



Hypocritical 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)

- **During The 2008 Campaign, Obama Said “We Need To Limit The Influence Of Big Donors” And Said He Was “Firmly Committed” To Fixing The Campaign Finance System.** OBAMA: “I wholeheartedly agree with the idea that we need to limit the influence of big donors on campaigns, and I’ve co-sponsored legislation to fix the system — legislation Sen. McCain does not support. I am firmly committed to reforming the system as president, so that it’s viable in today’s campaign climate.” (Sen. Barack Obama, Op-Ed, “The System Is Broken,” [USA Today](#), 6/20/08)
- **In 2010, Obama Said Don’t “Let Special Interests Drown Out The Voices Of The American People.”** OBAMA: “So you can’t let it happen. Don’t let them hijack your agenda. The American people deserve to know who’s trying to sway their elections. And you can’t stand by and let special interests drown out the voices of the American people.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks At Campaign Event](#), Philadelphia, PA, 10/10/10)
- **During His Bid For Reelection, Obama Admitted “Money Is As Prominent As Ever” In Our Politics And Promised To Tackle Campaign Finance Reform In A Second Term.** OBAMA: “But, look, we’re in an environment right now where money is as prominent as it’s ever been in our politics. And that’s never been my idea of politics. That’s never what has motivated me. I think the American people consider this a big problem and I hopefully will be able to work with them to find some solutions in a second term.” (Michael Scherer, “What He Knows Now: Obama On Popularity, Partisanship And Getting Things Done In Washington,” [TIME](#), 8/30/12)

TODAY, OBAMA WILL ADDRESS \$50,000 DONORS AT ADVOCACY GROUP’S “FOUNDERS SUMMIT”

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 Given Donors "An Option To Avoid The Limits And Disclosures That Apply To Contributions To Political Parties and PACs"

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)

- **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)