

The 20% Solution - Overview -

It's a very simple idea.

Most members of Congress have one overriding goal: to get elected, and then reelected. Campaigns now cost obscene amounts of money. The really big bucks come from the largest corporations, narrowly focused interest groups, and extremely rich individuals. The people behind the money are not stupid—they expect, and get, favors in return for their money. This is legal bribery. Also, a politician can spend as much of their own money as they want to—if a multimillionaire, they can spend millions of dollars to buy an office. It is unlimited.

This so-called system is the opposite of democracy. Americans are so disgusted that in any given contest more registered voters stay at home than vote for any one candidate. If things don't change, and soon, the U.S. will become a banana republic where the richest 1% control everything. The rest of us will have to make do with the crumbs.

There are many reform proposals that look to change this situation. Most have merits, but, in the end, the ONLY real solution is to get **Money Outta Politics (MOP)**. It really is that simple.

Here's the plan: *the 20% solution*

Citizens commit to one-issue voting: the MOP bill. If a candidate pledges, in writing, to vote for MOP, a voter will deliberately put aside all the other political, economic, and social issues for that one election. No matter where the candidate stands on ANY other issue, if he/she supports MOP, you vote for; if not, against. Incumbents who refuse to endorse the MOP legislation are turned out of office. This can be

tough for many people. An incumbent may be good on many issues. An opposing candidate may stand for things you despise. But if that candidate is the only one who pledges to support MOP, or the incumbent will not, he/she will get your vote. Why? Because until we get money out of politics, ALL other issues will continue to be corrupted by big money campaign contributions.

Single-issue strategic voting was used successfully about 90 years ago. The issue was the prohibition of alcohol which was passed as a constitutional amendment even though the majority of the population were drinkers as were a bigger majority of Congress. The goodness or badness of prohibition is irrelevant. It is the strategy that is important. It took only 10-20% of voters to demand a do-or-die vote to get prohibition passed. A candidate voted for prohibition because if they voted against it, the very worst thing in their life had a good chance of happening: they would be voted out and have to look for a real job. OK, but the majority should rule, not 20%. Isn't this strategy itself anti-democratic? No, it is not. Polls consistently show a majority of Americans believe that the system is broken. We are in crisis. It is time for a smaller group of committed citizens to take a leadership position. Exactly as did the patriots who founded our country. Patriots defend the Constitution against its enemies both foreign and domestic, whether from violence or corruption. These patriots, united in support of MOP, are the 20% solution.

Aside from fear—an excellent motivator for those having everything to lose—the passing of MOP would liberate those representatives who still believe in doing good for their constituents. A representative or senator will typically spend close to 50% of their time soliciting funds. Once MOP is passed they will be able to devote this wasted time to actually reading the bills they vote on and becoming better at serving we, the people.

MoneyOuttaPolitics.org

RB

I - If it seems like everything has been getting worse for Americans while a tiny minority are getting very rich, that's because everything is getting worse while a tiny minority is getting rich.

II - This tiny minority of the super rich finances and colludes with the government which, in exchange for kickbacks from a share of the profits, opens the treasury and lets the rich help themselves while Americans suffer both the costs of and the taxes to operate this organized system of tyranny.