



Candidate Questionnaire

CleanSlateNow Action is committed to eliminating the corrupting influence of special interest money in politics. We believe candidates best represent the public interest by choosing to accept contributions only from individuals. We encourage candidates to reject contributions from political action committees, special interest groups, and corporations. *We are active in Denver, throughout Colorado, and across the country.*

The questions below are meant to provide information to voters about the kind of campaign contributions you are taking in your pursuit of public office and the kind of legislation you would support and propose if you take office. Your answers will also help us when considering if we will endorse a candidate in your race. Though we publicize the names of candidates who do not take PAC and special interest group money, no question is meant to serve as a litmus test. We seek to inform, educate, and engage you, other candidates, elected officials, and the public about issues surrounding campaign finance reform, and we hope the information you provide will help voters make up their own minds about the candidates. **Please complete and return the questionnaire by February 15, 2018**, if possible, or as soon as you can to be of use to voters.

Thank you for your participation, and good luck in your campaign!

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1. If elected, will you actively seek to enact meaningful campaign finance reform of the following forms?
 - a. Support overturning *Citizens United*? **Yes**
 - b. Ban contributions in local elections from corporations, unions, and other organizations banned from donating to state office campaigns? **Yes**
 - c. Limit special interest group contributions? **Yes**
 - d. Incentivize small-dollar contributions (\$150 or less) from individuals with matching funds? **Yes**
 - e. Enact public financing of elections? **Yes**

Are there other reforms you would propose?

Yes

I believe that campaign finance reform, from the local to the Federal levels, is one of the most important actions needed in the near future for American citizens to retake control of the decision-making process.

I strongly support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision, and even co-founded a 501(c)(4) in 2015 called Govern Now with that as one of its chief goals. I believe that if such an amendment is to have any chance, voter education is an absolute prerequisite as most Americans have some sense that big money in politics is a problem, but most haven't done the type of work that educates them on concepts such as "dark money" or "hard side vs. soft side". One of Govern Now's chief activities was large-scale grassroots outreach to educate voters on elected officials and the current campaign finance situation in a non-partisan way.

In the meantime, I would like to see legislation and legal actions to essentially test the waters and push the envelope as much as possible on disclosure of donors to independent expenditures. I would also like to see a concerted effort to legislate reporting deadlines that line up with one another, rather than overlapping, because IEs often are able to shift money between organizations with varying reporting deadlines to avoid public awareness of the true source of campaign financing until after an election has been held.

I am actively working on these issues as I write this, largely as they pertain to the debate over campaign financing of school board director elections in Colorado. I am working on a bill right now with a sitting senator to cap individual and committee donations to school district director campaigns and have convened a roundtable group of pro-public education experts and advocates from around the Denver Metro area both to work on advancing this legislation and to find other meaningful ways to support public education, one of which is to work on the dark money issue.

Regarding the dark money issue in school board elections, I am currently working with a couple of local organizations to see what legislation can be passed and what information needs to be made publicly available. For example, one of the current directors of the Denver Public School Board is the Chair of the National Advisory Board for a national organization whose sister organization has directed independent expenditures based in Colorado to provide large portions of money to supporting that director's campaigns for the DPS Board. While I am still in the process of investigating the legality of that situation, it is at the very least a perfect example of the loopholes that need to be sealed to keep elected officials from unfairly and unethically manipulating our system of governance in harmful ways.

2. Will you accept, or have you accepted contributions from special interest groups or organizations, including political committees, political action committees, or small donor committees? *(This does not include political party contributions.)*

No

3. Will you accept, or have you accepted contributions from Leadership PACs (a committee an elected official uses to donate to other candidates and elected officials, separate from their candidate committee)?

No

4. Will you establish, or have you established your own Leadership PAC?

No

5. Will you accept, or have you already accepted contributions from large corporations (i.e., offices in more than one locality, or based out of your state with a regional or national focus)?

No

6. Will you accept, or have you already accepted contributions from small corporations (presence in only one locality, i.e., "Mom-and-Pop Shop")?

No

7. Will you accept, or have you already accepted money from lobbyists?

No

8. Will you accept, or have you already accepted money from unions?

No

9. Do you support **The Democracy for The People Initiative**, which is on the November 2018 ballot and requires the **disclosure of dark money** in Denver elections, **the banning of corporations from making direct contributions** to Denver municipal candidates, the **lowering of Denver's relatively high campaign contribution limits** to be on a scale with the limits for state offices, and the **establishment of a public financing system for elections**, providing matching funds for small-dollar donations (\$50 and less) to candidates who opt not to accept special interest money? **Yes**

May we list you as an endorser? **Yes**

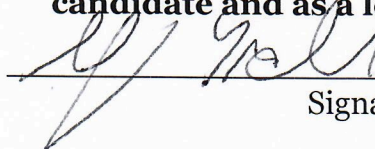
Would you work to bring a similar reform to your community? **Yes**

10. Please use as much additional space as you'd like to share any thoughts about campaign finance reform and the role of special interest money vs. contributions from individuals in political campaigns.

My response to question #1 says most of what I have to say about my interest and beliefs in the current campaign finance situation. One thing I would like to add is that I believe individual contribution caps are essential to all elections in a Democracy, and will fight to see that such

limits are placed on school board, RTD, and county commissioner races across Colorado.

The desired purpose of campaign finance laws is quite simple: to keep a wealthy minority from buying offices and influence and to ensure that elected officials work toward fostering a community that works for all. You can be certain I will work toward that goal in all of my dealings as a candidate and as a legislator.


Signature

February 2nd, 2018
Date

Completed questionnaires may be scanned and emailed to Owen@CleanSlateNowAction.org or mailed to CleanSlateNow Action at P.O. Box 100093, Denver, Colorado 80250.