

FEDERAL LEGISLATION SINCE *CITIZENS UNITED* v. *FEC* INTRODUCED TO ADDRESS REFORM, TRANSPARENCY, DISCLOSURE AND REGULATION OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE

This report documents legislation introduced since 2010 in the United States Congress to address reform, transparency, disclosure, and regulation with regard to campaign finance issues. It is important for constituents to know how their elected officials have voted on these important issues. Legislators from Washington State proposing and/or voting for or against the legislation are identified. Some members of the U.S. House and Senate work doggedly for transparency, disclosure and election finance reform; and some members consistently vote against such legislation. Committee chairs determine whether a bill will move past the committee stage, which means most bills are never allowed a vote on the floor of the House or Senate.

Introduction

The challenges of solving problems via legislation include: 1) the timidity of elected officials to sponsor or cosponsor bills, 2) convincing committee chairs to allow hearings, 3) the lack of constituent awareness about what is going on in Washington D.C., and 4) constituents' unwillingness to contact their U.S. Representatives and Senators to encourage them to act.

There are thousands of bills that have been introduced in the U.S. Congress over the years on the subject of money in politics. You can peruse a list at GovTrack.us, Bills and Resolutions.¹ This report will focus on some of the pertinent legislation since the Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (January 2010)², the bills LWVUS has endorsed or opposed, and the voting records of elected officials from Washington State on those bills.

Washington Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray have shown solid commitments in support of transparency, disclosure and public financing, but citizens should be aware of how others have responded.

Federal Legislation Regarding Transparency: The Ill-Fated DISCLOSE Act

Even though the Supreme Court was strongly divided (5 to 4) in the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC)* decision, the justices voted 8 to 1 to uphold on the element of disclosure. Justice Kennedy wrote in the majority opinion in the *Citizens United v. FEC* decision:

"The First Amendment protects political speech, and disclosure permits citizens and shareholders to react to the speech of corporate entities in a proper way... This transparency enables the electorate to make informed decisions and give proper weight to different speakers and messages".³

The House tried to pass the DISCLOSE Act in 2010 (H.R. 5175)⁴. Within three months of the *Citizen's United v. FEC* ruling, the first DISCLOSE Act was introduced on April 29, 2010, by Representative Van

¹ Bills and Resolutions/GovTrack, <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/111/hr4790>, viewed 12/16/15

² *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010), <http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/09pdf/08-205.pdf>, viewed 12/16/15

³ Sec. IV(B), *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010), <http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/09pdf/08-205.pdf> (p.62), viewed 12/16/15

⁴ H.R. 5175 – DISCLOSE Act, <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/111/hr5175>, viewed 12/14/15

Hollen, co-sponsored by Washington Representatives Larsen, McDermott, Smith and Inslee. (DISCLOSE Act stands for “Democracy is Strengthened by Casting Light on Spending in Elections”.)

“To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit foreign influence in Federal elections, to prohibit government contractors from making expenditures with respect to such elections, and to establish additional disclosure requirements with respect to spending in such elections, and for other purposes. Passed the House with Washington Representatives Larsen, McDermott, Smith, Inslee, Baird and Dicks voting aye; Hastings, McMorris Rodgers and Reichert voting nay.”⁵

The DISCLOSE Act was an attempt to have Congress reveal campaign contributions and expenditures after the *Citizens United* decision. The Sunlight Foundation described the legislation this way⁶:

...Congress attempted to enact legislation to blunt the impact of the Citizens United decision. The DISCLOSE Act had, at its core, transparency provisions designed to shine a light on the largest, most distorting corporate and union independent expenditures and electioneering communications. The bill passed the House with only two Republican supporters but was blocked twice by Republican filibusters in the Senate.”⁷

League of Women Voters Supported the DISCLOSE Act. Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, expressed support for the DISCLOSE Act:

“Secret spending in elections undermines our democracy -- that’s why this bill is so important. The League of Women Voters commends the House for taking strong Action, especially Representatives Van Hollen and Castle for their leadership. We now call on the Senate to pass a similar bill, ideally a version free of amendments that dilute transparency or corrupt the spirit of the legislation. It is essential for Congress to enact this legislation now, so we can protect the 2010 elections”⁸

The Senate tried twice to pass the DISCLOSE Act in 2010. The DISCLOSE Act (S. 3295)⁹ was introduced April 30, 2010 by Senator Schumer, co-sponsored by Washington Senator Murray, under the same title as H.R. 5175. Died in the Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

DISCLOSE 2010 Act (S. 3628¹⁰) was again introduced by Senator Schumer on July 21, 2010, with the same title, and failed twice by filibuster. Washington Senators Murray and Cantwell voted aye twice to end cloture.¹¹

⁵ H.R. 5175 – DISCLOSE Act, <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/111/hr5175>, viewed 12/14/15

⁶ “Disclosing Money in Elections”, *Sunlight Foundation*, <http://sunlightfoundation.com/policy/disclosingmoney/>, viewed 12/14/15

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ “Campaign finance bill passes House”, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lwv.org/press-releases/campaign-finance-bill-passes-house-0>, viewed 12/14/12

⁹ S. 3295- DISCLOSE Act (April 30, 2010), <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/111/s3295>, viewed 12/14/15

¹⁰ S. 3628 – DISCLOSE Act (July 21, 2010), <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/111/s3628>, viewed 12/14/15

¹¹ Cloture is a Senate procedure which ends debate so that an up-or-down vote can be taken. A vote in favor ends the debate and moves to a vote, and a vote against prolongs debate and is called a filibuster.

History of the DISCLOSE Act after 2010

In 2012, undeterred, House legislators reintroduced the DISCLOSE ACT. It was introduced in the House (H.R. 4010)¹², sponsored by Representative Chris Van Hollen, Jr. and co-sponsored by Washington Representatives Dicks, Inslee, Larsen, McDermott and Smith on February 9, 2012. The bill was titled, “*To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, and other entities, and for other purposes*”. Died in House Judiciary Committee.

