



# Big Money Bulletin

## Inside

### Page 2

Scott Walker's Top Contributors  
Randa's Revenge

### Page 3

Special Interest Follies  
Defending the GAB

### Page 4

Koch Brothers and Citizens United  
Fighting Back



**February 2015**

**Edition No. 93**

**On the Web:**  
**[www.wisdc.org](http://www.wisdc.org)**



## A Note from Matt Rothschild

Dear Friend,

It's been a couple months now since I became executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, and I wanted to let you know how honored I am to succeed Mike McCabe, who did such a terrific job of opening our eyes to the crisis of money in politics.

I'm also honored to be working with our dedicated staff. Together, we're continuing in Mike's footsteps, and we're taking some new steps of our own. One of those is to update our website, [wisdc.org](http://wisdc.org), every work day with crucial information about the hidden hand in the pocket of our public policymakers. You can see a snapshot of some of those updates on Page 3, with our "Special Interest Follies."

And like Mike, I'd be more than happy to come to your community to meet you and to give a public talk about how we can give democracy a chance again in Wisconsin.

I welcome your feedback. Feel free to contact me by phone at (608) 255-4260 or by email at [rothschild@wisdc.org](mailto:rothschild@wisdc.org) or by regular mail at the address on the back.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,



## The Walker Files

As Governor Scott Walker gears up for his presidential run, we at the Democracy Campaign are keeping a tally of his top contributors on our website at [wisdc.org](http://wisdc.org).

Here's a list of the top ten contributors:

1. Hendricks, Diane M, WI, ABC Supply Co—\$529,100
2. Perry, Bob J & Doyle, TX, Perry Homes—\$500,000
3. Uihlein, Elizabeth & Richard, IL, U-Line Corp—\$279,500
4. DeVos, Richard M & Helen, MI, Alticor—\$271,000
5. Adelson, Miriam & Sheldon, Las Vegas Sands/Adelson Clinic—\$270,000
6. Humphreys, David, MO, TAMKO Bldg Products —\$270,000
7. Atkins, Sarah, VA, TAMKO Building Products —\$260,000
8. Herzog, Stanley, MO, Herzog Contracting Corp —\$260,000
9. Kern, Patricia & Robert, WI, Generac Corp—\$220,000
10. Kellner, Ted & Mary, WI, Fiduciary Mgmt—\$163,906

## Joining Hands

Pro-democracy groups in Wisconsin refuse to be bystanders. The *Money Out, Voters In Wisconsin* coalition, of which the Democracy Campaign is a part, is building a movement to fix this problem.

For instance, on January 21, the fifth anniversary of the notorious *Citizens United* decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, the coalition held a press conference at the State Capitol in Madison.

In coordination with the event, Matt Rothschild published a commentary in *The Capital Times* that said, "*Citizens United* is undermining our democracy. We've seen its ugly consequences right here in Wisconsin."

## Randa's Revenge

On September 5, 2014, Judge Rudolph Randa tore down the ceiling on the total amount of political donations any single individual could give in one election cycle. The ceiling used to be \$10,000—and who among us could afford to spend even that amount? But now that there are no limits, look what happened in just a matter of weeks after Randa's decision:

- \$ Diane Hendricks of ABC Supply sent \$1 million to the Republican Party of Wisconsin.
- \$ Sheldon Adelson, the Las Vegas casino magnate, sent \$650,000 to the state Republican Party.
- \$ Robert Rasmus, the CEO of one of the leading frac-sand mining companies in Wisconsin, sent \$200,000 to the Republican Party of Wisconsin.
- \$ Richard and Helen DeVos of Michigan also sent \$200,000 to the state Republican Party.
- \$ And Lynde Uihlein of the Brico Fund gave \$1 million to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

Thanks to Randa's ruling, which cited *Citizens United*, we, the people, are being reduced to bystanders in the game of politics, which is now a sport played primarily by multi-multi-millionaires, billionaires, and large corporations.



