

Definition of the Problem or Issue

This project will address the influence that campaign contributions have on the spread of information and election outcomes. The rising prominence of money in political campaigns and judicial rulings, such as Citizens United that have opened the door for essentially unlimited donations and spending, are undermining the integrity and effectiveness of the U.S. federal government. A recent New York Times poll found that 84% of respondents to the poll reported that they felt money had too much influence in politics, and only 4% believed that politicians never promoted policies to directly benefit their campaign donors ("Americans' Views on Money in Politics", 2015).