

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE INSTITUTE
CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER
CENTER FOR RESPONSIVE POLITICS
COMMON CAUSE
DEMOCRACY 21
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES
PUBLIC CITIZEN
SUNLIGHT FOUNDATION
U.S. PIRG**

March 12, 2012

President Barack Obama
Obama for America
130 E. Randolph St., suite 600
Chicago, IL, 60601

Dear President Obama:

Because spending in the 2012 presidential campaign is very likely to eclipse all previous records, our organizations believe the public's interest in learning the identities and roles of the candidates' major fundraisers is more urgent this election cycle than ever before.

Using "bundlers" to aggregate large numbers of contributions has been used to great effect as a campaign fundraising tool in recent presidential races. Then-Gov. George W. Bush set a precedent in the 2000 campaign of disclosing bundlers, dubbed "Pioneers," who raised at least \$100,000 on his behalf. The successive presidential nominees of both the Republican and Democratic parties, including yourself, have likewise disclosed their major bundlers in subsequent presidential elections as have several candidates who did not win their party's nomination. We congratulate you for your commitment to transparency and thank you for standing with those who have honored this voluntary disclosure of presidential bundlers.

We are writing to you today to ask that you adopt the same policy of disclosing the relevant details about your major fundraisers as is required by the Federal Election Campaign Act for donors to candidates - namely, by adding occupation, employer and zip code information to the name, city and state information your campaign now provides.

Also, While President Bush (in 2000 and 2004), Sen. John Kerry (in 2004), Sen. John McCain (in 2008) and your campaign (in 2008 and so far in 2012) have each disclosed ranges or minimums raised by their bundlers, we believe it is in the public's interest for the presidential candidates to adopt more specific disclosure policies this cycle.

Despite the fact that the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 has created a bundling disclosure requirement, it mandates that only bundlers who are registered lobbyists be disclosed, and even this requirement can be easily evaded because of the manner in which the Federal Election Commission (FEC) has implemented the law. As a result, it is again entirely up to the voluntary disclosures of each presidential candidate to provide a true and accurate picture of the roles and identities of bundlers for their 2012 campaigns.

Specifically, we recommend that you agree to:

- Disclose precise dollar figures of how much money your campaign attributes to each individual who has bundled contributions of at least \$50,000. The total credited to an individual bundler by the campaign should include the total amount the bundler has raised for your official campaign committee since its launch plus the total raised for any joint committee or other affiliated entity that supports your campaign. The same should apply to amounts raised for the party.
- Expand the details disclosed about your bundlers to include not just their city and state, but also their zip code, employer and occupation. Such disclosure would not exceed what the Federal Election Commission currently requires for donors who contribute more than \$200. Furthermore, we request that all this information be made available to the public on your campaign's website in a format that can be downloaded, searched and sorted.

Our organizations request that you begin to disclose this information, which the public is entitled to know, concurrent with your next report to the Federal Election Commission—calculating bundlers' fundraising from the beginning of your campaign through the latest period covered by reports filed with the FEC—and that you update these bundling records simultaneous with every FEC filing through the campaign's year-end report.

We recognize that our organizations are asking you to share more information than the law requires of presidential candidates. But it's not more than the American public deserves to know.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Malbin, Executive Director
Campaign Finance Institute

J. Gerald Hebert, Executive Director
Campaign Legal Center

Sheila Krumholz, Executive Director
Center for Responsive Politics

Bob Edgar, President
Common Cause

Fred Wertheimer, President
Democracy 21

Elisabeth MacNamara, President
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David Arkush, Director
Public Citizen's Congress Watch Division

Ellen Miller, Executive Director
Sunlight Foundation

Gary Kalman, Federal Legislative Office Director
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