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Citizens United, Free at Last

Matt Welch | January 21, 2010

In a major victory for the First Amendment and political speech, the Supreme Court has by a 5-4 vote overturned many of the worst campaign finance restrictions in federal law. From the [Associated Press story](#):

[T]he court on Thursday overturned a 20-year-old ruling that said corporations can be prohibited from using money from their general treasuries to pay for their own campaign ads. The decision, which almost certainly will also allow labor unions to participate more freely in campaigns, threatens similar limits imposed by 24 states.

It leaves in place a prohibition on direct contributions to candidates from corporations and unions. [...]

The justices also struck down part of the landmark McCain-Feingold campaign finance bill that barred union- and corporate-paid issue ads in the closing days of election campaigns.

Read the whole 183-page opinion [here](#) [PDF] (and tell us the juicy bits in the comments!). Early reaction from Cato's [Ilya Shapiro](#). As always, the [SCOTUS blog](#) is essential reading.

Reason has written tons about the *Citizens United* case; start [here](#). More on this landmark ruling throughout the day.

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Dumble Door | 1.21.10 @ 10:53AM | #

Hahaha is anyone surprised by this? Corruption is bliss. Bought and paid for, its the AMERICAN way.

Jess

[www.web-privacy.pl.tc](#)

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Episiarch | 1.21.10 @ 11:03AM | #

An-Bot sure is active this morning.

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CoyoteBlue | 1.21.10 @ 11:10AM | #

New can of paint

[reply to this](#)

Sidious823 | 1.21.10 @ 10:55AM | #

A step in the right direction to be sure, but it's still a pity that it takes the Supreme Court 183 pages to read "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech" exactly as it is written.

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