

## who we are

Issue One was created in 2014 by a merger of Fund for the Republic and Americans for Campaign Reform. We are committed to putting everyday citizens back in control of our democracy by reducing the influence of big money over American politics and policymaking.

## what we want

We want a democracy that works for all of us, one that:

- ▶ Gives all citizens an opportunity for their voices to be heard while significantly reducing the ability of special interests to unduly influence policies and undermine the democratic process.
- ▶ Attracts the very best Americans to run for public office by reducing the fundraising burden.
- ▶ Minimizes the time elected officials spend raising campaign money so that they can focus on legislating in the public interest.

We believe that accomplishing these ambitious goals will create a new civic and political reality in which:

**EVERYONE PARTICIPATES.** New systems of financing elections are enacted, empowering small donors and strengthening civic participation;

**EVERYONE KNOWS.** There is full transparency and immediate disclosure of political contributions and expenditures;

**EVERYONE PLAYS BY COMMONSENSE RULES.** Political conflicts of interest are diminished and new ethical norms take hold;

**EVERYONE IS HELD ACCOUNTABLE.** Candidates, elected officials and organizations are held accountable for breaking campaign finance laws;

**EVERYONE HAS A VOICE.** Congress is constitutionally empowered to make laws governing the flow of money in and around politics.

## how we'll get there

To help generate the power necessary to pass game-changing legislation and support new jurisprudence in the coming years, Issue One is working on two fronts. We are:

### *i. Forging an unstoppable bipartisan community of influential Americans.*

*Together they are:*

- ▶ Leveraging their reputations and networks to expand the coalition;
- ▶ Creating a sense of urgency around this growing crisis;
- ▶ Advocating for solutions.

### *ii. Investing in the most innovative efforts. Through the Issue One Fund, we make grants to:*

- ▶ Strengthen the most promising state and local efforts to pass new campaign finance laws;
- ▶ Fill strategic gaps and create a bolder, politically broader reform movement;
- ▶ Change the political dynamic in Washington, DC.

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*Issue One reaches beyond party lines and unites people around the goal of making our democracy work for everyone.*



## why it matters

We've all read news stories about billionaires dominating both political parties. We hear how politicians are forced to spend half their time raising campaign funds. We watch "dark money" political ads flood our airwaves. And we witness the outcomes of our broken political system, from a rigged tax code to skyrocketing national debt to dozens of major challenges we just can't seem to fix. We can't solve our country's most pressing problems because we can't pass the policies necessary to do so. The system is broken, and we all pay the price. But don't take it from us:

**GRETCHEN MORGENSEN**, *New York Times financial reporter*

"[A financial crisis] will happen again...The big powered, moneyed institutions are in control in Washington...You and I don't have a lobbyist and so we are not represented."

**MARTIN GILENS**, *Princeton*

"Actual policy outcomes strongly reflect the preferences of the most affluent but bear virtually no relationship to the preferences of poor or middle income Americans."

**LEO HINDERY JR.**, *former CEO of AT&T*

"Million of people are in a perpetually under-earning state because we sold our Congress to big money interests years ago. There is no lobbying interest on behalf of a low-paid worker."

**BILL MCKIBBEN**, *climate change activist*

"We've won every scientific battle, but we've lost most of the legislative ones, because the system runs on cash."

**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

"...the unhealthy interaction between large government, costly election campaigns and the increased influence of lobbying has exerted an important toll on the U.S. economy."

**REUTERS**

"At every level of government, the food and beverage industries won fight after fight during the last decade. They have never lost a significant political battle in the United States."

The good news is, this is a problem we can fix. By mobilizing a bipartisan community of thought leaders and filling gaps through smart, targeted investments, we can generate the critical mass necessary to win substantive reforms at all levels of government. And when we do, we will see a better politics and a democracy that once again lives up to our ideals and is worthy of our trust.

To learn more about how you can support our work, please contact Issue One at 202.888.7540 or [info@issueone.org](mailto:info@issueone.org).

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