

You know it's hard to, it's really hard to talk about politics without the importance of money and what that means. That is a reality, it fuels a plane, it buys TV ads, it secures staff and consultants, it is defining. And in primaries, it's the silent primary, it's the first effort. Who has amassed resources? You see it at a Presidential level, you see it at a local level, Congressional level, Gubernatorial level. Who has raised the most money. It's the first toll gate of decision making for, perceived anyway, for party leaders and political press. As a proxy for their confidence, their political savvy for their organization in bringing the money together. And in some ways it's fair, as it shows a following. But in other ways it also shows the depths of their own pockets potentially, which is troubling in terms of the citizen representatives that our founding fathers imagined, and what it means now. So from *Buckley v. Valeo* to *United* there's been a history now, a very intricate history frankly, where constitutional reflections of the court, and then very creative political engineering by political parties and their surrogates, in around, if not to circumvent then certainly to maximize the opportunities that they have to do it. The most recent, in this cycle of course, is the Super PACs. In the sheer nature of gifting, the relative anonymity that exists, and so it is our 2012 challenge. Every cycle has seemingly had it and the level of cynicism that is brought to bear of just thinking of ways around, through, and some ways to negotiate this is significant. And you worry, at a Presidential level there's so much focus, and so much reporting. We all know a Las Vegas billionaire fueled Newt Gingrich, and it's, it's aware. What is more concerning I would think for citizens is lower ballot if you will. Into the state level, federal offices but Congressional or Senate, Gubernatorial level, where the resources of political press are not expended in that level of detail. And what will it mean for decision making? What will it mean for the elected officials, in terms of their service? It is the challenge, civic challenge of our time.