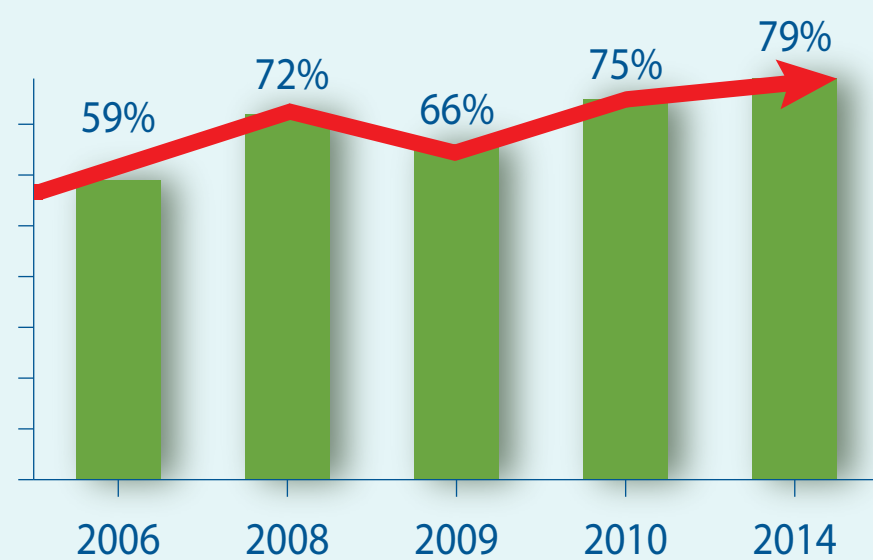


Democracy versus Money

Americans can't agree on anything, right? Wrong.

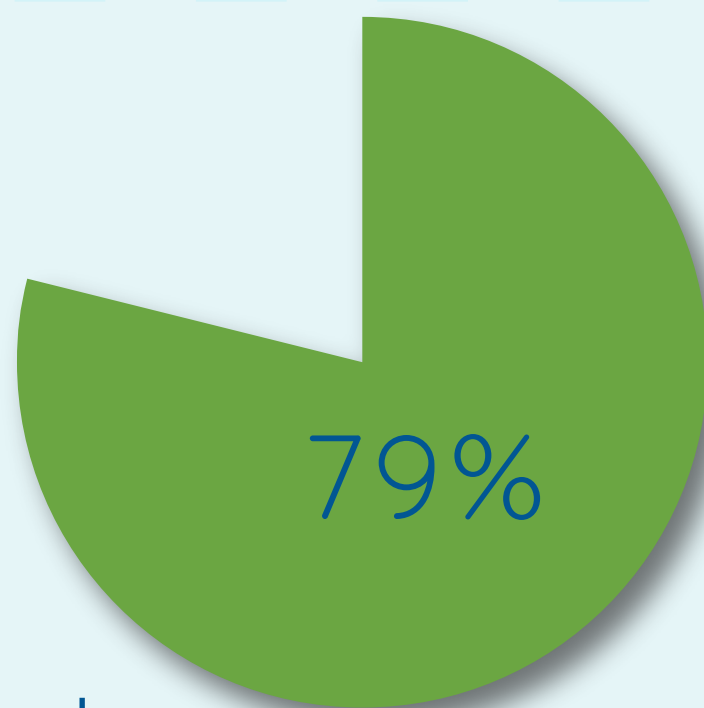


Percentage of Americans who perceive "widespread corruption" throughout the government.

Since 1958, public trust in the government has declined from **73% to 24%**

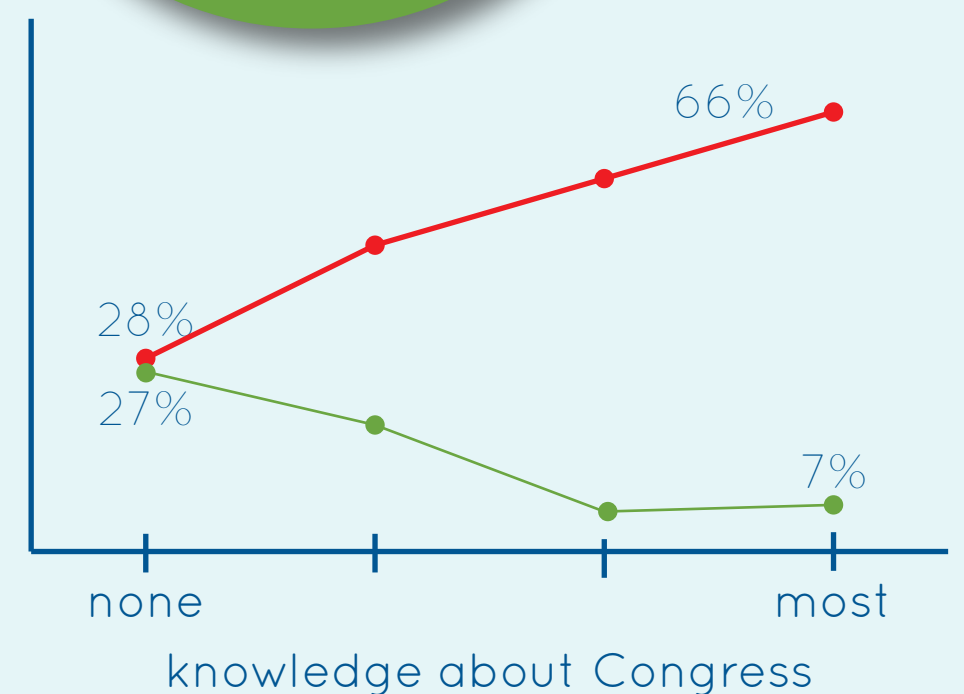
Unrepresented in Politics?