Again, the League of Women Voters joined in Supporting the DISCLOSE 2012 Act. On February 15, 2012, a joint letter was written to all members of the U.S. House of Representatives, encouraging them to support and co-Sponsor H.R. 4010. Partners co-signing the letter included Americans for Campaign Reform, Democracy 21, Brennan Center for Justice, Campaign Legal Center, People For the American Way, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, Public Campaign, Public Citizen, Common Cause and the Sunlight Foundation, as well as the LWVUS. In part, the letter stated,

*“Our organizations strongly support H.R. 4010, the DISCLOSE 2012 Act, introduced last week by Representative Chris Van Hollen. This legislation provides essential new disclosure requirements to cover the hundreds of millions of dollars in secret contributions being injected into federal elections by non-profit groups and other entities. The legislation also ensures that there will be timely disclosure by Super PACs.”*¹³

In 2012, the Senate reintroduced two iterations of the DISCLOSE Act. The first bill, DISCLOSE 2012 Act (S. 2219),¹⁴ was sponsored by Senator Whitehouse and co-sponsored by Washington Senator Murray, on March 21, 2012. The bill was titled, “*A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes*”. Died in Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

Again, League Urged Senators to Cosponsor the DISCLOSE 2012 Act. On April 19, 2012, the League wrote, “*The League of Women Voters urges you to cosponsor S. 2219, the DISCLOSE Act of 2012, which would restore transparency to U.S. elections by requiring complete disclosure of spending on big-money advertising in candidate elections.*”¹⁵

The second iteration was S. 3369¹⁶. The DISCLOSE 2012 Act was introduced again in the Senate by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and co-sponsored by Washington Senator Murray on July 10, 2012 with the same title as S. 2219. Failed twice by filibuster; Murray and Cantwell voted aye.

In support of the House and Senate versions of the DISCLOSE 2012 Act, the Sunlight Foundation stated, “*It is a constitutionally appropriate method to ensure voters are educated as to the special interests that*

¹² H.R. 4010 – DISCLOSE 2012 Act, <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/hr4010>, viewed 12/14/15

¹³ “League Joins Partners in Supporting H.R. 4010, the DISCLOSE 2012 Act”, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lwv.org/content/league-joins-partners-supporting-hr-4010-disclose-2012-act>, viewed 12/14/15

¹⁴ S. 2219 – DISCLOSE (Mar 21, 2012), <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/s2219>, viewed 12/14/15

¹⁵ “League Urges Senators to Cosponsor the DISCLOSE 2012 Act, S. 2219”, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lwv.org/content/league-urges-senators-cosponsor-disclose-2012-act-s-2219>, viewed 12/14/15

¹⁶ S. 3369 – DISCLOSE Act (Jul 10, 2012), <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/s3369>, viewed 12/14/15

are paying for electioneering communications, and that a light shines on dark money to reduce corruption and the appearance of corruption in our political process.”¹⁷

Again, LWVUS asked U.S. Senate to Vote for Cloture on S. 3369. On July 12, 2012, the League wrote,

“The League of Women Voters strongly urges you to vote for cloture on S. 3369, the DISCLOSE Act of 2012, which would restore transparency to U.S. elections by requiring complete disclosure of spending on big-money advertising in candidate elections. The League supports the DISCLOSE Act of 2012 because we believe that Americans deserve all the information they can get before they vote. Secret campaign money has no place in America’s democracy because it undermines the role of the voter and corrupts the election process. Voters have a right to know who is making unlimited campaign expenditures and influencing elections -- whether it is a corporation, union, trade association, or non-profit advocacy groups.”¹⁸

In 2013, House Legislators reintroduce a DISCLOSED Act. The DISCLOSE 2013 Act (H.R. 148)¹⁹ was sponsored by Representative Chris Van Hollen Jr.. It was co-sponsored by Representatives Larsen, DelBene, Kilmer, Heck, McDermott, Jan 3, 2013. This bill was titled, *“To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, and other entities, and for other purposes”*. Died in House Ways and Means Committee. (Reichert and McDermott on committee.)

In 2014, again a DISCLOSE Act was introduced in the Senate. The DISCLOSE 2014 Act (S. 2516)²⁰ was sponsored by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, co-sponsored by Washington Senators Murray and Cantwell, on June 24, 2014. The bill was titled, *“A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes”*. Died in Senate Rules Committee.

Again, LWVUS President Elizabeth MacNamara wrote in support of the DISCLOSE Act of 2014. On July 14, 2014, President MacNamara wrote, *“The most important thing we can do to preserve the integrity of our electoral process is to increase transparency and let the sunlight shine in. Disclosure is the key to allowing voters to make their own decisions and will guard against the inevitable corruption that comes with secret money. The League of Women Voters strongly urges you to support quick Action by the Senate to enact the DISCLOSE Act this year.”²¹*

In 2015 the House tried again. The DISCLOSE Act of 2015 was introduced in the House (H.R. 430)²² by Representative Chris Van Hollen, co-sponsored by Washington Representatives DelBene, Heck, Kilmer, McDermott, Smith and Larsen, on January 21, 2015. This bill was titled, *“To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor*

¹⁷ “DISCLOSING MONEY IN ELECTIONS”, *Sunlight Foundation*, <http://sunlightfoundation.com/policy/disclosingmoney/> viewed 12/16/15

¹⁸ “League asks U.S. Senate to Vote for Cloture on S. 3369”, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lww.org/content/league-asks-us-senate-vote-cloture-s-3369>, viewed 12/14/15

¹⁹ H.R. 148 – DISCLOSE 2013 Act, <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr148>, viewed 12/14/15

²⁰ S. 2516 DISCLOSE Act (Jun 24, 2014), <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/s2516>, viewed 12/14/15

²¹ “League Supports the DISCLOSE Act of 2014”, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lww.org/content/league-supports-disclose-Act-2014>, viewed 12/14/15

²² H.R.430 – DISCLOSE 2015 Act, <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/hr430>, viewed 12/14/15

organizations, and other entities, and for other purposes". This bill is now in the House Committee on Ways and Means; Representatives Reichert and McDermott are on the committee.

