

## **Request: FCC Require Political Ad Funding Disclosure Online Now From Broadcasters**

If the FCC is serious about holding broadcasters accountable and seriously considering new rules mandating online disclosure of who is funding political ads please do not wait till after the primaries are over. Tomorrow Tuesday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 is the day the GOP's Florida Presidential primary is held. In South Carolina it has been reported that Governor Mitt Romney outspent Newt Gingrich 2 to 1 but still lost to Gingrich in the Republican South Carolina primary. In Florida he decided to outspend Newt 5 to one. During the Republican Presidential debates Newt Gingrich criticized Mitt Romney over the pro Romney super PAC ads attacking Newt's campaign. Romney stated that he has no connection to the super PAC supporting his campaign and by law candidates cannot coordinate in any way with a super PAC. Do not wait till after the primaries are all over to enact the rules in the general election alone or wait till after the general election. The NAB wants you to delay a decision and implementation of rules to avoid accountability this election season. I ask that the FCC act without delay.

We are beginning to see the negative repercussions of the Supreme Court's Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission ruling come to light. Even Republican candidates for President are expressing concerns about the role of undisclosed funds by super PACs going into the political process. Although many of the same Republicans want to do away with spending limits and just require transparency. The Citizens United ruling by SCOTUS is likely to result in a new kind of political corruption not seen since the days of Watergate. Politicians bought and paid for by super PAC and corporate cash. Our government and our democracy are not for sale and we cannot allow this to continue. As voters we need to know who is trying to influence our vote. Post Citizens United we are seeing what the corporate beneficiaries of that ruling are trying to do. In the first Presidential election year since that ruling we are seeing Republican efforts in swing states like Wisconsin, Ohio, and Florida to break up unions and suppress voter turnout to prevent likely Democratic voters from participating in our elections. SCOTUS despite ruling money is speech and ruling in favor of corporate personhood in the Citizens United case refused to hear a similar case Speech Now v. FEC to allow nonprofit groups to spend unlimited amounts of cash also on political advertising. We have to get a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United but until then request the FCC mandate online disclosure by broadcasters of who is funding political ads.