

# Rigging the Rules:

## The Four Strategies of the Anti-Democracy Movement

### 1 Open the doors wider to Big-Money Influence in Our Political System

- With **DeVos** money pushing the legal cases forward, Supreme Court rulings **Citizens United** and **SpeechNow.Org** made it vastly easier for corporations and wealthy individuals to **influence elections**, all while keeping their **identities secret**
- In 2016, the **total cost** of federal elections hit nearly **\$6.5 billion** with only **1/2%** of the population responsible for more than **two-thirds** of **campaign contributions**
- In 2012, congressional candidates with a fund-raising advantage were **9 times** more likely to **win** their race AND **Republicans** outspent **Democrats** in the last **10** election cycles
- From 2010 to 2016, excluding party committees, sources of about **1/4** of the **\$3.3 billion** in **outside** spending in federal elections were **not disclosed**

### 2 Expand the Army of Anti-Democracy Lobbyists

- In just over a **decade** after Powell's memo, firms with **lobbyists** in Washington **increased 14-fold**
- On **lobbying**, corporations outspend **union** and **public-interest groups** by **34 to 1**
- **Public-interest groups** make up only **1%** of lobbying spending, while **business** makes up more than **75%**
- In 2012, about **half** of retiring members of Congress became lobbyists—a dramatic increase from **3%** in the early 1970's

So what is the **IMPACT?**

And what can I **DO?**

### 3 Reduce the Voting Power of Those Most Likely to be Hurt By—and Therefore Opposed to—the Anti-Democracy Agenda

- **32 states**—representing more than **half** the nation's population—have voter ID laws, proven to **disproportionately** affect **minority** voters
- Because of felony conviction, Florida **denies voting rights** to about **1.5 million** people, even after completed prison time. That's **3,000 times** the margin deciding the 2000 Presidential election
- After **gerrymandering** state districts in 2010, **Democrats won** almost 1.6 million **more votes** than Republicans in 2012 House races but still **lost the majority of seats**
- If low-income people voted -or could vote- at the same rate as those earning over \$100,000 a year, the electorate would grow by **11.5 million** voters

### 4 Where Possible, Wipe Out Local Democracy Altogether

- Since the 1970s, government has increasingly **failed** to enforce labor law **protecting** workers against union-busting tactics
- Under so-called pre-emption laws, managers have replaced elected leaders in some cities and municipalities, often **harming** low-income **communities of color**, as in **Flint, Michigan**

