



Continual Access

Obama Has Created The Antithesis Of His Campaign Finance Reform Pledges

When Announcing His Campaign For Presidency, Obama Pledged To End Special Interest Access, Saying “The Time For That Kind Of Politics Is Over. It Is Through.” OBAMA: “Special interests have turned our government into a game only they can afford to play ... They get the access while you get to write a letter ... The time for that kind of politics is over. It is through.” (Sen. Barack Obama, [Remarks Announcing Campaign For President](#), Springfield, IL, 2/10/07)

TODAY, OBAMA WILL MEET WITH THE ADVOCACY GROUP THAT IS REALLY JUST A GLORIFIED INFLUENCE PEDDLER

Today, Obama Will Meet With His Advocacy Group At Its “Founders Summit.” “President Obama will speak Wednesday to the nonprofit organization that grew from his reelection campaign despite questions over the group's fundraising practices, an official for Organizing for Action (OFA) confirmed Monday. The president will address the advocacy group's ‘founder's summit,’ a two-day event for donors and supporters at a Washington-area hotel.” (Justin Sink, “Obama To Help His Retooled Campaign Raise \$50K Per Person,” [The Hill](#), 3/11/13)

- **Donors Can Attend The “Founders Summit” For Just \$50,000.** “For a \$50,000 check, donors can attend a ‘founders summit’ later this month at a Washington hotel, where they can mingle with Jim Messina, Organizing for Action’s chairman and the president’s former campaign manager, and Jon Carson, the group’s executive director and formerly the director of the White House Office of Public Engagement. Another longtime presidential adviser, David Plouffe, is also involved with the group. It is understandable that the White House might want to make use of its campaign voter list, mobilizing supporters when it needs help getting bills through Congress.” (Editorial, “The White House Joins The Cash Grab,” [The New York Times](#), 3/2/13)

Obama And His Team Have “Created A New Tool For Moneyed Interests To Buy Access”

The Sunlight Foundation’s Lisa Rosenberg: OFA “Is Another Sad Example Of The Obama Team’s Willingness To Funnel More Money, Not Less, Into Our Political System.” “OFA, by design, will ‘open the floodgates for special interests’ to be ‘bankrolled by American’s most powerful interests,’ with only Messina’s word that it will not accept corporate or foreign contributions. It’s an end run around what remains of the current campaign finance system, giving donors an option to avoid the limits and

disclosures that apply to contributions to political parties and PACs. It is another sad example of the Obama team's willingness to funnel more money, not less, into our political system." (Lisa Rosenberg, "OFA – A Dark Money Group By Any Other Name," [Sunlight Foundation](#), 3/7/13)

- **Obama And His Team Have "Created A New Tool For Moneyed Interests To Buy Access And Influence In Our Political System."** "Instead of working toward reform, however, his team has created a new tool for moneyed interests to buy access and influence in our political system." (Lisa Rosenberg, "OFA – A Dark Money Group By Any Other Name," [Sunlight Foundation](#), 3/7/13)

With Its Goal Of Raising \$50 Million, Organizing For Action Has "Ample Potential For Influence-Peddling." "President Obama's political team is fanning out across the country in pursuit of an ambitious goal: raising \$50 million to convert his re-election campaign into a powerhouse national advocacy network, a sum that would rank the new group as one of Washington's biggest lobbying operations. But the rebooted campaign, known as Organizing for Action, has plunged the president and his aides into a campaign finance limbo with few clear rules, ample potential for influence-peddling, and no real precedent in national politics." (Nicholas Confessore, "Obama's Backers Seek Big Donors To Press Agenda," [The New York Times](#), 2/22/13)

- **"But Those Contributions Will Also Translate Into Access, According To Donors Courted By The President's Aides."** (Nicholas Confessore, "Obama's Backers Seek Big Donors To Press Agenda," [The New York Times](#), 2/22/13)
- **"At Least Half Of The Group's Budget Will Come From A Select Group Of Donors Who Will Each Contribute Or Raise \$500,000 Or More, According To Donors And Strategists Involved In The Effort."** (Nicholas Confessore, "Obama's Backers Seek Big Donors To Press Agenda," [The New York Times](#), 2/22/13)
- **In Meetings With Members Of Obama's 2012 Finance Committee, OFA Leaders "Suggested \$500,000 As A Target Level For OFA Bundlers And That Top Donors Get Invitations To Quarterly OFA Board Meetings With The President."** "Over the past month, Messina and Jon Carson, a leading strategist, have traveled the country meeting with members of the Obama 2012 National Finance Committee, who are being pressed back to work to find support for the new organization. In huddles with Hollywood studio executives, California energy investors and Chicago business titans, they have suggested \$500,000 as a target level for OFA bundlers and that top donors get invitations to quarterly OFA board meetings attended by the president." (Tom Hamburger, "Obama's New Political Group To Lure Unlimited Donations," [The Washington Post](#), 2/23/13)

The New York Times Editorial: While OFA Insists That An Aggressive Fundraising Operation Is Necessary For It To Hold All Of Its Rallies, "The Frantic Pursuit Of Big Money Makes It Impossible To Call This A Grass-Roots Effort." "The group's leaders say they will be holding rallies on important topics ranging from immigration to climate change, and note that this kind of organizing is expensive. But the frantic pursuit of big money makes it impossible to call this a grass-roots effort." (Editorial, "The White House Joins The Cash Grab," [The New York Times](#), 3/2/13)