

those that are practical and experienced in politics is, can you raise the money? And it's a sad state of affairs when those people who desire to serve the public and have an interest in running for office have to meet that threshold as the first line in order to be considered a serious candidate. But that's what it's come to anymore. And I think we all acknowledge that, that that's the power of money today. And that need to raise the money I think raises the elevation of influence of money from those who have it in the political process, so that economic strength translates into political strength and influences the political process in a way that returns back to those who make an investment in candidates and have a positive return on that investment. And I think the general public is not well served by that. So I've come to the conclusion on the question of is there a campaign financing problem, yes, there is, and I think most of the public would seriously agree with that and acknowledge that they want to see something done about it. If you have a problem with campaign financing, what can we do about it? Well, the Supreme Court has limited what our choices are because they've said we can't have a mandatory limit on campaign financing, we can only have a voluntary limit. And the only way you're going to have anybody voluntarily limit their campaign spending is if you have an incentive in order to have them choose that as the better course rather than being able to go and spend whatever they wish and their opponent spend whatever they wish. So we haven't got the flexibility and the freedom to decide and fashion whatever kind of campaign financing limitations you might think are the best course. I would prefer just putting a limit on. But the court says, no, you can't do that. So that's where the public financing aspect of the bill comes into this. So, if there's a campaign financing problem, the real...the only real solution that we've got out there is to voluntarily put limits on and then have an incentive for people to voluntarily comply with those limits. So back to the point Senator Witek and the press has been reporting, this is a public finance issue. This is not a campaign public finance issue. This is a campaign spending limit issue. And the only way we can get to that end is through the means of some voluntarily imposed public financing mechanism that rewards individuals who keep within the limit and punishes those who spend beyond it. And that's simple and clear, and that's the only reason that we have public financing. I would prefer not to have public financing in this, I'm sure others who support the bill would as well. But again, the court has limited what we can do. So please, when you characterize this issue, the primary component