And, in 2015, the Senate tried again also. On the same date, January 21, 2015, the DISCLOSE Act of 2015 was introduced in the Senate (S. 229)²³ by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, co-sponsored by WA Sens. Murray and Cantwell, titled, "A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes." This bill is currently in the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

The LWVUS asked U.S. Representatives to Cosponsor DISCLOSE Act. On March 18, 2015, the LWVUS along with the Brennan Center for Justice, the Campaign Legal Center, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, Common Cause, Democracy 21, Demos, Issue One, People For the American Way, Public Citizen and the Sunlight Foundation wrote to members of the U.S. House of Representatives,

*"We strongly urge you to support and cosponsor the DISCLOSE 2015 Act (H.R.430). In the aftermath of the Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, a flood of dark money in federal elections has seriously undermined the integrity of our elections and created opportunities for influence-buying and corruption. The absence of disclosure of these secret funds is also denying American citizens information they have a right to know about who is providing the money that is being used to influence their votes."*²⁴

Legislation That Passed after 2010 Regarding Campaign Finance and Transparency

Only two bills pertinent to campaign finance and public disclosure issues have been signed into law since the 2010 *Citizens United* decision. Both bills were opposed by the LWVUS. One of these is (was?) H.R. 2019²⁵, the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act (2013), which included a repeal of important anti-corruption campaign finance law; and the other is (was?) H.R. 83²⁶, the 2014 Omnibus Bill, which included a provision authorizing massive increases in allowable contributions to political parties. The provision was added using a legislative tactic called a "rider", which allows a controversial regulation to be added to a bill even though it has had nothing to do with the title subject matter. This legislative procedure permits a legislator to add something to a bill when it has no chance of passing on its own.

Fred Wertheimer reported in The Huffington Post on December 14, 2014, that the hidden provision in H.R. 83 lifting party contribution caps began on page 1,599 of the 1,603 page bill.

"By inserting the campaign finance provisions into the Omnibus Appropriations bill, they have created a new system of legalized bribery in which massive contributions to the

²³ S. 229 – DISCLOSE Act of 2015, <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/s229>, viewed 12/14/15

²⁴ "League Encourages U.S. Representatives to Cosponsor DISCLOSE Act, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lwv.org/content/league-encourages-us-representatives-cosponsor-disclose-act>, viewed 12/14/15

²⁵ H.R. 2019 Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act (2013) , <https://www.congress.gov/113/plaws/publ94/PLAW-113publ94.pdf>, viewed 12/14/15

²⁶ "Division N– Other Matters:, *H.R. 83 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (page 1599)*, <http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20141208/CPRT-113-HPRT-RU00-HR83sa.pdf>, viewed 12/14/15

parties can be used by very wealthy donors to buy influence with and results from federal officeholders.”²⁷

Other Attempted Legislation

A number of other bills, in addition to the DISCLOSE Act, have been introduced in Congress since 2010 in attempts to address campaign finance and transparency, but they have not progressed to passage. Table 1 on page 12 identifies nearly 50 bills that have been introduced in the House and Senate between 2010 and 2015 related to campaign finance and transparency. It is interesting to note the small number of sponsors among the attempted legislation as well as repetition and the fates of these bills.

The League of Women Voters has been Active on this issue, taking positions on several of these bills, and that work is described below. The League’s work has been based on these positions:

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public’s right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process (1974, 1982).²⁸

Both LWVUS and many state Leagues consistently support public financing of elections. The League of Women Voters believes that as individuals we can “Work electorally for a Congress comprised of members committed to reform (action by the grassroots).”²⁹

In January 2011, the League of Women Voters submitted a press release regarding the House of Representatives proposal to repeal the presidential public campaign finance system. Dated January 11, 2011, the press release stated,

“The League of Women Voters today urged members of the U.S. House of Representatives to oppose the move expected this week to eliminate the public financing system for presidential elections. Pointing to the lack of hearings or other committee Action on the legislation to repeal the presidential system, Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the nonpartisan citizens’ organization said, “The rush to the floor, without following the normal procedures of the House, is deeply disturbing. The American people deserve better than this.”³⁰

In November 2011, LWVUS again joined a partnership to urge U.S. Representatives to vote NO on H.R. 3463 and YES on H.R. 414. Partners in this effort included Americans for Campaign Reform, Democracy 21, Brennan Center for Justice, Campaign Legal Center, People for the American Way, Common Cause,

²⁷ Wertheimer, Fred, “Who Shot John: The Story of How \$777,600 Contribution ‘Limits’ Ended up in the Omnibus Bill”, *Huffpost Politics*, February 14, 2015, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/fred-wertheimer/who-shot-john-the-story-o_b_6328384.html, viewed 05/18/16

²⁸ “Impact on Issues 2014-2016”, League of Women Voters of the United States, page 22, <http://lww.org/content/impAct-issues>

²⁹ “Money in Politics: Developing a Common Understanding of the Issues”, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lww.org/files/cfr%20Primer%20Final%20May%2027.pdf>, viewed 12/16/15

³⁰ “House Set Repeal Presidential Campaign Finance System”, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lww.org/press-releases/house-set-repeal-presidential-campaign-finance-system>, viewed 05/27/16

Public Campaign, Citizens for Responsibility and Public Citizen Ethics in Washington (CREW) and U.S. PIRG. Their statement said,

“The League of Women Voters and other concerned organizations oppose H.R. 3463, legislation that would repeal the presidential public financing system AND terminate the Election Assistance Commission. H.R. 414, introduced this year by Representatives David Price (R-NC) and Chris Van Hollen (DMD) would repair the presidential public financing system to take account of the increased costs of running a presidential campaign and to increase the incentives for small donors to contribute to presidential candidates”.³¹

In May 2012, responding to S.1100, the LWVUS joined thirteen partners in opposition. These partners included Campaign Legal Center, Center for Media and Democracy, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, Common Cause, Democracy 21, Demos, MapLight, New Progressive Alliance, Project on Government Oversight, Public Citizen, Sunlight Foundation, U.S. PIRG and Union of Concerned Scientists. Their statement said, in part,

“Our 14 civic organizations write to you in solid opposition to S. 1100, the so-called “Keeping Politics Out of Federal Contracting Act,” and urge the Senate to reject this legislation that would block public disclosure of campaign contributions and spending by government contractors.”³²

In 2013, as often happens with legislation, a popular bill that passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by President Obama, H.R. 2019, the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act, provided an opportunity to link a non-related issue. Repeal of an important anti-corruption campaign finance law, which worked well for most of its existence and provided ordinary Americans with a critical role to play in financing presidential elections was added to the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act. LWVUS joined a variety of reform groups in urging the U.S. House to vote NO on repeal of the presidential public financing law on July 22, 2013. They sent a letter with that message to the U.S. House of Representatives urging them to vote no on H.R. 2019.³³ The LWVUS also signed onto letters to the U.S. Senate and President Obama to oppose H.R. 2019. Despite this opposition, President Obama signed H.R. 2019 into law.

