’s dark money explosion reached into nearly every statewide race, and down into legislative contests and local elections. We wrote article after article defining dark money and coined the hashtag “#50ShadesOfDarkMoney” to reflect the broad spectrum of campaign cash. (Yes, the books and the movies were popular at that time.) We have extensively covered APS, the Noble/Ducey operation, the Republican Attorneys General Association, and the national networks pouring money into Arizona elections. Here is a partial list of the articles we have written on the topic: http://bit.ly/50ShadesOfDarkMoneyArchive. Get a feel for the scope of the problem. Even with the hours that we have spent digging, emailing, phoning and reporting, we are often not able to determine where the dark money is originating. We have repeatedly compared our laws to that of other states and found we do not have the necessary laws and infrastructure which other states have. This proposed Constitutional Amendment simply requires disclosure. Disclosure of the original source of the big dollars being used to influence us. The Secretary of State and the Citizens’ Clean Elections Commission oversee it. And, citizens can help enforce it, if necessary.

C-03-2018: Stop Political Dirty Money Amendment
It will protect a donor’s privacy, if that protection is shown to be needed to prevent physical harm. It won’t really put www.ArizonasPolitics.com out of business. But, we can report on other equally-important issues.

**Paul Weich, co-founder, www.ArizonasPolitics.com, Phoenix**

What is more important than our right to vote? What is more important than being able to trust the information that we are given to make our voice heard?

Dark money does not belong in Arizona politics. When a candidate receives a large donation from a private corporation or lobbying group, we should be entitled to know their identity. This is how Arizonans will know that our elected politicians are representing the public interest, not a hidden agenda set by corporations or lobbyists. This is how we hold them accountable.

We need to bring checks and balances back to democracy.

Our representatives should be elected by the people. If they've been handpicked by corporations to do their bidding or appointed by party insiders, that is not democracy. There are representatives in our state government right now who were not voted into office. They were appointed. Who appointed them? And what interests do they serve? Yours? Or a greedy corporation with deep enough pockets to buy an election?

I've got two boys and my husband and I want them to grow up in a world that is fair and honest. Am I worried that corporate interests might destroy that? You bet I am.

It has been a chaotic couple of years in politics. Yet, I still believe Arizona's best days are ahead of us. I still believe Arizona's brightest days are ahead of us, but we have to start by getting rid of dark money. And if we work together, we can do this. We can be better informed and make better choices. For our state. For our neighborhoods. For our families.

**Mrs. Teri Sarmiento, Peoria**

The political process has become more and more vile, to the point where many Americans simply do not want to participate any more. Any vestige of civility or truth in our elections has been replaced by political dirty tricks, personal smears, unsubstantiated claims and out-and-out lies that undermine a candidate or an issue. How can a citizen evaluate these messages to make an informed choice? One way is to evaluate the messenger – who is paying for the political messages we receive and what are their interests? Well, you will never know because the people who are paying to influence your vote are hiding. You and I have to abide by campaign finance laws that require identification of donors to political candidates and organizations and that set limits on the amount we can contribute. But if you are wealthy enough, you can set up a corporation, give it a patriotic name, and launder millions of dollars through it to spread false information and half-truths to the voters in order to buy an election without even having to say
who you are. The Stop Political Dirty Money amendment the money from pouring into Arizona elections but it can give the voter at least a fighting chance to make an informed decision. Last spring, 91% of the good citizens of Tempe voted to require identification of donors who contribute through corporations. The next week the Arizona legislature, dominated by politicians who won their seats with dark money, voided their vote. A law is not enough. We need to clearly establish a “right to know” in our state constitution. A strong democracy depends on a well-informed electorate. Reject hidden forces in our electoral process by voting YES on Prop.___, the Outlaw Dirty Money constitutional amendment.

