

WHAT THE CITIZENS UNITED RULING MEANS TO YOU

It's Time To Cut The Strings

North Carolina's government should belong to its people

In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court okayed new ways for corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence elections. Since this *Citizens United* ruling, millions of corporate dollars has swept special-interest candidates into office across the nation and right here in North Carolina.

These politicians have moved quickly to pay back their patrons and we're now seeing a massive shift in public policy. Art Pope (owner of Roses and Maxway) and his allies spent \$2.2 million to help elect two dozen new legislators who are now pushing a far right agenda in the NC General Assembly that helps big business and hurts voters. Ultimately, you'll be the one to pay the price:

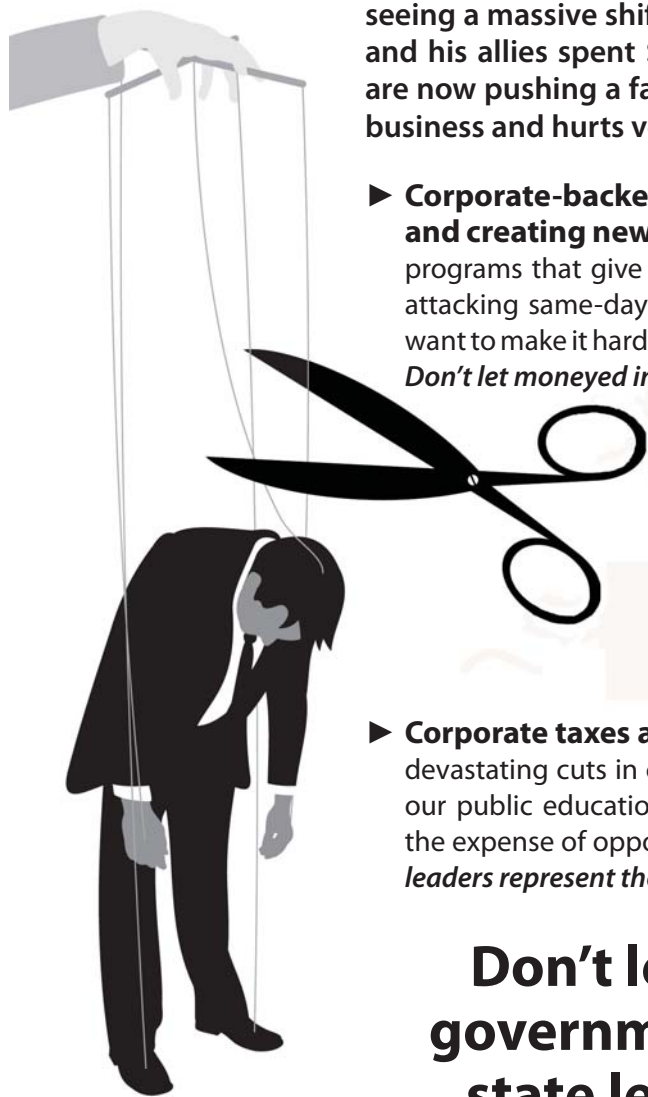
▶ **Corporate-backed candidates are attacking successful election reforms and creating new barriers to voting.** They are going after voter-owned elections programs that give candidates independence from special interest money; they are attacking same-day voter registration, which increases voter participation; and they want to make it harder for some groups to cast ballots by mandating photo ID for voters. *Don't let moneyed interests steal our democracy. Fight to protect election reforms!*

▶ **Environmental and financial protections** are being gutted and budgets for regulatory agencies slashed. Our health and economic prosperity are at stake. It is wrong for corporations to contaminate your air and water or eliminate consumer protections so that they can make more profit. *Reject special interest legislation and demand that people be protected from destructive and predatory practices.*

▶ **Corporate taxes are being cut and loopholes widened** even as our state faces devastating cuts in critical programs that protect the health of our communities and our public education system. Don't let corporate interests buy special treatment at the expense of opportunities for our children and future generations. *Insist that state leaders represent the people and that corporations pay their fair share of taxes!*

Don't let corporations control our government! Sign our petition to tell state legislators to cut the strings.

See the flip side of this flyer for more actions that you can take to fight back!





of, by and for the people

Take Action to Fight *Citizens United*

Corporations should not own our democracy — we should. It's time to CUT THE STRINGS between special interests and government. Here's what you can do:

- ▶ **Sign our petition telling state legislators to cut the strings** by requiring more detailed disclosure of corporate political donations in North Carolina. You can sign the petition online at www.democracy-nc.org.
- ▶ **Spread the word about the dangers of *Citizens United*** by writing a Letter to the Editor or blogging on the issue. Call (919) 286-6000 or visit www.democracy-nc.org for talking points or to sign up to be part of our volunteer Media Advocates for Democracy program (MAD Skills).
- ▶ **Ask your U.S. House Rep to co-sponsor HR 414**, Congressman David Price's bill to mend the outdated presidential campaign financing program. Visit www.house.gov/zip/ZIP2Rep.html to learn who your representative is and how you can contact him or her.
- ▶ **Demand Fair Elections for Congress.** Ask your Senators to co-sponsor the Fair Elections Now Act for publicly financed Congressional races. Reach Senator Richard Burr (R) in Winston-Salem at (336) 631-5125 or in Washington, D.C. at (202) 224-3154. Contact Senator Kay Hagan (D) in Greensboro at (336) 333-5311 or in Washington, D.C. at (202) 224-6342. For more information on what you can do, visit www.fairelectionsnow.org.
- ▶ **Demand shareholder protections:** Tell your Congressional Rep and your Senators that shareholders deserve to know if the companies they invest in are spending corporate money in elections. Ask for a bill with strong disclosure requirements for corporations, or take action as a shareholder to require board or shareholder approval for elections spending. More at: <http://www.citizen.org/Page.aspx?pid=3151>
- ▶ **Follow the effort to amend the constitution:** Corporations are not people. Support a constitutional amendment to clarify this for purposes of elections. Learn more at <http://movetoamend.org/>

Visit Democracy NC's Citizens United Action Center at www.democracy-nc.org for more ideas on what you can do to stop the corporate take-over of our government!