Our elected representatives keep promising improvement but more and more Americans feel Congress does not represent their views. After all, there are now over two dozen lobbyists on Capitol Hill for every one elected representative. With the majority of these lobbyists representing just a few wealthy and powerful interests, it's no wonder representatives find it so easy to drift out of touch with their constituents.



Percentage of respondents who said most members of Congress are out of touch and/or corrupt.

— = Percentage who rated the government as poor/bad
— = Percentage who rated the government as excellent/good



The Big Deal about Big Money

So why is the incumbent re-election rate still so high? And why, even when we manage to elect someone new, does nothing seem to change? Are we just impossible to please? Maybe – but an increasingly larger group of Americans feel that the influence of money in our electoral system leaves us with nothing but bad choices.

84% of respondents believe money has too much influence in political campaigns (as opposed to "too little" or "just right").

Why?

Senate candidates in the 2014 race had to raise an average of \$3,300 every day for six years to win a seat.

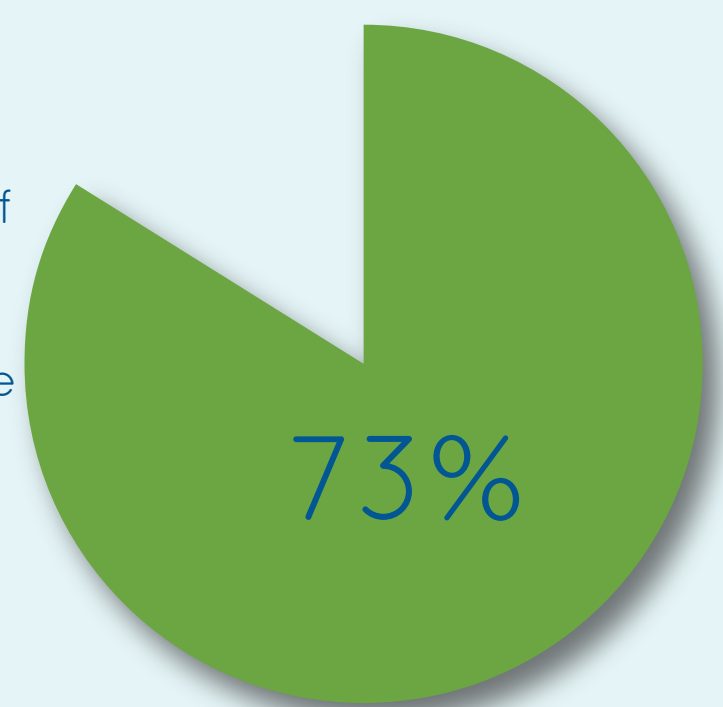
71% of Democrats and Republicans agreed that a company that spent \$100,000 to help elect a member to Congress could successfully pressure him/her to change a vote on proposed legislation.

Wealthy interests can use Super PACs and "dark money" avenues to skip around flimsy campaign finance rules.

More than half of respondents agree that "strong and influential corporations are bad, even if they promote innovation and growth."



Nearly three-fourths of respondents agree that they want more limits on Super PACs.

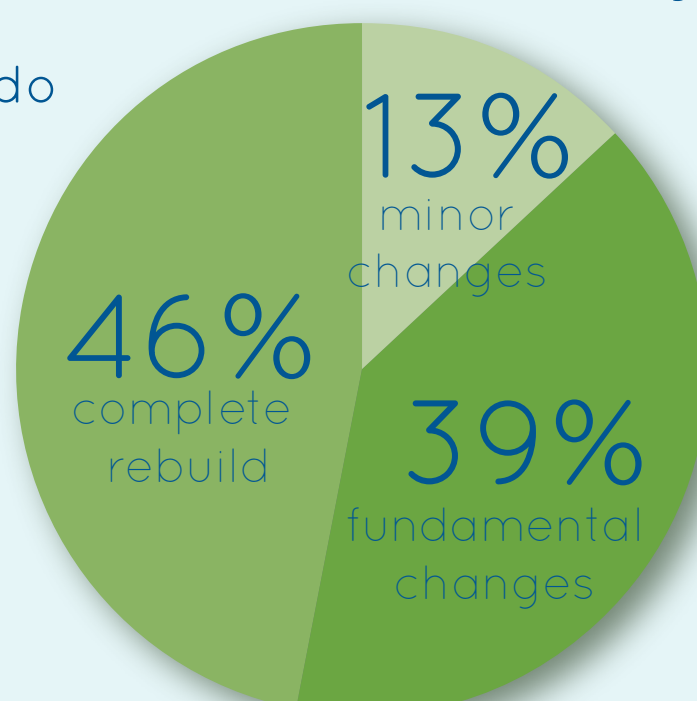


Is this the American way? The majority of Americans no longer think so.

So What Can We Do About It?

The vast majority of Americans now feel it's time to reclaim our democracy from the influence of money.

How much change do people think is necessary in our campaign finance system?



No red states vs. blue states here. Americans agree that forming a "more perfect union" means more democracy!

Money-in-Politics Out & Citizens' Voices In - Americans Agree on the Problem & Solution

For more information go to smallplanet.org/

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