In 2014, the LWVUS urged Representatives to co-sponsor H.R. 270, the Empowering Citizens Act. They said, *“H.R. 270 is the most comprehensive campaign finance reform legislation pending in Congress. It would end individual candidate Super PACs, repair the presidential public financing system, create a similar financing system for congressional races and strengthen the rules prohibiting coordination between outside spending groups and candidates.”* That bill did not succeed.

In 2014, LWVUS joined Brennan Center for Justice, Campaign Legal Center, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Common Cause, Democracy 21, Demos, Public Citizen, The Sunlight

³¹ “Save Presidential Public Financing and Election Commission”, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lww.org/content/save-presidential-public-financing-and-election-assistance-commission>, viewed 05/27/16

³² “League Joins Partners in Opposing S. 1100”, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lww.org/content/league-joins-partners-opposing-s-1100>, viewed 05/27/16

³³ “League urges U.S. house to vote no repeal presidential public financing law”, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lww.org/content/league-urges-us-house-vote-no-repeal-presidential-public-financing-law>, viewed 05/27/16

Foundation, and U.S. PIRG to *OPPOSE* H.R. 3865³⁴. The League joined a letter sent to U.S. House members opposing H.R. 3865 the Stop Targeting Political Beliefs by the IRS Act of 2014. The legislation would prohibit the IRS from adopting necessary revisions in the rules used to determine whether an organization is operating exclusively for the promotion of social welfare for purposes of tax code Section 501(c)(4). The League has sent comments to the IRS regarding the proposed regulation.³⁵ This bill passed in the House and was never considered in the Senate.

In 2014 the LWVUS also joined the Campaign Legal Center, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, Common Cause, Democracy 21, Demos, Public Citizen and Sunlight Foundation in support of S. 2754. In part, this letter stated,

*“The League joined other reform groups to support S. 2754, the Lobbying and Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2014. The legislation, introduced by Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO), would limit the ability of lobbyists to use bundled contributions to obtain undue influence with members of Congress. Unlike most citizens, registered lobbyists are in the business of influencing members of Congress. They are paid to influence government decisions and the contributions they give and raise for members of Congress play a key role in pursuing their lobbying interests. One of the principal ways in which Washington lobbyists gain improper influence is by soliciting and providing, or bundling, large amounts of campaign funds for members of Congress.”*³⁶

At the end of 2014, The LWVUS encouraged the President to veto Omnibus Appropriations Bill, H.R. 83. The League and other coalition partners (Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, and Public Citizen) sent a letter to President Obama urging him to veto the FY2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill. The bill included the most corrupting campaign finance provisions ever created, as stated in the letter that was sent.

*“The provisions authorize massive increases in the allowable contributions to political parties that can only be made by millionaires and billionaires. These huge contributions would be solicited by federal officeholders with the ability to provide access, influence and results to the donors. In a “bipartisan” unholy alliance, Senator Reid and Senator McConnell joined with House Speaker John Boehner to secretly insert into the Omnibus bill the destructive campaign finance provisions, which were unknown to the public and members of Congress until the day the bill was filed in the House. These provisions eviscerate the existing party contribution limits.”*³⁷

In 2015, a number of bills were introduced in Congress that are still in play. Among them are H.R. 154, the “Close the Floodgates Act”, sponsored by Washington Rep. Derek Kilmer. This bill would restore provisions capping individual donor contributions for political parties at \$97,200 per year. It would

³⁴ “League Opposes H.R. 3865”, League of Women Voters, February 24, 2014, <http://lww.org/content/league-opposes-hr-3865>, viewed 1/1/16

³⁵ H.R. 3865 – Stop Targeting of Political Beliefs by the IRS Act of 2014, <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr3865>, viewed 01/09/16

³⁶ “League Supports S. 2754”, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lww.org/content/league-supports-s-2754>, viewed 05/27/16

³⁷ “League Encourages President to Veto Omnibus Appropriations Bill”, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lww.org/content/league-encourages-president-veto-omnibus-appropriations-bill>, viewed 05/17/16

eliminate new accounts created in the must-pass, end of 2014 spending bill that political parties can use for a wide range of purposes, including party conventions. These new accounts allow donors to contribute \$777,600 every year to the parties. Over the course of a two-year election cycle, wealthy donors could send more than \$1.5 million to a political party.

In March 2015, the League of Women Voters opposed H.R. 412 and H.R. 195, sending a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration urging Representatives to vote NO on **H.R. 412** and **H.R. 195**. These bills would repeal the presidential public financing system and terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC).³⁸

In April 2015, the LWVUS urged Congress to support H.R. 425, the Stop Super PAC-Candidate Coordination Act. They wrote,

“The League of Women Voters strongly urges you to cosponsor and support HR 425, the “Stop Super PAC -- Candidate Coordination Act” introduced by Representatives David Price and Chris Van Hollen. The legislation would stop Super PACs from circumventing candidate contribution limits and strengthen the rules prohibiting coordination between candidates and outside spending groups. The explosive growth of Super PACs is undermining the integrity and effectiveness of our Nation’s anti-corruption campaign finance laws. These PACs raise and spend unlimited contributions and serve as vehicles for donors and candidates to bypass and eviscerate the contribution limits that apply to a candidate’s campaign – limits enacted by Congress and upheld by the Supreme Court to prevent corruption.”³⁹

This bill remains in Committee.

In June 2015, Lobbying and Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2015, sponsored by Senator Bennet was introduced. The LWVUS again joined the partnership of Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy 21, Public Citizen, Sunlight Foundation and U.S. PIRG in asking Senators to cosponsor and support S. 1480:

“One of the principal ways in which Washington lobbyists gain improper influence is by soliciting and providing, or bundling, large amounts of campaign funds for members of Congress. Such large contributions are illegal if made directly, but lobbyists bypass the contribution limit by bundling contributions. Under the legislation, the total combined amount that a registered lobbyist would be allowed to directly contribute and to bundle is \$2,700 per election, the current individual contribution limit for federal candidates. Thus, under this reform, a lobbyist could not bundle a total amount of contributions greater than the individual contribution limit.”⁴⁰

³⁸ “League Opposes H.R. 412 and H.R. 195”, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lww.org/content/league-opposes-hr-412-and-hr-195>, viewed 05/27/16

³⁹ “League Urges Support of HR 425, the Stop Super PAC-Candidate Coordination Act, *League of Women Voters*, <http://lww.org/content/league-urges-support-hr-425-stop-super-pac-candidate-coordination-act>, viewed 12/18/15

