

AMERICA 250
TOWN HALL

Hosted by Congressman DeSaulnier



HOUSE ETHICS: CONGRESSIONAL VS. CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY

- Members of Congress are governed by the House Code of Official Conduct, which includes standards for whether, how, when, and where Members may engage in campaign activity.
 - This town hall is being hosted in my official capacity as Representative for California's 10th District, not as a candidate in a campaign. Therefore, House Rules prevent me from:
 - Solicitating, receiving, and accepting campaign contributions.
 - Making political endorsements.
 - Directing attendees to websites, resources, or events created or operated by a campaign or any campaign-related entity, including political parties and campaign committees.

You can learn more about the House Code of Official Conduct and how it relates to this event here:



COMMITTEES AND CAUCUSES

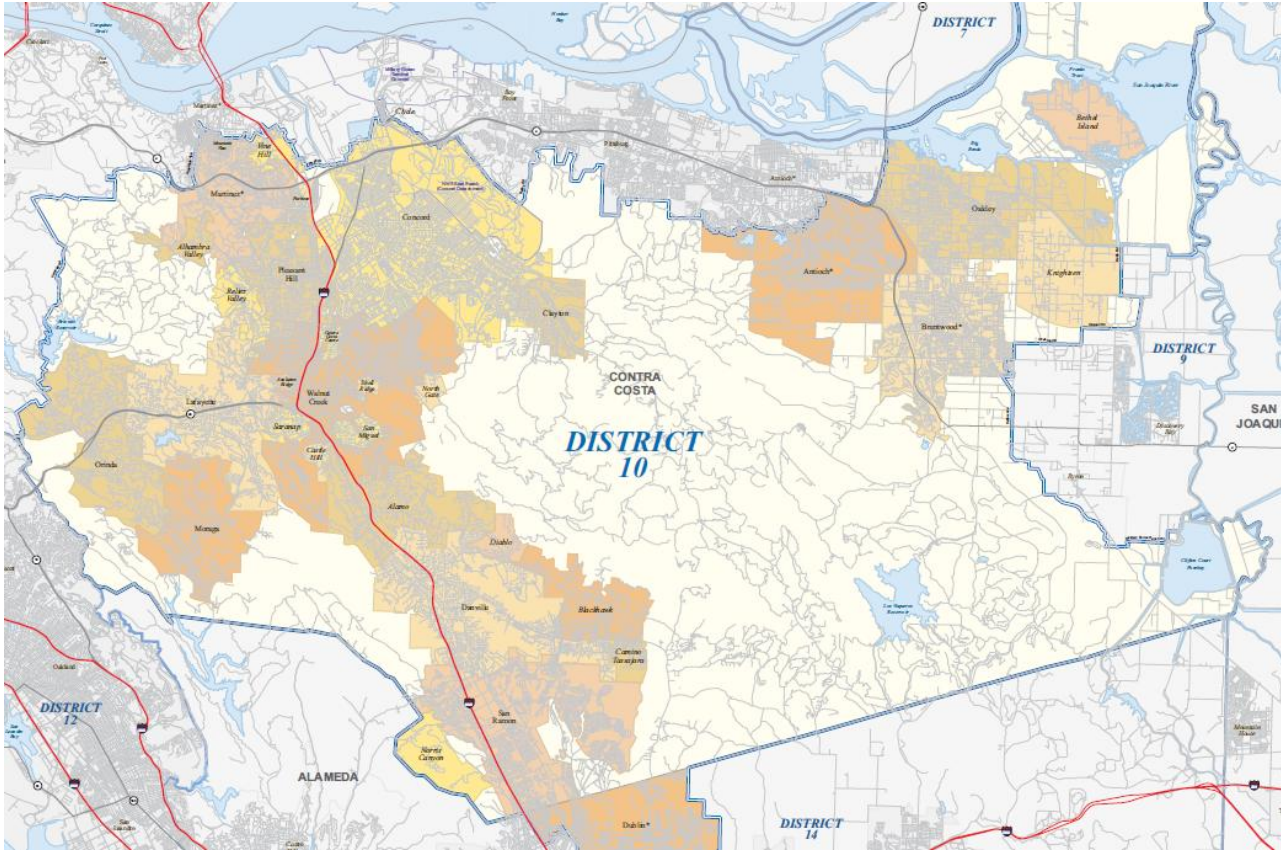
COMMITTEES:

- Ethics Committee – Ranking Member
- Education & Workforce Committee
 - Ranking Member of the Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee
 - Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
- Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
 - Subcommittees on Highways, Aviation, Water Resources and Environment, and Railroads

CAUCUSES:

- Congressional Progressive Caucus
- Bipartisan Cancer Survivors Caucus – Co-Chair
- Urban Regional Studies Caucus – Co-Chair
- Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition
 - Climate Jobs Task Force – Co-Chair
- Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
- Reproductive Freedom Caucus

*CALIFORNIA'S 10TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT*



CA-10 includes
most of Contra
Costa and part of
Alameda County

AMERICA'S FOUNDING

This year, Americans are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation.

- On July 4, 1776, members of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence, after voting to declare independence two days prior.
- Our first system of government organized under the Articles of Confederation was unable to address the challenges of the time, and the Constitutional Convention was held in Philadelphia in 1787 to develop a new system of government—referred to as a republic or representative democracy today.
- America has not always lived up to its promise of liberty and equality for all. However, the power to enact change ultimately lies with the people.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



As the Constitutional Convention ended, founding father Benjamin Franklin was asked what form of government the founders created. He famously responded, "A republic, if you can keep it."