State Rep. Lisa Subeck introduces AJR8—an advisory referendum for Wisconsin voters to weigh in on the need to overturn *Citizens United* and related U.S. Supreme Court rulings. We were there!

---

## Special Interest Follies

### When your legislator is also a banker

A GOP legislator who also happens to be a bank officer has introduced a bill that would loosen regulations that govern the way state-chartered banks have to handle variable rate loans.

Rep. Terry Katsma of Oostburg, the bill's sponsor, is a longtime employee, former officer and a current director of the Oostburg State Bank.

The measure, Assembly Bill 24, has drawn support from the banking industry, which was the top special interest campaign contributor to Katsma, delivering \$3,750 between January and July 2014 to the Republican lawmaker.

Katsma's top banking industry contributors include two \$500 contributions from the Wisconsin Bankers Association Political Action Committee and the Community Bankers of Wisconsin PAC, and two \$250 contributions from Tom Papenthien of Bankers' Bank in Waunakee and Doug Martin of Livingston State Bank in Platteville.

Current state law prohibits state-chartered banks from offering lower, promotional rates on variable rate loans, such as home mortgage loans. The bill would allow state banks to offer them. The peddling of such low, discounted initial rates on mortgage loans was a factor in the financial crisis of 2008, which led to the Great Recession.

### Who is behind the next wage cuts in Wisconsin?

A Republican lawmaker has introduced legislation that would repeal Wisconsin's state and local prevailing wage laws. These laws require companies with public contracts to pay their workers on those contracts a wage equal to what the majority of workers in that industry earn in the local area.

The measure is sponsored by Rep. Rob Hutton of Brookfield, and it matches the agenda of the

American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a special interest bill mill that hawks pro-business economic and social policy proposals to state legislators around the country.

Hutton's proposal is very similar to prevailing wage legislation put forward by ALEC, a group created in the 1970s and made up of powerful special interests and state legislators to create and exchange model legislation that can be introduced in statehouses across the country. Both Hutton and ALEC say that prevailing wage laws inflate wages and cost the taxpayers money.

In recent years, a large number of Wisconsin's Republican legislators have had ties to ALEC.

Hutton is president of Rock Transfer & Storage in Milwaukee, a non-union trucking and storage company that does business throughout the Midwest.

Hutton's top special interest contributors include manufacturers, which have contributed \$6,300 to his campaign since 2012 when he was elected to the Assembly.

### Defending the GAB

On January 14, the Democracy Campaign submitted a statement to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee in defense of the **Government Accountability Board**, which is under siege.

The statement said that any effort to radically change the Board would be "premature and reckless." It added: "The current legislature and governor ought to support this highly recognized state agency and provide it with the resources it needs to do its job, not tear it apart."





## Koch Brothers and *Citizens United*

With the revelation that the Koch brothers and a handful of billionaire buddies intend to spend \$889 million on the 2016 elections, the idea that citizens have an equal voice in our democracy is now just a bad joke.

The Koch brothers are torpedoing our democracy, but it was the U.S. Supreme Court that loaded the torpedoes when it ruled in 2010, in its infamous *Citizens United* decision, that corporations are persons, and money is speech, and any group can give unlimited amounts of money to elect candidates of their choosing so long as they don't coordinate their activities with those candidates.

## Fighting Back

The good people of Wisconsin aren't buying this, though. They are rising up, demanding that we amend the U.S. Constitution to proclaim, once and for all, that corporations aren't persons and money isn't speech. In 54 villages, towns, cities and counties across the state of Wisconsin, the people have voted to overturn *Citizens United* and amend the Constitution.

And State Rep. Lisa Subeck has introduced **Assembly Joint Resolution 8** to let Wisconsin voters weigh in on this in November 2016.

Please support the work we are doing to overturn *Citizens United*.

Contributions to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign are tax-deductible.



200 S Paterson St. Suite 100  
Madison, WI 53703

608 255-4260  
[www.wisdc.org](http://www.wisdc.org)



Find us on  
**Facebook**



follow us on  
**twitter**