⁴⁰ “Co-Sponsor Lobbying and Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2015”, *CommonCause.org*, <http://www.commoncause.org/policy-and-litigation/letters-to-government-officials/co-sponsor-lobbying-and.pdf>, viewed 02/14/16

Joint Resolutions to Amend the U.S. Constitution

In the meantime, here have been over 40 joint resolutions introduced in the U.S. House and Senate since 2011 calling for Constitutional amendments in response to Supreme Court rulings that have nullified campaign finance laws, such as *Citizen’s United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC)*⁴¹. A joint resolution is a measure approved by both houses of the United States Congress and signed by the President. Similar to an Act of Congress, the joint resolution is used to approve or initiate foreign policy Actions, to grant a single appropriations proposal, and to propose amendments to the Constitution.⁴²

Since the Supreme Court’s decisions are of constitutional (not statutory) interpretation, amending the Constitution is an option for reversing the effects of rulings. Such resolutions require approval by two-thirds of both the House and the Senate, and they require ratification by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states.⁴³

Joint resolutions to amend the Constitution proposed since 2011 are listed on the following pages along with charts for clarity. The charts and the explanation quoted below are from the League of Women Voters document *Money in Politics: Developing a Common Understanding of the Issues, A Primer for Engagement of League Members and Fellow Citizens – 2014*, p.44.⁴⁴

The ... resolutions vary considerably. For example, some of the resolutions give Congress very broad power to regulate both contributions and expenditures by candidates, political parties, political Action committees (PACs), and individuals. Some limit the application of such regulation to corporations and other business-related entities. Because Citizens United invalidated state as well as federal laws, most proposals give both Congress and the states some power to regulate in this area. Instead of permitting Congress to regulate, (some) of the proposals directly prohibit corporate and labor union expenditures. Although Citizens United was the flash point for introducing these resolutions, some of them suggest remedies that go beyond merely restoring the prior status quo. Some would affect corporate rights well beyond the sphere of political campaigns. Others would affect the contributions and expenditures of entities beyond those of corporations and labor unions. Some of the resolutions use terms such as “contributions” and “expenditures” without definition, and it is unclear how the courts will interpret them.

None of the Joint Resolutions in the U.S. House and Senate have reached the floor for discussion.⁴⁵

⁴¹ *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010), <http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/09pdf/08-205.pdf>, viewed 12/16/15

⁴² Joint Resolution, *The American Heritage® New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, Third Edition*. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005. 21 Sep. 2015., <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/joint-resolution> viewed 05/27/16

⁴³ “Money in Politics: Developing a Common Understanding of the Issues, League of Women Voters, <http://lwv.org/files/cfr%20Primer%20Final%20May%2027.pdf>, viewed 12/18/15

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ See Congress.gov for the status of each Joint Resolution.

**Overview of Proposed Congressional Resolutions responding to Citizens United,
112th Congress (2011-2013)**

Bill #	Rights of "Natural Persons"	"Political Speech" of Corporations	Regulate Expenditures and Disbursements by Corporations	Ban Corporate Contributions and Expenditures	Regulate Expenditures and Contributions	Expenditures Not Protected Speech	Freedom of the Press	Cosponsors From WA State
HJR 88	x						x	McDermott, Smith
HJR 90	x			x	x		x	McDermott, Smith, Larsen
SJR 33	x			x	x		x	
HJR 7		x						
HJR 6		x			x			
HJR 92			x					
HJR 82			x				x	
HJR 97						x		
HJR 8					x			
HJR 72					x			Smith
HJR 78					x			McDermott
HJR 86					x			McDermott
SJR 29					x			
SJR 35					x		x	

Provisions in Resolutions before the 113th Congress (2013-2015)

HJR 12 (Kaptur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress/States shall have the power to limit both contributions and expenditures in support of or opposition to a candidate for nomination or election to Federal/State office.
HJR 13 (Kaptur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The First Amendment does not apply to corporations and other business organizations with respect to contributions or expenditures of funds related to elections.
HJR 14 (Kaptur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combines HJR 13 and HJR 12.
HJR 20 (McGovern) SJR 19 (T. Udall) (not quite identical)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress/States shall have the power to limit both contributions and expenditures in support of or opposition to a candidate for nomination or election to Federal/State office. <p style="text-align: center;">WA cosponsors of HJR 20: Reps. McDermott and Heck WA cosponsors of SJR 19: Sens. Murray and Cantwell</p>
HJR 21 (McGovern) SJR 18 (Tester)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The words people, persons, citizens as used in the Constitution do not apply to corporate entities, which are subject to regulation by Congress and the states. • Nothing herein to be construed as limiting the people's inalienable rights to free speech, freedom of the press, freedom of association, etc. <p style="text-align: center;">WA cosponsors of HJR 21: Reps. McDermott and Smith</p>
HJR 25 (Edwards)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing in this Constitution shall prohibit Congress and the states from regulating and restricting expenditures by corporate entities for political activity. • Nothing herein shall be construed to abridge freedom of the press. <p style="text-align: center;">WA cosponsors of HJR 25: Reps. McDermott and Heck</p>
HJR 29 (Nolan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rights protected by the Constitution are those of natural persons only. The rights of corporate and other entities are determined by statute and are not inalienable. • Congress/States/local jurisdictions shall have the power to limit both contributions and expenditures for candidates and ballot measures. The judiciary shall not construe the expenditure of money as protected speech. • Nothing herein shall be construed to abridge freedom of the press.
HJR 31 (Schiff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing in this Constitution shall prohibit Congress and the states from regulating and restricting expenditures by corporate entities for political activity, or from enacting systems of public funding including those with "trigger" mechanisms.

HJR 32 (Schrader)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress/States shall have the power to limit both contributions and expenditures in support of or opposition to a candidate for Federal/State office or a ballot measure, provided statutes enacted with respect to individuals treat all individuals the same, and those enacted with respect to collective entities treat all such entities the same. • Non-citizens may not contribute funds or make expenditures to influence the outcome of elections.
HJR 34 (Deutch) SJR 11 (Sanders)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to make contributions and expenditures to influence elections, like the right to vote, shall apply only to natural persons. • Congress and the states may act to protect the integrity and fairness of elections, to limit the corrupting effect of private wealth, and guarantee the dependence of elected officials on the public alone through measures such as public financing and disclosure. • Nothing herein shall be construed to abridge freedom of the press. WA cosponsors of HJR 34: DelBene, Kilmer and Larsen
SJR 5 (Baucus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress/States shall have the power to regulate contributions and expenditures by corporations, for-profit organizations and labor unions relative to elections. • Nothing herein shall be construed to abridge freedom of the press.

