



Big Spenders Win Big in High Court Decision

By Lori Abbott

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SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The U.S. Supreme Court is throwing out the limits on overall campaign contributions.

This week's 5-to-4 ruling in *McCutcheon v. the Federal Election Commission* means it's unconstitutional to limit how much an individual can give in total contributions per election cycle.

Holly Mosher with the group Money Out, Voters In, calls it another blow to democracy.

"With more and more money being allowed into the system," she points out. "And people are just overwhelmed with the ads on TV and just fed up that their voice isn't being heard because it's being drowned out by money."

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi blasted the decision, saying the court was embracing a government of the money.

Groups such as the Cato Institute applauded the ruling, which says restricting the total amount a donor can give violates their First Amendment rights and doesn't prevent corruption.

Claremont McKenna College professor John Pitney says he doesn't think the ruling will have much of an impact on races here in California, but he says you can guarantee even more political campaigns will be coming to California to raise money to fuel races in other states.

"Well, it means a lot of people are going to be coming to California to raise money because we have a lot of rich people here," he points out.

Pitney says it's hard to say which party will benefit the most in California.

"In California we have quite a few rich Democrats, and there are some Democratic operatives who were smiling because they'll be able to hit up their contributors for more money," he says.