



NAME: _____

CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

VOCABULARY

Directions: Frontload (introduce and review) these vocabulary words with your students to facilitate their understanding of the topic and coinciding resources:

1. **Campaign Finance Reform** (n.) - Efforts to change the rules on how political campaigns can be paid for, with the aim of making them fairer.
2. **Soft Money** (n.) - Campaign contributions that are raised by national and state parties that are not regulated by the federal campaign finance law because they are not contributed directly to a candidate but rather to a party committee for its use in generic “party building” activities.
3. **Hard Money** (n.) - Donations to candidates for political office.
4. **Dark Money** (n.) - Spending meant to influence political outcomes where the source of the money is not disclosed.
5. **Super PAC** (n.) - A type of independent political action committee which may raise unlimited sums of money from corporations, unions, and individuals but is not permitted to contribute to or coordinate directly with parties or candidates.
6. **Federal Election Commission** (n.) - U.S. agency that enforces federal campaign finance laws, including monitoring donation prohibitions, and limits and oversees public funding for presidential campaigns.

CURRENT EVENT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Directions: As you read through news and other resources about TOPIC, consider the following questions:

- What is Campaign Finance Reform?
- Which government entities can regulate campaign financing?
- What are the federal regulations on contributions made to political campaigns?
- What are the current regulations Oregon has regarding contributions made to political campaigns?
- What are the various viewpoints around the current controversy surrounding Oregon’s campaign finance laws?
- In your opinion, what effects do you think campaign contributions have on a political candidate once they take office?
- In your opinion, what, if any, steps should Oregon take to regulate campaign contributions going to Oregon-based political candidates?