Joint Resolutions from the 113th Congress (2013-2014) not included in the chart above are noted below

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS in 2014

H.J.RES.119, introduced on July 15, 2014 by Reps. Ted Deutch, Donna Edwards, and James P. McGovern. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections. WA Representatives DelBene, McDermott, Larsen, Heck, Kilmer, and Smith co-sponsored this resolution. Died.

H.J.RES.107, introduced on January 16, 2014 by Rep. John Yarmuth. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures with respect to Federal elections. Died.

H.J.RES.121, introduced on July 29, 2014 by Rep. John Carney. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to the authority of Congress and the States to regulate political campaign contributions and expenditures, including independent expenditures. Died.

Joint Resolutions before 114th Congress (2015-2016)

SENATE RESOLUTIONS in 2015

S.J.Res. 5, *Democracy for All Amendment*, introduced on January 21, 2015 by Sen. Tom Udall. Authorizes Congress and the states to set reasonable limits on the raising and spending of money by candidates and others to influence elections. Grants Congress and the states the power to implement and enforce this

amendment by appropriate legislation. Allows them to distinguish between natural persons and corporations or other artificial entities created by law, including by prohibiting such entities from spending money to influence elections. Currently in the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. WA Senator Patty Murray cosponsored this bill. This bill is alive and may be considered at any time during the 114th Congress (through 2016).

S.J.Res. 4, introduced on January 21, 2015 by Sen. Bernie Sanders. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to restore the rights of the American people that were taken away by the Supreme Court's decision in the Citizens United case and related decisions, to protect the integrity of our elections, and to limit the corrosive influence of money in our democratic process. This bill is alive and may be considered at any time during the 114th Congress (through 2016).

S.J.Res. 7, introduced on February 4, 2015 by Sen. Jon Tester. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate corporations, limited liability companies, and other corporate entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state. This bill is alive and may be considered at any time during the 114th Congress (through 2016).

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS in 2015

H.J.Res. 22, *Democracy for All Amendment*, introduced on January 20, 2015 by Reps. Ted Deutch, Donna Edwards, and James P. McGovern. Authorizes Congress and the states to set reasonable limits on the raising and spending of money by candidates and others to influence elections. Grants Congress and the states the power to implement and enforce this amendment by appropriate legislation. Allows them to distinguish between natural persons and corporations or other artificial entities created by law, including by prohibiting such entities from spending money to influence elections. Declares that nothing in this amendment shall be construed to grant Congress or the states the power to abridge the freedom of the press. Currently in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice. WA Representatives DelBene, McDermott, Larsen, Heck, Kilmer, and Smith co-sponsored this resolution. This bill is alive and may be considered at any time during the 114th Congress (through 2016).

H.J.Res. 24, introduced on January 21, 2015 by Rep. John Carney. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to the authority of Congress and the States to regulate political campaign contributions and expenditures, including independent expenditures. Currently in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice. This bill is alive and may be considered at any time during the 114th Congress (through 2016).

H.J.Res. 23, introduced on January 21, 2015 by Rep. James P. McGovern. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate corporations, limited liability companies or other corporate entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state. WA Representative Jim McDermott co-sponsored this resolution. Currently in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice. This bill is alive and may be considered at any time during the 114th Congress (through 2016).

H.J.Res. 31, introduced on February 11, 2015 by Rep. Jerry McNerney. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding the permissible sources of funding for elections for public office and State ballot measures. Currently in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution and

Civil Justice. This bill is alive and may be considered at any time during the 114th Congress (through 2016).

H.J.Res. 36, introduced on February 26, 2015 by Rep. Donna Edwards. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate the expenditure of funds for political activity by corporations. Currently in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice. This bill is alive and may be considered at any time during the 114th Congress (through 2016).

H.J.Res. 38, introduced on March 17, 2015 by Rep. Marcy Kaptur. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States waiving the application of the first article of amendment to the political speech of corporations and other business organizations with respect to the disbursement of funds in connection with public elections and granting Congress and the States the power to establish limits on contributions and expenditures in elections for public office. Currently in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice. This bill is alive and may be considered at any time during the 114th Congress (through 2016).

H.J.Res. 46, introduced on April 21, 2015 by Rep. Kurt Schrader. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States giving Congress power to regulate campaign contributions for Federal elections. Currently in the House Committee on the Judiciary; WA Representative DelBene is on this committee. This bill is alive and may be considered at any time during the 114th Congress (through 2016).

H.J.Res. 48, introduced on April 28, 2015 by Rep. Richard M. Nolan. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the rights extended by the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only. Currently in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice. This bill is alive and may be considered at any time during the 114th Congress (through 2016).

H.J.Res. 53, introduced on May 14, 2015 by Rep. John Yarmuth. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures with respect to Federal elections. Currently in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice. This bill is alive and may be considered at any time during the 114th Congress (through 2016).

H.J.Res. 5, introduced on June 24, 2015 by Rep. Adam Schiff. Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to the authority of Congress and the States to regulate contributions and expenditures in political campaigns and to enact public financing systems for such campaigns. Currently in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice. This bill is alive and may be considered at any time during the 114th Congress (through 2016).

TABLE 1:

**LEGISLATION PROPOSED IN CONGRESS AFTER THE CITIZENS UNITED CASE TO ADDRESS
CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND TRANSPARENCY**

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
Proposed in 2010	H.R. 4537	1/27/10	Shareholder Protection Act of 2010	To amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require shareholder authorization before a public company may make certain political expenditures, and for other purposes	Rep. Capuano	Died in House Financial Services Committee	Rep. Heck on Comm.
	H.R. 4790	3/9/10	Shareholder Protection Act of 2010	To amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require shareholder authorization before a public company may make certain political expenditures, and for other purposes	Rep. Capuano	Died in House Financial Services and House Admin Committee	
Proposed in 2011	H.R. 359	1/20/11		To reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns ...and party conventions	Rep. Cole	Passed the House 239-160	Reps. Voting YES: Herrera Beutler, Hastings, McMorris Rodgers, Reichert; Reps. Voting NO: Inslee, Larsen, Dicks, McDermott, Smith
	S. 194	1/26/11		To reduce Federal spending and	Sen. McConnell	Died in the Senate Finance Committee	Sen. Cantwell on Comm.

