

Who is responsible for this proposal (can be a collection of people, a person, a social justice team or a congregation.) ?

david delk

What is the Issue?

How can "we the people" develop an effective democracy?

Why do you want to work on this issue?

Oregon gets F in political financing. Oregon has among the most expensive elections in the nation. Democracy suffers as a result. I believe in democracy but it does not work when the system is corrupt, non-transparent, has vote counting done in secret, has gerrymandering of districts, restricts voting rights of felons and others, does not require majority voter election winners, restricts access for minor parties and has court decisions which declare that money is speech and corporations are people. In order to have improvements in social, economic and environmental issues, we need a democracy which represents the 99%. That can only happen with election/electoral reforms.

How is this issue grounded in Unitarian Universalist values? (See Grounding)

Democratic practices is one of the most fundamental principles in the 7 Principles. 1st P - inherent worth and dignity of every person. 2nd P - justice and equite in human relations 4th P - free and responsible search for truth 5th P - use of the democratic process in society at large 6th P - goal of community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

Who are potential partners? (See Allies)

Alliance for Democracy, Move to Amend, Oregon Democracy Coalition, Common Cause, Democracy Rising, OSPIRG

Does this have an Oregon focus and Oregon UU interest and support? (See Fit)

Oregon is one of 4 states with no limits on campaign contributions and has among the most expensive elections. It is very likely that during the next legislative session that a state constitutional amendment will be proposed and that specific limits on campaign contributions will be proposed.

What Campaign is this a part?

w Democracy

What makes this an issue to work on NOW? (Opportunity)

concerns about the condition of democracy have been prominent during this election cycle, especially regarding money in politics. Here in Oregon at least one candidate for SOS has expressed support for and understanding of the need to limit campaign contributions/expenditures and have full disclosure of who funds political ads. In Multnomah County, voters could enact real limits on campaign contributions. In Portland, the question of public funding for candidates meeting certain conditions is back in the public discourse. In Benton County, voters could approve of Ranked Choice Voting. People have expressed great concern; political leaders have expressed great concern. We have an opportunity to act while this is a issue of concern. This level of concern for democratic decision making is at an all time high point of interest and concern among the general population.