Merrill Eisenberg, Grandmother and Concerned Citizen, Tucson; Lisa Wolfe, Concerned citizen and voter, Tucson; Barbara Tellman, Grandmother, retired, Tucson; Susan Waites, Retired teacher, concerned citizen, Tucson; Travonne Smith, Concerned Citizen, Tucson; Vivian Smith, Concerned Citizen, Tucson; Carol Ann Brown, Arizona Voter, Tucson and Mary Welch, Arizona Voter, Tucson

“Sunshine is the best disinfectant.” (attributed to Justice Louis D. Brandies)
Our political system can certainly use some disinfectant. The Stop Political Dirty Money Amendment will shine some much-needed light on the political advertising process in Arizona. Arizona residents deserve to know who is sponsoring political advertising so we can make informed choices in the voting booth. Free speech is not diminished by The Stop Political Dirty Money Amendment, rather the people behind the groups creating political advertisements will be required to stand behind their opinions. I urge you to vote for The Stop Political Dirty Money Amendment.

Daniel Weichart, Glendale

Given the obscene amount of money from corporations and the ultra-rich that has flooded our elections, it’s no wonder that polls show an overwhelming percentage of all Americans feel corporations and those that control them have too much influence in elections. We can’t do anything about corporations and the individuals that control them from spending big money to elect candidates, but we should require that these large contributions that often determine the outcome of elections, and public policy in ways that advantage the top - must be disclosed as to the original source of the money. Vote YES on the OUTLAW DIRTY MONEY initiative.

Jim Pullaro, Prescott

I’m voting YES on Proposition XXX to help stop political corruption. As an Arizona native, I’ve seen our politics take lots of wrong turns over the past decade. Politicians are getting elected by big money and we don’t get to know who is spending this money or why. This is because powerful, wealthy people and corporations can spend unlimited amounts of money in our elections and hide who they are. These powerful interests spend money on negative attack ads, fake phone calls, misleading mail and anything else they think will work in their favor, but never
have to show themselves to the public. I’ve had enough and I want control over our elections back in the hands of voters. The Stop Political Dirty Money Amendment is a common sense, easy-to-understand solution. If you vote YES, then the powerful people and corporations who are trying to control our elections must tell us who they are. That’s fair. Please join me in voting YES on Proposition XXX.

Rebecca Daggett, Flagstaff

If donors to political campaigns, politicians and/or ballot issues are proud and sincere about the issues they support there should be no need to hide behind misleading titles of supporting groups and secret donations to political campaigns. For long, special interests have had an unfair influence in Arizona’s legislative process with little disclosure or accountability. This adverse influence on our political system had caused a corrosive influence on our democratic purposes and procedures.

This ground-breaking Stop Political Dirty Money Amendment, to the Arizona State Constitution, would require all individual or non-profit spending over $10,000 to disclose the original source of the contribution and any intermediary sources. In addition, it would also mandate public disclosure of all contributors who gave $2,500 or more to influence elections in a two-year election cycle, regardless of whether their contributions passed through any intermediaries. The poor and working class are the most severely impacted by the current situation and will benefit from this reform -not the wealthy and powerful. The voters have a right to know who is supporting their political leaders and political issues. And, this will only come about from the true transparency that this amendment authorizes.

Patrick J. Carr, OSF, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Councilor, Secular Franciscan Order, Flagstaff

In the Gettysburg Address, Lincoln made clear his desire for a “government of the people, by the people, for the people,...”. But for citizens to effectively take part in our government we must be informed; informed about the issues, informed about the facts around the issues, and informed about the source of the information that forms our opinion about the issues. Dirty money in elections robs us of our ability to be informed and therefore of our ability to make effective decisions. Voters get the importance of this. Earlier this year, in the city of Tempe, 91% of voters approved passage of a city law much like the Stop Political Dirty Money Amendment. Then, in a clear indication of how pro-dirty-money they are, state legislators passed a bill stating that Arizona cities didn't have the right to require transparency in their elections. This is why this amendment is required and why it must be installed in our state constitution as a clear indication to legislators, current and future alike, that we want to know who is influencing our elections. Anonymous donations to affect an election outcome keep us from trusting our election process. Increasing transparency in our election process conversely helps to foster trust, be informed, and make effective decisions. Let us now make clear that we have not given up our rights to govern ourselves and we require that we get the information we need to make effective decisions. Please vote yes on Proposition ____, the Outlaw Dirty Money constitutional amendment.
A Clean Limerick on Dirty Money

I've got a sneaking suspicion,
That APS bought the Corporation Commission,
With millions in dough,
But we'll never really know,
That's why I'm a “yes” on this proposition.

Julie Gunnigle, Candidate, Gunnigle for House, Scottsdale