



Wealthy people are dominating our democracy

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An oligarchy is a government run by a few, and a plutocracy is one run by the wealthy. The article "Oligarchy in the USA" by Jeffrey A. Winters, In These Times, March 2012, pages 16-20, contains a table [that accompanies this letter] that shows how our wealth is skewed.

The top 400 taxpayers have an average of 10,327 times as much money as the bottom 90 percent. Winters intimates that the super rich have sufficient money to dominate our government and have been destroying our democracy through their efforts to defend and increase their wealth.

Oligarchs are able to hire a mercenary army of professionals that includes lawyers, accountants and wealth management agency experts. Many of them study the tax codes to find tax loopholes, and through their lobbies make sure the tax system is "sufficiently porous, complex and uncertain enough to be manipulated."

Oligarchs also fund activist think tanks like the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute to provide ideological material for lobbyists, interest groups, the media and our legislators.

Needless to say, the Citizens United ruling has increased the power of super rich to manipulate the voters and further shackle and dominate our democracy.