



What Citizens **Won't** Be Able to Do *in late October of an Election Year* if McCain-Feingold Becomes Law

The McCain-Feingold bill, self-titled the "Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2001," levies a litany of intrusive government restrictions on campaign activity, placing a muzzle on the free speech of American citizens, and effectively cutting them out of the political process. The bill places an outright ban on money given to parties to support candidates (soft money), drastically curbs "issue advocacy," and implements a host of new regulations on political advertising, among other things. In fact, for example, in the 13,000-word bill that passed the Senate, variations of the word "limit" appear 63 times, "require" 43 times, and "prohibit" 19 times. "Shall" and "shall not" appear for a combined total of 145 times.

If the McCain-Feingold bill becomes law, in the final weeks leading up to a federal election, citizens will **not** be able to (for example):

- Engage in any form of public communication that even mentions a known candidate without reporting it to the federal government
- Send a \$2001 (or more) check to a federal candidate of their choice
- **Run their own ad in a major newspaper conveying citizens' views on a candidate without the federal government first seeing it**
- Consult a candidate before running an ad promoting him or her if the ad costs \$2001 or more
- **Make contributions to the number of federal candidates of their choice**
- Donate the amounts of their choice to political parties
- **Purchase broadcast advertising that merely mentions the name of a Member of Congress (if the purchasers are acting through a nonprofit group, labor organization, or corporation)**
- Sell broadcast advertising at anything above the lowest rate of the previous year (if the sellers are broadcasters)
- **Communicate with a Member of Congress on issues and inform the membership of their citizens groups regarding the Member's positions without the threat of debilitating Federal Election Commission investigations and financial penalties**

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