

UNDERSTANDING

Super PACs

You've probably heard the term before, but what exactly is a "super PAC"?

Thanks to the First Amendment

we all have freedom of speech,



which includes spending money to amplify your voice.

But until 2010, groups didn't have this freedom.

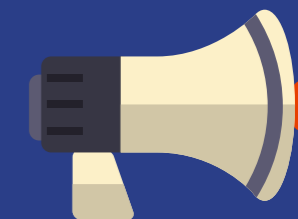
Powerful politicians, media corporations, and wealthy individuals monopolized the conversation.



A federal court ruling, *SpeechNow.org v. FEC*, fixed this

by allowing independent expenditure-only committees, or super PACs.

Now, citizens are able to pool their resources and speak about elections.



3 Common Misconceptions

Super PACs are basically funded by big companies and unions, right?

Nope! Reports show that in the 2016 election cycle, publicly held companies and unions accounted for less than 6% each of super PAC contributions.¹

I've heard super PACs don't disclose their donors. Is that true?

No! In fact, super PACs are required to disclose their donors, and report their spending to the Federal Election Commission.

Can't super PACs raise and spend unlimited amounts?

Yes! But this is because they can't coordinate spending or give money to candidates or parties. They must remain independent.

Americans are better off when they can join together and voice their opinions. Thanks to super PACs, now they can.



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1. <https://www.ced.org/pdf/TCB-CED-The-Landscape-of-Campaign-Contributions.pdf>, p. 4-5
For more information on super PACs, check out: <http://bit.ly/2Ay6hcF>