

Make Your Laws

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The goal

replace legislatures w/ liquid democracies

... for everyone, not just Pirates

The plan

1. democratize US campaign finance w/ LD
2. write & pass laws directly w/ LD *
- 3...n: <https://makeyourlaws.org/strategy>

* Not MYL v1 (this talk), but let's discuss



Why should EU care?

US policies **affect you** (e.g. TTIP...)

US politics **get adopted** globally

Solving liquid democracy **at scale**

non-partisan platform

millions of participants w/ **no common ideology**

You can participate (w/ some restrictions, more later)

Some quick definitions

| | |
|-----------|---|
| FEC | Federal Elections Commission regulates US federal campaign finance |
| PAC | Political Action Committee takes money, gives to candidates, parties, etc limited \$, both in & out must disclose if >\$200 |
| SuperPAC | PAC taking unlimited * \$ * restrictions barely apply |
| 501(c)(4) | "issue advocacy" organization no donor disclosure + major loopholes |

In the US, money = speech

Citizens United v. FEC (2010)

Corporations have protected political speech too.

SpeechNow v. FEC (2010)

Anyone can spend **unlimited** \$ on political speech.

McComish v. Bennett (2011)

Government **can't give** \$ to create balance.

McCutcheon v. FEC (2014)

Can't limit rich people's speech to create balance.

... and it's legal to **launder 49% of \$ w/ 501(c)(4)**.

US politics requires \$\$\$

No proportional representation

7% vote = 0 seats

\therefore <1.5% vote for 3rd parties

\$6.6B federal lobbying 2011-2012

Cost to win (avg \$M, 2012)

House 1.6

Senate 11.5

President 1,107 top 3rd party: 2.5M

~60% of \$ from ~0.5% of population

| Humans | % of \$ | \$M | |
|--------------|---------|------|--------------------------------|
| <\$200 | 27 | 1556 | ~30M people |
| \$200-\$2.5k | 12 | 667 | 1M |
| >\$2.5k | 38 | 2169 | 0.2M |
| SuperPACs | 11 | 609 | \$391M from <200 people |
| 501(c)(4)s | 5 | 257 | totally anonymous sources |
| Parties | 5 | 255 | |
| Other | 3 | 172 | trade orgs, unions, corps, etc |

Source: Center for Responsive Politics / [opensecrets.org](https://www.opensecrets.org), 2012 Fed. elections

The cure for bad speech:
more, better speech

The legal hack:
an anti-SuperPAC SuperPAC

Make Your Laws PAC v1

one stop site for all political contributions

flexible earmarks makeyourlaws.org/fec/earmarks/aor

Liquid democracy proxies for recurring contributions

Automated pledges for whoever votes for/against Bill X

Contribution matching

Kickstarter-type contributions for new campaigns

Bitcoin accepted :-) makeyourlaws.org/fec/bitcoin

\$100 limit (like cash)

Bootstrapping liquid democracy w/ \$

Liquid democracy relationships **already exist**

political bloggers, friends, etc = proxies

MYL adds **automation with teeth** :-)

Proxies suggest how to spend political \$

small donors have big impact **if coherent & targeted**

no critical mass required to start & expand

After critical mass: author & pass laws directly

Liquid **Lobbyist**?

EU citizens can participate

Non-US citizens can

freely volunteer services

donate to issue advocacy

e.g. lobbying, voter initiatives, etc (= MYL v2)

be a LD proxy about campaign contributions?

Probably, but TBD on FEC's decision.

... but only US citizens & permanent residents can

donate \$ to a candidate, party, or PAC

be part of a PAC's formal decision making

How we run

serve **users**, not politicians

non-partisan, non-profit, & open source

makeyourlaws.org/principles

github.com/MakeYourLaws + Pivotal tracker

libraries MIT; core AGPL; © assignment to MYL

Help wanted!

Designers

Developers (Rails 4)

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