

Money in Politics Consensus Questions Overview, Relating the Questions to the Background Readings for Each of the Three Parts of the Questions

<p>PART I QUESTIONS: Democratic Values and Interests with Respect to Financing Political Campaigns</p> <p>Readings that provide background on the issues that the Part I questions are asking about:</p> <p>Money in Politics: Introduction and Overview (5 pages)</p> <p>Shifts in Supreme Court Opinion About Money in Politics (6 pages)</p> <p>The Role of the Supreme Court in Interpreting the Constitution (4 pages)</p> <p>Evidence of Spending's Impact on Electoral & Legislative Outcomes (5 pages)</p> <p>Corruption & Rationales for Regulating Campaign Finance (5 pages)</p>
<p>Q I 1: What should be the goals and purposes of campaign finance regulation? For each: <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> No Consensus</p>
<p>I 1 a: Seek political equality for all citizens.</p>
<p>I 1 b: Protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns.</p>
<p>I 1 c: Enable candidates to compete equitably for public office.</p>
<p>I 1 d: Ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public.</p>
<p>I 1 e: Ensure that economic and corporate interests are part of election dialogue.</p>
<p>I 1 f: Provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices.</p>
<p>I 1 g: Ensure the public’s right to know who is using money to influence elections.</p>
<p>I 1 h: Combat corruption and undue influence in government.</p>
<p>Q I 2: Evaluate whether the following Activities are types of political corruption: For each: <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> No Consensus</p>
<p>I 2 a: A candidate or officeholder agrees to vote or work in favor of a donor’s interests in exchange for a campaign contribution.</p>
<p>I 2 b: An officeholder or her/his staff gives greater access to donors.</p>

I 2 c: An officeholder votes or works to support policies that reflect the preferences of individuals or organizations in order to attract contributions from them.
I 2 d: An office holder seeks political contributions implying that there will be retribution unless a donation is given.
I 2 e: The results of the political process consistently favor the interests of significant campaign contributors.

<p>PART II QUESTIONS: First Amendment Protections for Speakers & Activities in Political Campaigns</p> <p>Readings that provide background on the issues that the Part II questions are asking about: (pages)</p> <p>The First Amendment (5 pages)</p> <p>The Debate: Can Government Regulate Money in Politics (2 pages)</p> <p>Hard, Soft and Dark Money (5 pages)</p> <p>Independent Expenditures (8 pages)</p> <p>The New Soft Money, pp. 17-27 (A note from Becky: It might also be good to read the Introduction & Executive Summary; I have that plus these recommended pages as a separate document if you'd like a copy.)</p>
<p>Q II 1: Many different individuals and organizations use a variety of methods to communicate their views to voters in candidate elections. Should spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited?</p> <p>For each: <input type="checkbox"/> Spending Banned <input type="checkbox"/> Some Spending Limits <input type="checkbox"/> Unlimited Spending <input type="checkbox"/> No Consensus</p>
<p>II 1 a: Individual citizens, including wealthy individuals like George Soros and the Koch Brothers.</p>
<p>II 1 b: Political Action Committees, sponsored by an organization, such as the League of Conservation Voters, Chevron, the American Bankers Association, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), whose campaign spending comes from contributions by individuals associated with the sponsoring organization, such as employees, stockholders, members and volunteers.</p>
<p>II 1 c: For-profit organizations, like Exxon, Ben and Jerry's, General Motors, and Starbucks, from their corporate treasury funds.</p>
<p>II 1 d: Trade associations, like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Wind Energy Association, and the American Petroleum Institute, from the association's general treasury funds.</p>
<p>II 1 e: Labor unions, like the United Autoworkers and Service Employees International, from the union's general treasury funds.</p>
<p>II 1 f: Non-profit organizations, like the Sierra Club, Wisconsin Right to Life, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, American Crossroads, and Priorities USA, from the organization's general treasury funds.</p>
<p>II 1 g: Non-partisan voter registration and GOTV (get out the vote) organizations and activities, like the LWV and Nonprofit Vote.</p>
<p>II 1 h: Political parties, like the Republicans, Libertarians, and Democrats.</p>
<p>II 1 i: Candidates for public office spending money the candidate has raised from contributors.</p>
<p>II 1 j: Candidates for public office spending their own money.</p>
<p>Q II 2: The press plays a major role in candidate elections through editorial endorsements, news coverage, and other communications directly to the public that are often important to the outcome. Should such spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited?</p> <p>For each: <input type="checkbox"/> Spending Banned <input type="checkbox"/> Some Spending Limits <input type="checkbox"/> Unlimited Spending <input type="checkbox"/> No Consensus</p>

Updated 2016-01-03 with addition of new Issue Paper – *Options to Reform Money in Politics*

II 2 a: Newspapers, like the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.
II 2 b: Television and other electronic media, like Fox News, CNN, MSNBC and CBS.
II 2 c: Internet communications, like Huffington Post, Breitbart, Daily Kos, and individual bloggers.

<p>PART III QUESTIONS: Methods for Regulating Campaign Finance to Protect the Democratic Process</p> <p>Readings that provide background on the issues that the Part III questions are asking about:</p> <p>Options to Reform Money in Politics (3 pages)</p> <p>Action in the States (8 pages)</p> <p>Enforcement of Federal Campaign Finance Law (6 pages)</p>
<p>Q III 1: In order to achieve the goals for campaign finance regulation, should the League support?</p> <p>For each: <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> No Consensus</p>
<p>III 1 a: Abolishing SuperPACs and spending coordinated or directed by candidates, other than a candidate’s own single campaign committee.</p>
<p>III 1 b: Restrictions on direct donations and bundling by lobbyists? (Restrictions may include monetary limits as well as other regulations.)</p>
<p>III 1 c: Public funding for candidates? Should the League support:</p> <p>III 1 c i: Voluntary public financing of elections where candidates who choose to participate must also abide by reasonable spending limits?</p> <p>III 1 c ii: Mandatory public financing of elections where candidates must participate and abide by reasonable spending limits?</p> <p>III 1 c iii: Public financing without spending limits on candidates?</p>
<p>Q III 2: How should campaign finance regulations be administered and enforced? (We may choose more than one response for Question 2.)</p>
<p>III 2 a: <input type="checkbox"/> By an even-numbered commission with equal representation by the two major political parties to ensure partisan fairness (current Federal Election Commission [FEC] structure)</p>
<p>III 2 b: <input type="checkbox"/> By an odd-numbered commission with at least one independent or nonpartisan commissioner to ensure decisions can be made in case of partisan deadlock?</p>
<p>III 2 c: <input type="checkbox"/> By structural and budget changes to the FEC (e.g., commission appointments, staffing, security, budget, decision making process) that would allow the agency to function effectively and meet its legislative and regulatory mandates.</p>
<p>III 2 d: <input type="checkbox"/> No consensus.</p>