Franklin's response highlights how self-government requires active participation by an informed public, and the fact that we all share in the responsibility to maintain our representative democracy.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

Americans should be able to have confidence that their government has the public's best interest in mind. That confidence has been lacking in recent years.

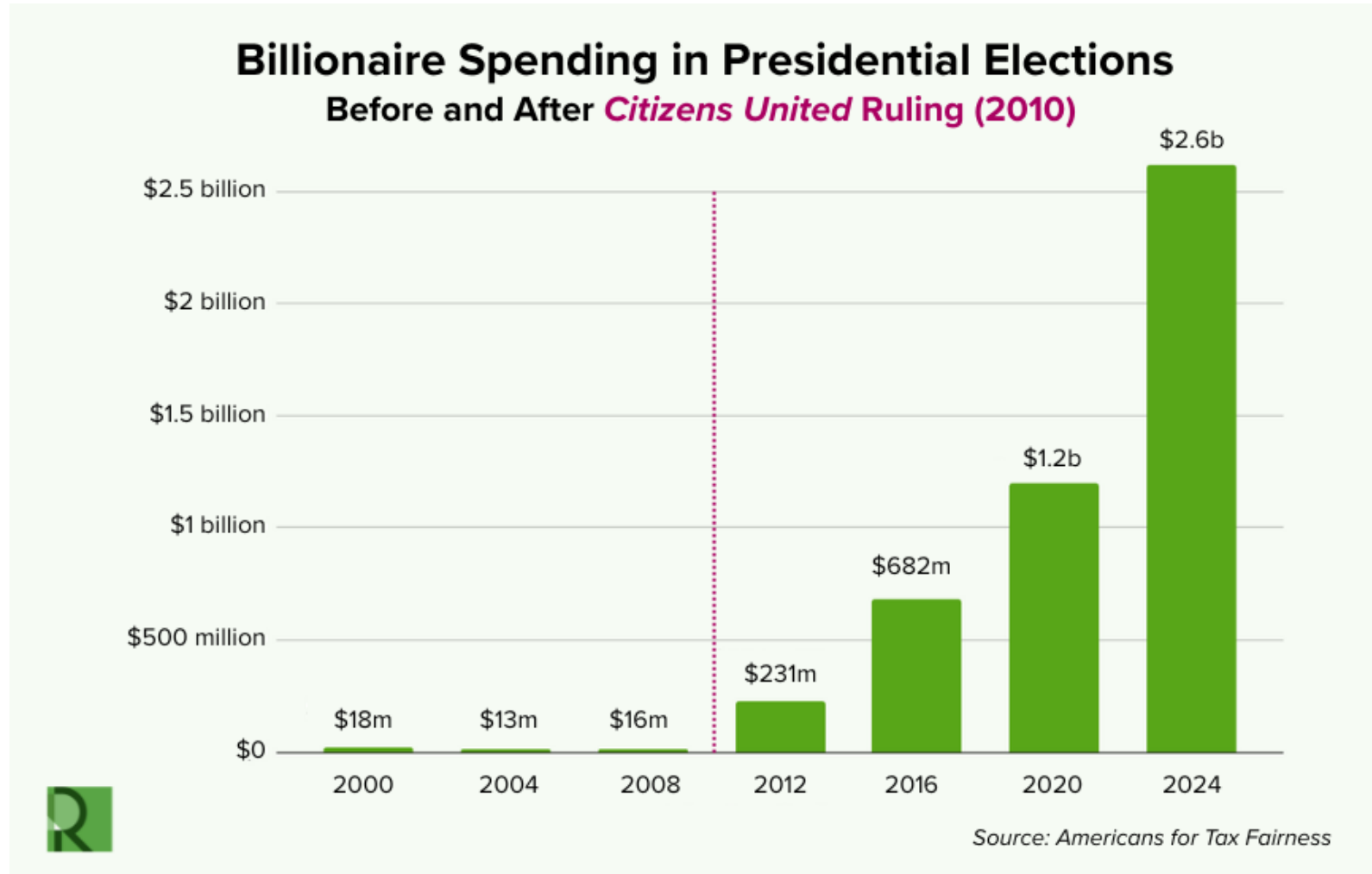
- A 2024 survey found that **just 22% of Americans trust the federal government** to do what's right most or all of the time. This is down from highs of 77% in 1964.
- In the 2024 presidential election, around **36% of eligible voters did not vote**. While this represents relatively high turnout compared with the last 50 years of presidential elections, **turnout is still low compared to other democracies around the world**.
- Low trust in government can manifest as civic disengagement, leading people to believe that their vote doesn't matter. The consequences of this are real—**just 37.9% of eligible voters cast a ballot in this month's primary election**.
- Trust in government doesn't mean blind faith—the public can demand transparency and accountability from elected officials while still believing in institutions.

MARK'S WORK TO PROTECT DEMOCRACY AND PROMOTE TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

Congress has an important role to play in restoring trust in government.

- As the **Ranking Member (top Democrat) on the Ethics Committee**, Mark supports holding elected officials to appropriate standards of conduct.
- Mark sponsors the **Protecting Our Democracy Act** (H.R. 8831), which would help prevent presidential abuses of power.
- Mark sponsors the **Democracy Is Strengthened by Casting Light On Spending in Elections (DISCLOSE) Act** (H.R. 7802) to increase transparency in campaign spending.

THE INFLUENCE OF MONEY IN ELECTIONS



THANK YOU!

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