



Plutocrats United: Campaign Money, the Supreme Court, and the Distortion of American Elections

By Richard L. Hasen

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From a leading expert on election law, a compelling answer to the dilemmas of campaign finance reform

Campaign financing is one of today's most divisive political issues. The left asserts that the electoral process is rife with corruption. The right protests that the real aim of campaign limits is to suppress political activity and protect incumbents. Meanwhile, money flows freely on both sides. In *Plutocrats United*, Richard Hasen argues that both left and right avoid the key issue of the new Citizens United era: balancing political inequality with free speech.

The Supreme Court has long held that corruption and its appearance are the only reasons to constitutionally restrict campaign funds. Progressives often agree but have a much broader view of corruption. Hasen argues for a new focus and way forward: if the government is to ensure robust political debate, the Supreme Court should allow limits on money in politics to prevent those with great economic power from distorting the political process.

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Editorial Review

Review

“A war manual designed to equip and fortify would-be reformers for a brutal and uncertain struggle . . . but [one] that must be waged to prevent our democracy from sinking deeper and deeper into plutocracy.”—Greg Sargent, *Washington Post*
(Greg Sargent *The Washington Post*)

“*Plutocrats United* will mark Hasen certainly as the dean of this field.”—Lawrence Lessig, author of *Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress--and a Plan to Stop It*
(Lawrence Lessig)

“There is no better analyst or interpreter of America's campaign finance laws and regime than Rick Hasen. *Plutocrats United* is Hasen at his finest: a cogent, reasoned critique of what the Supreme Court has and has not done to shape money and American politics, and a roadmap to a better system if and when there is a Court willing to respond to reason.”—Norman Ornstein, co-author, *It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism*
(Norman Ornstein)

"Rick Hasen is the foremost scholar working today to make the case for a robust conception of political equality in thinking about the regulation of campaign finance. In this new book he displays all of his well-recognized skills and deep learning. It is clear and readable, both scholarly and accessible, and it will be highly influential in academic and policy development communities, and in the courts. There is no more authoritative source for anyone who seeks a thorough treatment of all the reasons one might care about equality in this era of mega-donors and Super PACs."--Bob Bauer, former White House Counsel and Professor of Practice, New York University School of Law
(Bob Bauer)

“While others complain about the corruption of money in politics, Rick Hasen, America's leading expert on the electoral process, offers smart, innovative solutions. This book is a "must-read" for anyone who wants to understand the roots of America's profound political inequality -- and wants to do something about it.”—Adam Winkler, UCLA School of Law
(Adam Winkler)

"*Plutocrats United* should become the go-to volume for anyone wanting to understand the role of money in American politics: how we got to where we are today, and a realistic assessment of the chances for improving the current situation. Hasen deftly interweaves fine-grained details with a lucid big-picture perspective. Even more impressively, he eschews simplistic solutions, recognizing that regulatory line-drawing in this area necessarily will involve a careful balancing of competing constitutional values.”--Edward B. Foley, Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University
(Edward B. Foley)

"Eminently readable and compelling."—Lawrence Norden, *The National Book Review*
(Lawrence Norden *The National Book Review*)

"A masterful blend of legal reasoning and political analysis, Hasen's new book is the most thorough, nuanced, and compelling treatment I have read of how money in elections reduces political equality and thereby diminishes American democracy. He unabashedly proposes a reform strategy that goes to the heart of the problem."—Thomas E. Mann, co-author of *It's Even Worse Than It Looks*
(Thomas E. Mann)

"Excellent . . . [makes] the case that equality, not corruption, ought to be the justification for regulating campaign finance . . . I agree wholeheartedly."—Lee Drutman, *Vox*
(Lee Drutman *Vox*)

"An important new book."—David Cole, *Atlantic*
(David Cole *The Atlantic*)

About the Author

Richard L. Hasen is Chancellor's Professor of Law and Political Science at the University of California, Irvine. In 2013 he was named one of the 100 most influential lawyers in America by the *National Law Journal*. He lives in Studio City, CA.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kelli Ross:

Plutocrats United: Campaign Money, the Supreme Court, and the Distortion of American Elections can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to place every word into joy arrangement in writing Plutocrats United: Campaign Money, the Supreme Court, and the Distortion of American Elections however doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one of it. This great information may drawn you into fresh stage of crucial thinking.

Amy Arwood:

Can you one of the book lovers? If so, do you ever feeling doubt while you are in the book store? Try to pick one book that you never know the inside because don't assess book by its handle may doesn't work here is difficult job because you are scared that the inside maybe not while fantastic as in the outside seem likes. Maybe you answer could be Plutocrats United: Campaign Money, the Supreme Court, and the Distortion of American Elections why because the wonderful cover that make you consider concerning the content will not disappoint a person. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside or maybe cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly direct you to pick up this book.

Brent Whitty:

The book untitled Plutocrats United: Campaign Money, the Supreme Court, and the Distortion of American

Elections contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the girl idea with easy way. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was authored by famous author. The author brings you in the new age of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice go through.

Joan James:

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