

# JUSTICE FREE FROM SPECIAL INTERESTS

A Program of the National Association of Women Judges



*Informed*  
**oters**  
FAIR JUDGES

## Why Restrict Special Interests?

Special interests often have political or ideological agendas, which are designed to influence judicial decisions. Allowing their influence in judicial campaigns may lead to increased partisanship within the judiciary, detracting from the courts' role as neutral arbiters.

Restricting special interests in judicial campaigns is crucial for maintaining public confidence in the courts. By ensuring impartiality, preserving public trust, and preventing conflicts of interest, these restrictions help sustain a fair and independent judiciary. As stewards of justice, it is imperative that we safeguard the integrity of our legal system for future generations.

## Ensures Judicial Impartiality

Judges must remain unbiased arbiters of the law. When special interest groups finance judicial campaigns, there is a risk that judges may feel beholden to these groups. Restricting special interests helps ensure that judges base their decisions on legal principles and facts, not on external influences.

## Preserves Public Trust

Public confidence in the judiciary is fundamental to the functioning of a fair and impartial legal system. If people believe that judicial decisions are influenced by financial contributions, their confidence in the legal system diminishes.

## Prevents Conflicts of Interest

When judges receive campaign support from special interest groups, conflicts of interest can arise. These conflicts may compromise a judge's ability to rule objectively, undermining the credibility of the court's decisions.

## How to Implement Restrictions

### Campaign Finance Laws

Implementing strict campaign finance laws can help limit the influence of special interests. These laws may include caps on contributions, transparency requirements, and public financing options.

### Ethics Commissions

Establishing independent ethics commissions to oversee judicial campaign conduct can ensure adherence to rules that limit special interest influence.

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