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
				the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns ...and party conventions			
	H.R. 1404	4/6/11	Fair Elections Now Act	To reform the financing of House elections, and for other purposes	Rep. John Larson	Died in the House Comm. on House Admin.	Co-sponsored by Reps. Smith and McDermott
	S. 750	4/6/11	Fair Elections Now Act	A bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes	Sen. Durbin	Died in the Senate Comm. on Rules and Admin.	
	S. 1100	5/26/11		A bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit inserting politics into the Federal acquisition process by prohibiting the submission of political contribution information as a condition of receiving a Federal contract	Sen. Susan Collins	Died in Senate Homeland Security and Gov't'l Affairs Comm.	
	H.R. 2008	5/26/11		To amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit inserting politics into the Federal acquisition process by prohibiting the submission of political contribution information as a	Rep. Issa	Died in House Oversight and Govt. Reform Comm.	

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
				condition of receiving a Federal contract			
	H.R. 2517	7/13/11		To amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require shareholder authorization before a public company may make certain political expenditures, and for other purposes	Rep. Capuano	Died in House Financial Services Sub-Comm.	Co-sponsored by Rep. McDermott
	S. 1360	7/13/11		To amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require shareholder authorization before a public company may make certain political expenditures, and for other purposes	Sen. Menendez	Died in Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	
	H.R. 3463	11/17/11		To reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions and by terminating the Election Assistance Commission	Rep. Gregg Harper	Passed in the House; Died in Senate Rules and Admin. Comm.	Voting NO: Reps. Inslee, Larsen, Dicks, McDermott, Smith; voting YES: Reps. Herrera Beutler, Hastings, McMorris Rodgers, Reichert.
	H.R. 414	11/25/11	Presidential Funding Act	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to	Rep. Price	Died in House Ways and Means Comm.	Reps. Reichert and McDermott

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
				reform the system of public financing for Presidential elections, and for other purposes			on Committee.
Proposed in 2012	S. 3312	6/19/12	Presidential Funding Act	A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the system of public financing for Presidential elections, and for other purposes	Sen. Udall	Died in Senate Rules & Admin. Comm.	
	H.R. 6426	9/14/12	Grassroots Democracy Act of 2012	To reform the financing of Congressional elections by encouraging grassroots participation in the funding of campaigns, and for other purposes	Rep. Sarbanes	Died in House Ways & Means Comm.	Reps. Reichert and McDermott on the Committee.
	H.R. 5912	9/19/12		To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions	Rep. Cole	Passed the House 310-95; did not pass-the Senate	Voting YES: Reps. Herrera Beutler, Hastings, McMorris Rodgers, Dicks, Reichert; Voting NO: Reps. Larsen, McDermott, Smith
	H.R. 6448	2/20/12	Empowering Citizens Act	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the system of public	Rep. David Price	Died in House Ways & Means Comm.	Reps. Reichert and McDermott on the Committee.

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
				financing for Presidential elections, to establish a system of public financing for Congressional elections, to promote the disclosure of disbursements made in coordination with campaigns for election for Federal office, and for other purposes			
Proposed in 2013	H.R. 94	1/3/13		To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions	Rep. Cole	Died in the House Admin. Comm.	
	H.R. 260	1/15/13		To reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions and by terminating the Election Assistance Commission	Rep. Gregg Harper	Died in House Ways & Means Comm.	Reps. Reichert and McDermott on the Committee.
	H.R. 268	1/15/13	Grassroots Democracy Act of 2013	A bill to reform the financing of Congressional elections by encouraging grassroots	Rep. Sarbanes	Died in House Ways & Means Comm.	Reps. Reichert and McDermott on the Committee.

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
				participation in the funding of campaigns, and for other purposes			
	H.R. 269	1/15/13	Fair Elections Now Act	A bill to reform the financing of House elections, and for other purposes	Rep. Yarmuth	Died in House Ways & Means Comm.	Reps. Reichert and McDermott on the Committee.
	H.R. 270	1/15/13	Empowering Citizens Act	A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the system of public financing for Presidential elections, to establish a system of public financing for Congressional elections, to promote the disclosure of disbursements made in coordination with campaigns for election for Federal office, and for other purposes	Rep. Price	Died in House Ways & Means Comm.	Co-sponsored by Rep. McDermott; Reps. Reichert and McDermott on the Committee.
	S. 375	2/25/13	Senate Campaign Disclosure Parity Act	A bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form (The Act amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require all election-	Sen. Tester	Died after being reported out of the Senate Comm. on Rules and Admin.	Co-sponsored by Sen. Cantwell

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
				related designations, statements, and reports required to be filed under the Act to be filed directly with the Federal Election Commission (FEC).			
	H.R. 1626	4/18/13		To amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from issuing rules requiring the disclosure of an issuer's expenditures for political activities	Rep. Wagner	Died in House Financial Services Comm.	Rep. Heck on the Committee
	S. 824	4/25/13	Shareholder Protection Act of 2013	To amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require shareholder authorization before a public company may make certain political expenditures, and for other purposes	Sen. Menendez	Died in Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	
	H.R. 1734	4/25/13	Shareholder Protection Act of 2013	To amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require shareholder authorization before a public company may make certain political expenditures,	Rep. Capuano	Died in House Financial Services Comm.	Co-sponsored by Rep. Larsen; Rep. Heck on the Committee

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
				and for other purposes			
	H.R. 1994	5/15/13	Election Assistance Commission Termination Act	To terminate the Election Assistance Commission	Rep. Gregg Harper	Died in House Administration Committee	
	H.R. 2019	5/16/13	Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act	To eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes	Rep. Gregg Harper	Passed the House; Passed the Senate by unanimous consent; Signed into law by Pres. Obama	Co-sponsored by Reps. Herrera Beutler, McMorris Rodgers, Hastings and Reichert; Reps. McMorris Rodgers, Herrera Beutler, and McDermott did not vote; Rick Larsen voted NO; Reps. DelBene, Heck, Kilmer, Smith, Reichert and Hastings voted YES
Proposed in 2014	H.R. 3865	1/14/14	Stop Targeting of Political Beliefs by the IRS Act of 2014	To prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from modifying the standard for determining whether an organization is operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare	Rep. Camp	Passed the House	Co-sponsored by Rep. Reichert; Reps. Herrera Beutler, Larsen, McMorris Rodgers, Reichert, and

