

Voice of the People
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Questions for candidates

The primaries are over. Democrats and Republicans have made their choices on who will face each other (and, in many cases, also face independents, Greens and Libertarians) in November. Before the dust settles and upcoming advertisement sound bites become too unsettling to our intelligence, what better time to ask candidates where they stand on the fundamental issues of democracy and corporate rights. Here are four questions all citizens should ask their federal and state candidates:

1. Do you believe corporations should be allowed, directly or through corporate-sponsored political action committees, to donate to or invest in political candidates or issue campaigns? (Note: At one time in Ohio, they couldn't.) If not, what do you specifically plan to do about this if elected?
2. Do you believe public officials should have the right to examine the financial books of corporations (i.e., to prevent future Enrons and/or to assess the true profits of oil companies)? If so, what do you specifically plan to do about this if elected?
3. Do you believe corporations should have the right to move toxic trash into communities from another state if people in those communities don't want it? If not, what do you specifically plan to do about this if elected?
4. Do you believe people should have greater legal and constitutional rights than business corporations? (Note: At one time in Ohio, they did). If so, what do you specifically plan to do about this if elected?

Answers to these questions are critical. As long as corporations continue to possess corporate constitutional rights, our rights as people to create justice, peace and sustainability in our communities are profoundly limited.

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