

Joseph Stevenson - retired nurse from Astoria

I'd like to present a few facts. A recent study by Oxfam found that the 62 wealthiest individuals in the world own half the wealth of the entire planet. In the USA itself, the top 1% own as much as the rest of the population put together, and in our elections, 94% of the time the candidate with the most money wins. It doesn't take a genius to figure out what happens next: corporations, unions, wealthy individuals and super PACs — those with the money — are looking to invest, and with the lack of any effective campaign finance regulation, their best investment is to buy politicians, the ones who write the tax laws and regulations they operate under. This is the sad state of American politics in Washington D.C. Our Federal government should not be for sale to the highest bidder. A Free and Fair election amendment means an election free of the corrupting influence of excessive spending by all outside interests, and fair enough that any citizen can run for public office. The passage of HJM201 in Oregon will put us one step closer to this goal. I urge you to vote Yes on HJM201. Thank you.