



Money, Power, and Elections: How Campaign Finance Reform Subverts American Democracy

By Rodney A Smith

Louisiana State University Press, United States, 2014.
Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 226 x 152 mm.
Language: English . Brand New Book. Have campaign finance reform laws actually worked? Is money less influential in electing candidates today than it was thirty years ago when legislation was first enacted? Absolutely not, argues Rodney A. Smith in this passionately written, fact-filled, and provocative book. According to Smith, the laws have had exactly the opposite of their intended effect. They have increased the likelihood that incumbents in the House and Senate will be reelected, and they have greatly diminished the chances that candidates who are not wealthy will be elected. Smith's claims are supported by convincing data; he collected and analyzed information about all federal elections since 1920. These data show clearly that money matters now more than ever. Smith thinks that reform legislation has created a new inequality for candidates that, if left unchecked, threatens to destroy the American electoral process by obliterating the foundational principle of free speech. He argues that money buys speech and when candidates lack money to buy media time and space they are effectively silenced. Their inability to speak freely violates the most significant intentions of...

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