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
				for purposes of section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986			Hastings voted YES; DelBene, Kilmer, McDermott, Heck and Smith voted NO.
	H.R. 20	2/5/14	Government By the People Act of 2014	To reform the financing of Congressional elections by broadening participation by small dollar donors, and for other purposes	Rep. Sarbanes	Died in House Ways & Means Comm.	Co-sponsored by Reps. DelBene, Kilmer, McDermott, Smith, Heck and Larsen; Reps. Reichert and McDermott on the Committee.
	S. 2011	2/11/14	Stop Targeting of Political Beliefs by the IRS Act of 2014	To prohibit the IRS from modifying the standard for determining whether an organization is operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare for purposes of section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986	Sen. Jeff Flake	Died in the Senate Committee on Finance	
	S. 2023	2/12/14	Fair Elections Now Act	To reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes	Sen. Durbin	Died in Senate Committee on Finance	Sen. Cantwell on the Committee.
	S. 2754	7/31/14	Lobbying and Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2014	To provide limits on bundling, to reform the lobbyist registration	Sen. Bennet	Died in Senate Rules and Admin. Comm.	

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
				process, and for other purposes			
	H.R. 5641	8/18/14		Legislation concerning amending the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA) to treat as a campaign contribution any payment made by any person (other than a candidate, an authorized committee of a candidate, or a political committee of a political party) for a coordinated expenditure which is not otherwise treated as a contribution	Rep. Price	Died in House Admin. Comm.	
	H.R. 83	1/3/13	The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, also known as The Omnibus Appropriations Bill	Provides appropriations for most of the federal government through the end of FY2015 and continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security through February 27, 2015	Rep. Donna Christensen	Passed the House 219-206; passed the Senate 56-40. Signed into law by Pres. Obama, 12/16/14	Reps. DelBene, Larsen, Kilmer, McDermott and Heck voted NO; Reps. Herrera Beutler, Hastings, McMorris Rodgers and Reichert voted YES; Rep. Smith did not vote; Sen. Cantwell voted NO;

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
							Sen. Murray voted YES
Proposed in 2015	H.R. 154	1/6/15	Close the Floodgates Act	To repeal the provisions of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, which amended the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to establish separate contribution limits for contributions made to national parties to support Presidential nominating conventions, national party headquarters buildings, and recounts	Sen. Kilmer	Currently in the House Comm. House Admin.	Co-sponsored by Reps. McDermott, Larsen, Smith, DelBene, and Heck.
	H.R. 195	1/7/15	Election Assistance Commission Termination Act	To terminate the Election Assistance Commission	Rep. Harper	Currently in the House Comm. House Admin	
	H.R. 412	1/20/15		To reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns	Rep. Cole	Currently in House Ways & Means Comm.	Reps. Reichert and McDermott on the Committee.
	S. 214	1/21/15		A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require shareholder authorization	Sen. Menendez	Currently in the Senate Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.	

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
				before a public company may make certain political expenditures, and for other purposes			
	H.R. 446	1/21/15	Shareholder Protection Act of 2015	A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require shareholder authorization before a public company may make certain political expenditures, and for other purposes	Rep. Capuano	Currently in the House Comm. on Financial Services and Comm. on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs	Rep. Heck is on the Financial Services Comm.
	H.R. 425	1/21/15	Stop Super PAC-Candidate Coordination Act	To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the treatment of coordinated expenditures as contributions to candidates, and for other purposes.	Rep. Price	Currently in the House Comm. on House Admin.	
	H.R. 20	1/21/15	Government By the People Act of 2015	To reform the financing of Congressional elections by broadening participation by small dollar donors, and for other purposes	Rep. Sarbanes	Currently in House Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce Subcomm.on Communications and Technology, and House Admin.	Co-sponsored by Reps. DelBene, Kilmer, McDermott, Smith, Heck and Larsen. Reps. Reichert and McGovern on Ways and Means
	H.R. 424	1/21/15		To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to	Rep. Price	Currently in the House Comms. on House Admin. and	Reps. Reichert and McDermott

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
				reform the system of public financing for Presidential elections, to establish a system of public financing for Congressional elections, to promote the disclosure of disbursements made in coordination with campaigns for election for Federal office, and for other purposes		Ways and Means	serve on House Ways and Means
	S. 366	2/4/15	Senate Campaign Disclosure Parity Act	Amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require all election-related designations, statements, and reports required to be filed under the Act to be filed directly with the Federal Election Commission	Sen. Tester	Currently in the Senate Comm. on Rules and Admin.	
	H.R. 2143	4/30/15	EMPOWER Act of 2015 (Empowering Mass Participation to Offset the Wealthy's Electoral Role)	A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the system of public financing for Presidential elections, and for other purposes	Rep. Price	Currently in the House Comm. on House Admin.	
	S. 1176	4/30/15	EMPOWER Act of 2015	A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code	Sen. Udall	Currently in the Senate Comm.	

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
				of 1986 to reform the system of public financing for Presidential elections, and for other purposes		on Rules and Admin.	
	H.R. 2125	4/30/15	Keeping Our Campaigns Honest Act of 2015	To direct the Federal Communications Commission to revise its sponsorship identification rules so as to require the disclosure of the names of significant donors to persons paying for or furnishing broadcast matter or origination cablecasting matter that is political matter or matter involving the discussion of a controversial issue of public importance	Rep. Yarmuth	Currently in the House Energy and Commerce Comm.	Rep. McMorris Rodgers is on this Committee
	S. 1260	5/7/15	Sunshine in Sponsorship Identification Act	To direct the Federal Communications Commission to revise and update its sponsorship identification rules applicable to commercial and political advertising	Sen. Ben Nelson	Currently in the Senate Comm. on Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Sen. Cantwell is on this Committee
	S 1480	6/2/15	Lobbying and Campaign	To provide limits on bundling, to	Sen. Bennet	Currently in the Senate Comm.	

Year	Bill #	Date	Title		Sponsor	Status	WA Member Congress
			Finance Reform Act of 2015	reform the lobbying registration process, and for other purposes		on Rules and Admin.	
	H.R. 2931	6/25/15	Restoring Integrity to America's Elections Act	To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reduce the number of members of the Federal Election Commission from 6 to 5, to revise the method of selection and terms of service of members of the Commission, to distribute the powers of the Commission between the Chair and the remaining members, and for other purposes	Rep. Kilmer	Currently in the House Comm. on House Admin.	