

MONEY AND POLITICS

THE GRADUAL DISTORTION OF AMERICAN POLITICS AND ITS IMPACT ON POVERTY – WHAT DOES THE CHURCH HAVE TO SAY?

The current political climate of the USA is a system that fails to properly advocate for the needs of all citizens especially those living in poverty. The process of undervaluing the voice of people without wealth has been gradual, misunderstood or under-acknowledged. LOPPW organized this guide to build awareness about how lobbying works and which factors are in play in modern society. When looking at why we should care and take action, we will draw on the Bible, Lutheran teachings, and our values as people of faith in the 21st century.

...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Mt. 25:40

Money in Politics doesn't buy elections, it buys access.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, in 9 out of 10 congressional elections the candidate that spends more wins.

As of the end of February Super PACs had raised \$389 million to spend on the primary elections.

This past fall the Wisconsin State Legislature voted to disband the non-partisan Government Accountability Board and loosened campaign finance rules.

Go to the full Money and Politics guide online for more information: www.loppw.org under LOPPW Advocacy Tools.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Terms to Know

Lobbying: The process of influencing public and government policy at all levels: federal, state, and local.

Special Interest Group: An association of individuals or organizations with shared concerns that attempts to influence public policy.

Political Action Committee (PAC): A political committee created for the purpose of raising and spending money to elect or defeat candidates

Redistricting: The process of drawing new electoral district boundaries in order to make districts have the same population.

Gerrymandering: The drawing of constituency boundaries in a way that a certain party will win more seats than its opponent

Citizens United: A case decided in 2010 by the Supreme Court which opened the door for uncapped spending in elections as long as there was no direct coordination with a candidate