

Resolution #10

End Dark Money Interference in California Politics

WHEREAS:

Our democracy is being corrupted as money from corporations and wealthy individuals floods our politics and drowns out the voices of California workers, so-called “dark money” that is not tracked or reported; and

WHEREAS:

Corporations and the wealthy use their vast resources to influence candidates, voters and, finally, elected officials, so that they can rig the rules in their favor. They seek to advance their vision of an America where workers have no right to organize; where employers can cheat workers out of a fair day’s pay; where our workplaces are not safe; where the poor, people of color, seniors and students lose their right to vote; where the wealthy and well-connected do not have to pay their fair share of taxes; where public services are controlled by private corporations and where the gap between the rich and the rest of us grows wider every day; and

WHEREAS:

Unions are the voice of California’s values and are, at their core, political movements for economic and social justice. They are grassroots groups of people who come together to achieve shared policy objectives – not only at the bargaining table, but in the political sphere where economic and social policies are crafted, adopted and implemented. Unions exist to create a political reality where all individuals (collectively and individually) are entitled to social, economic and political justice; and

WHEREAS:

The 2010 Supreme Court decision *Citizens United* removed one of the last legal checks on corporate spending in our elections, creating even more opportunity for corporate special interests to corrupt our democracy; and

WHEREAS:

At the state level, entities like Californians Against Special Interests, as well as a network of think tanks such as the Freedom Foundation, under the umbrella of the State Policy Network, spend millions of dollars, so called “dark money,” collected from the wealthy and their corporations, to promote an agenda that includes opposing the American dream including the right to organize, overtime protections and minimum wage, weakening environmental laws, creating tax benefits for corporations; and

WHEREAS:

Current law allows corporations to hide expenditures for lobbying and large contributions to super PACs and allows the wealthy to influence politics by funneling their money through non-profit intermediaries like the Koch-backed group the Americans for Prosperity Foundation, which does not have to reveal its donors, leaving Californians in the dark about who is influencing our politics; and

WHEREAS:

Koch-backed groups such as the Freedom Foundation are attacking union members, including IHSS providers, in California in order to weaken our democratic institutions. They attempt to persuade and confuse workers into dropping their union membership while offering them nothing in return;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 supports the public disclosure of all corporate political payments including campaign contributions, state lobbying expenditures, trade association payments, and payments to organizations that engage in political campaigns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 supports overturning the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United* and calls for immediate action to end the dominance of our political system by corporations and the 1 percent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 opposes the interference of the Koch brothers and their organizations, as well as organizations like them, in California's democratic process and in the lives of union members and our families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That while the labor movement, working people and their institutions will never be able to compete dollar for dollar with the wealthy, UDW commits to bringing the power of our many intersectional movements, people and resources, to the forefront, organizing for justice for all people in America, and to end corporate influence in our political process and will work with the Clean Money campaign to end dark money.

SUBMITTED BY:

UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 Executive Board