



Corporate-Free Candidate Pledge

Whereas money is not speech, corporations are not people, and people must always come before profits, I, the undersigned candidate, do hereby pledge my allegiance to the People, not corporations; hence, I pledge to...

- 1) Reject campaign contributions from...
 - a) Corporations and other similar business entities (e.g., sole proprietorships, partnerships)
 - b) Corporate PACs (individual business PACs)
 - c) PACs affiliated with 501(c)(6) (“business association,” “trade group”) nonprofit organizations
 - d) PACs affiliated with 501(c)(4) (“social welfare”) nonprofit organizations clearly dedicated, in the judgment of the Feel the Bern San Fernando Valley Democratic Club (*hereinafter*, “Club”) in consultation with the candidate, to advancing private business interests or a general corporate agenda
 - e) Other business-related PACs (PACs comprised of businesses or individuals clearly dedicated, in the judgement of the Club, in consultation with the candidate, to advancing private business interests or a general corporate agenda)
- 2) Denounce publicly, including on my website and social media pages, outside spending (e.g., “independent expenditure,” “issue-advocacy”) helping me or hurting my opponent(s) from...
 - a) All of the above entities in Section 1 of this Pledge (“1.a.- 1.e.”), plus “Super” PACs like “1.e.”
 - b) Other 527 political nonprofit organizations like those described above in “1.e.”
 - c) 501(c)(6) (“business association,” “trade group”) nonprofit organizations
 - d) 501(c)(4) (“social welfare”) nonprofit organizations like those described above in “1.d.”
- 3) Advocate publicly, including on my website and social media pages, for major campaign finance reform, including eventual full or robust public financing of all political campaigns for public office.

Finally, I acknowledge that this Pledge only addresses businesses, their related PACs, and the need for major campaign finance reform, including public financing of elections. This Pledge does not address contributions from individuals, labor unions, nonbusiness-related PACs, or the specifics of all the various campaign finance reform measures short of full public financing of all elections. I understand that going above and beyond this strong but baseline Pledge may be seen very favorably by Club members for purposes of endorsement (e.g., rejecting contributions from certain classes of individuals, such as corporate lobbyists, executives and agents of government contractors, real estate developers and their clients and agents, executives and agents of at least certain Big Business interests like Big Oil and Big Tobacco; rejecting contributions from nonbusiness-related PACs or denouncing outside support from nonbusiness-related Super PACs; organizing around campaign finance reforms; enacting, or having enacted, campaign finance reforms after taking office, etc.).

Date: _____ Name: _____

Signature: _____

CAMPAIGN FINANCE TERMS

Political Action Committee (PAC)

- A popular term for a political committee organized for the purpose of raising and spending money to elect and defeat candidates. Most PACs represent business, labor or ideological interests.
- Has contribution limits
- Must identify all of their donors to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), and thereby to the public
- Examples: AT&T Inc. PAC, Lockheed Martin PAC, Prosperity Action PAC

Super PACs

- Independent expenditure committees
- Can raise unlimited amount of money from companies, nonprofits, unions and individuals.
- Must identify all of their donors to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), and thereby to the public
- Not allowed to coordinate with the candidate's campaign

Politically-active 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) Nonprofit Organizations

- Not allowed to coordinate with the candidate's campaign
- Can raise unlimited amount of money from companies, nonprofits, unions and individuals.
- Required to publicly disclose the identity of their donors or sources of money. (on appeal)

501(c)(4) organizations: These are commonly referred to as "social welfare" organizations. They may engage in political activities, as long as these activities do not become their primary purpose (less than 50% of their total expenditure).

Examples: The National Rifle Association, Planned Parenthood, Sierra Club, Crossroads GPS, Patriot Majority

501(c)(6) organizations: These are business leagues, chambers of commerce, real estate boards and boards of trade, which may engage in political activity, as long as they adhere to the same general limits as 501(c)(4) organizations.

Examples: The US Chamber of Commerce, The American Medical Association, PhRMA, Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce, Americans for Job Security

527 Political Nonprofit Organizations

- Political parties, candidates, committees, or associations organized for the purpose of influencing an issue, policy, appointment, or election, be it federal, state or local.
- Unless otherwise excepted (e.g., parties, candidate committees, traditional (non-Super) PACs), can raise unlimited amount of money from companies, nonprofits, unions and individuals.
- Unless otherwise excepted (e.g., certain organizations with less than \$25,000 in annual gross receipts), required to publicly disclose their contributions and expenditures.

Source: Opensecrets.org

	DIRECT CONTRIBUTION	OUTSIDE SPENDING	DIRECT CONTACT	DONORS DISCLOSED
Businesses- FEDERAL ELECTIONS	NO	Unlimited	NO	N/A
Businesses- CA ELECTIONS	YES (limits)	Unlimited	YES	N/A
PACs	YES (limits)	Unlimited	YES	YES
SUPER PACs and similar 527 groups	NO	Unlimited	NO	YES
501(c)(4)- Social Welfare organizations	NO	Unlimited	NO	YES (on appeal)
501(c)(6)-Business associations	NO	Unlimited	NO	YES (on appeal)