



Three Myths About... *Super PACs*

In the last election cycle, much reporting about independent expenditure-only committees, known more commonly as super PACs, suggested that these entities could spend unlimited amounts of undisclosed money to influence elections. Here's the reality behind three common myths often asserted about super PACs:

Myth #1: *Super PACs do not have to disclose their donors.*

FALSE. Super PACs are **required** to disclose their donors. This disclosure includes the name of the individual, group, or other entity that is contributing, the date on which the contribution occurred, and the amount given. Individuals are by far the largest source of super PAC funds. Additionally, super PACs must report all of their expenditures.

Myth #2: *Super PACs coordinate with candidates.*

FALSE. Super PACs are allowed to raise and spend unlimited sums on independent expenditures precisely because they **cannot coordinate** with candidates or their campaigns. Because there can be no coordination, there can be neither corruption nor the appearance of corruption.

Myth #3: *Super PACs' ability to spend unlimited funds allows them to decide who wins races.*

FALSE. While super PACs certainly have made many races **more competitive**, big spending super PACs in the 2016 election, like the Hillary Clinton-supporting Priorities USA Action and the Jeb Bush-promoting Right to Rise, supported the candidacies of individuals who lost in the general and primary elections, respectively.

THE VERDICT: Contrary to much reporting on the subject, super PACs must disclose their donors and are strictly prohibited from coordinating with candidates or their campaigns. Far from an evil entity, super PACs are responsible for more political speech in elections, making races more competitive in the process.





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