

# News Release

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## ***Today's Supreme Court "Citizens United" Decision Hurts Democracy, Hurts Working Families***

### ***But Faulty Decision Has a Silver Lining***

**Silver Spring.** Progressive Maryland (PM) – the state's most powerful nonprofit advocacy organization for working families – denounced today's Supreme Court decision in the *Citizens United* case – but pointed out the faulty ruling has a silver lining.

"This absurd ruling – which gives corporations the same First Amendment rights as flesh-and-blood citizens – will open the floodgates of special-interest money into federal elections and open the door to special-interest court challenges against many existing campaign finance laws at the state level," said Sean Dobson, PM's Executive Director. "It will thus drown out the voices of regular citizens, who unlike Exxon and Wall St. don't have hundreds of millions of dollars to throw around at election time."

"But *Citizens United* does have a silver lining," Dobson continued. "The ruling establishes that the best kind of campaign finance reform to withstand judicial challenge is 'Clean Elections' voluntary, public funding of campaigns. That is exactly the kind of reform PM and allies are pushing in Maryland. We passed this bill – sponsored by Sen. Paul Pinsky and Del. Jon Cardin -- through the House of Delegates in 2006 and we came very close to passing it through the state Senate last year, thanks in large part to support from Senate President Mike Miller. If the General Assembly finally enacts this long-overdue reform, Maryland will join Clean Election states Maine, Arizona, and Connecticut in showing the rest of the country how to undo the corporate takeover of our democracy caused by *Citizens United*."

Learn more about the bill at:

<http://progressivemaryland.org/public/documents/2010/ga/CleanElectionsBasicHandout2010.pdf>

Learn more about PM at [www.ProgressiveMaryland.org](http://www.ProgressiveMaryland.org)

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