

Money in NC Politics

Today, corporations and big donors are using the political system in North Carolina to get richer — at your expense. Here's how:



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THE MONEY:
2010**

The Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling says corporations can now spend unlimited money on political activities.

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After the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision, corporations and wealthy donors used secretive groups to pour millions into the 2010 election across the US.

In NC, three rightwing groups – Americans for Prosperity, Civitas Action and Real Jobs NC – spent \$2.2 million in 22 General Assembly elections and helped Republicans capture the legislature for the first time in over a century.

All three groups are backed by Republican Art Pope of Raleigh, the biggest donor in NC. Pope owns Variety Wholesalers, a chain of discount shops that includes Maxway and Roses.

Other big donors in NC are tied to Duke Energy, Blue Cross, banks, doctors, loan companies, developers and various special interests that want favors from state lawmakers.

Pope and his allies want to abolish NC's "voter-owned" public financing programs that give qualified candidates an alternative way to campaign.



The cost of running for office in NC has increased fivefold in 15 years, giving big donors growing influence over elections.



NC lawmakers don't have an alternative way to fund their campaigns, like the public financing option for state judges.



As a result, too many lawmakers rely on wealthy donors – and then push bills to help corporations and donors get richer.



We need "voter owned" public financing for elections so elected leaders will work for voters, not wealthy special interests.

Two legislators who got \$580,000 worth of campaign support from Art Pope-backed groups are now sponsoring bills to kill Same Day Registration, reduce Early Voting, end Sunday voting and require voters to show a government photo ID – all goals of Art Pope's rightwing groups.

Another bill would overrule local ordinances and grant the billboard industry new powers to expand. Executives with five billboard firms have donated over \$150,000 to NC politicians in the past five years.

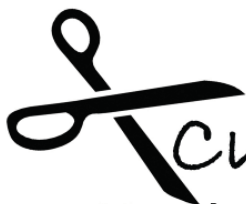
A bill would limit the ability of local governments to provide broadband services that might compete with private companies. Bill sponsors received thousands of dollars from PACs tied to AT&T, Time Warner Cable and CenturyLink.

The two biggest recipients of Blue Cross PAC donations are pushing a bill to give insurance companies a huge role in controlling how consumers buy insurance under the new national health reform law.

To follow other bills, visit:
<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/>

To follow the money, visit:
<http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/> or
<http://www.democracy-nc.org>

YOU pay the price for corporate-financed elections through higher healthcare costs, poor services and schools, weaker consumer and environmental protections, and less say in how your own government is run.



cut the strings!
North Carolina Can Do Better

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