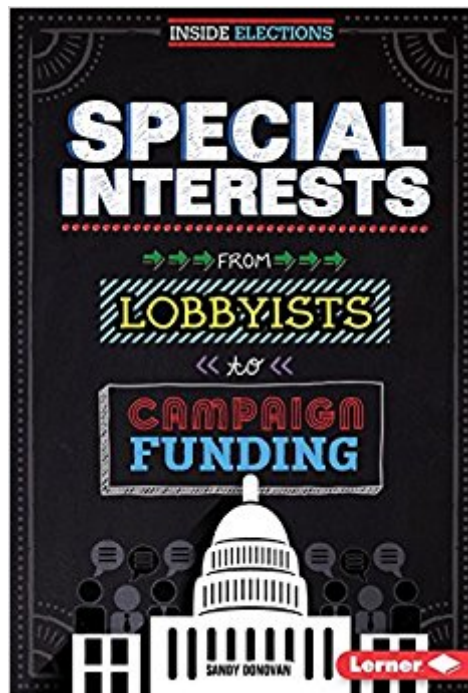




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Special Interests: From Lobbyists To Campaign Funding (Inside Elections)



Synopsis

Special interest groups, lobbyists, political action committees, campaign finance reform—if people on the news are arguing about these subjects, it's probably an election year. Billions of dollars flow through special interest groups to fund campaigns at local, state, and national levels. Donors, corporations, and committees have the potential to greatly influence political candidates and election results, so the rules surrounding special interest groups and campaign funding should be of great concern to all citizens. Examine opposing viewpoints on some of the key issues and consider for yourself who has—and who should have—a say in the election process.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-Though this series contains only four books, they are rich with information about all aspects of the election process, going beyond a traditional discussion of the electoral college process and looking more deeply into topics such as media accountability, attack ads, campaigning, and special interest groups. While these titles are text heavy, the layout facilitates ease of reading, with text boxes, diagrams, and captioned color photos breaking up the narrative and providing more information. This set offers an unbiased look at the historical context of elections along with the modern significance of the process and helps young people analyze the topics with the intent of becoming informed citizens and voters. VERDICT Timely additions on an important subject.Ã Â (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Sandy Donovan has written many nonfiction books for young readers.

If you are a political junkie, you probably spend a lot of time checking out your favorite candidates. That can be a fun, fascinating, and cool way to begin to learn about politics. One thing we do know is that "the goal of a fair and democratic election is that every citizen's vote has the same value." True, but that vote can be influenced in many ways, ways that you might not even think of. There's mega-bucks in politics, but just how much and where does it come from? If you're interested in politics, knowing about that money matters ... a lot. Everyone has their own opinion when it comes to candidates and elections, but "interest groups, lobbyists, and campaign funding" help form them. The money these groups use generally comes from their fund-raising activities. Activities can include raising money through the mail, phone calls, the Internet, and just plain old asking for it. It might not seem to affect you at all, but when you learn about "why people should worry about the costs," you'll be a more informed voter (or future voter). Money really does matter in politics. You've often heard the phrase that there are two sides to every story, but there are "more than one side to any issue as well." If you listen to a wide variety of politicians, that's a no-brainer. When you check out some of the examples in this book, it will become clear why there are so many special interest (pressure) groups. Interest in animal rights, civil rights, and environmental issues are a mere handful of topics that attract special interest groups. These groups are very influential and have a "big interest in people who are not yet elected." You'll certainly find out how and why they can "influence elections." There needs to be regulation in place in order to make things fairer for everyone from the political lurker to the voters and the candidates themselves. Historically "campaign finance regulations, or campaign finance reform laws" are necessary to balance the electoral process. One of the earliest acts, the Tillman Act, passed in 1907 in an attempt to prohibit "certain businesses from donating to federal political campaigns." In this book you'll learn about campaign restrictions, PACs, super PACs, finance reform, soft money, loopholes, "dark money," the right of free speech in elections, and many other fascinating facts about everything from the role of "lobbyists to campaign funding" in our election process. This is an excellent resource for students who want to learn more about the role of special interests in elections. I was quite impressed with how well-written and presented the information in this book was. Each chapter presents information in such a way that it not only presents information, but also subtly encourages the reader to think about how special interests affect the election process. There are numerous informative sidebars that add additional information to the text. For example, one tells us why candidates must say "and I approve this

message" in election ads. In the back of the book is an index, a glossary, source notes, a selected bibliography, and additional recommended book and website resources to explore. Social studies Grades 6 to 8

INSIDE ELECTIONS: MEDIA: From News Coverage to Political Advertising
POLITICAL PARTIES: From Nominations to Victory Celebrations
SPECIAL INTERESTS: From Lobbyists to Campaign Funding
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