

Money in politics

In the 1980s, about 10 percent of all campaign spending came from one-tenth of 1 percent (0.01 percent) of the voting age population.

By 2012, more than 40 percent of spending came from this tiny sliver of wealthy Americans. ...

[I]n 2012 the combined contributions of the 3.7 million small donors to the Obama and Romney campaigns amounted to less than the total contributions of the 159 largest individual super PAC contributors.

Benjamin Page and Martin Gilens,
Democracy in America?