



WHERE WE STAND – CORPORATE POWER’S LOCAL IMPACTS

While money has always been a major force in politics, the Supreme Court’s 2010 ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* turbocharged corporate influence by allowing unfathomable amounts of money to be spent by corporations and special interest groups. Even our local elections have become opportunities for wealthy and powerful interests to “buy” the outcomes they desire, regardless of the adverse impacts that their choices would cause. As a result, our votes are drowned out in a sea of money.

When corporations and “dark money” groups control elections, deregulation ensues. Legislators weaken or repeal laws that their contributors find objectionable. When zoning laws are relaxed and development projects are approved with minimal oversight, developers profit, while we pay the price with increased traffic, strained utilities and infrastructure, and loss of habitat and open space. When environmental laws are eased, polluters profit while public health is endangered. When consumer laws are weakened, unsafe products and unethical practices put families at risk. When workplace safety laws are relaxed, hardworking Americans face injury, illness, and even death. Profits are maximized, citizens are minimized.



Given Brunswick County’s rapid growth, corporations and developers envision massive profits, but sustainable growth requires that the will of the people be considered, and their concerns factored into development decisions. We must protect our natural environment, rebuild and expand our neglected infrastructure, provide workforce development and affordable housing, and support public schools for our families. The costs of these improvements should be shared by those who profit. Yet even with our low corporate tax rate of 2.5%, North Carolina Republicans favor phasing out corporate taxes altogether.

As we work to limit the influence of money in our elections, we must hold the line on excesses by corporations, organizations, and wealthy individuals. We must also hold our elected officials accountable for any decisions that seem to favor the interests of donors over those of Brunswick County’s citizens.

Flip this over to learn how YOU can get involved!

Here's what DEMOCRATS are doing to STRENGTHEN SMALL/LOCAL BUSINESSES:

- [Expanding access](#) to capital by offering more than \$300 billion in loans and equity investments through the end of the decade.
- Making it easier than ever for aspiring and established entrepreneurs to access federal small business programs.
- Leveraging federal procurement, infrastructure spending, and research and development funding to support small businesses.
- Leveling the playing field for small business owners by reforming the tax code.

Here's what MAGA REPUBLICANS are doing to CATER TO CORPORATIONS and SPECIAL INTERESTS:

- [Introduced a bill](#) that would slash billions in funding for vital programs, including the Small Business Administration (SBA), that support small businesses. Specifically, the bill would:
 - Abandon small businesses recovering from natural disasters.
 - Eliminate free business counseling for 295,000 small business owners and delay certification and training to 15,000 or more small business contractors.
 - Let more pandemic fraudsters escape prosecution.
 - Rescind up to \$575 million in support for small businesses provided by community development financial institutions and minority depository institutions.
 - Reduce support for rural businesses and small businesses that export goods and services.
- Push for the continuation of the Trump tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy.



TAKE ACTION!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: brunswickdem.org

CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS (North Carolina General Assembly):

- ✓ **Representative Frank Iler (R)** District 17
Email: frank.iler@ncleg.gov; Phone: (919) 301-1450
- ✓ **Representative Charles Miller (R)**, District 19
Email: Charles.Miller@ncleg.gov; Phone: (919) 733-5830
- ✓ **Senator Bill Rabon (R)**, District 8 (Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover)
Email: bill.Rabon@ncleg.gov; Phone: (919) 733-5963

CONTACT YOUR U.S. CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS

- ✓ **Congressman David Rouzer (R)**, District 7
Email: rouzerforms.house.gov/contact/; Phone: (910) 253-6111
- ✓ **Senator Thom Tillis (R)**
Email: tillis.senate.gov/email-me; Phone: (202) 224-6342
- ✓ **Senator Ted Budd (R)**
Email: www.budd.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/; Phone: (202) 224-3154