

GET MONEY OUT Maryland

We must amend the Constitution because political corruption costs us trillions every year!

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Big money in politics corrupts our democracy—at taxpayer expense, and 96% of Americans are concerned about its corrosive effects.¹ Multinational corporations and wealthy individuals spend billions on political campaigns, much of it untraceable. Corporate lobbyists write legislation governing the industries they represent. Congress rubber-stamps it, and the rest of us foot the bill. The items identified here come to almost \$6,000 per person, per year. Elimination of just these rotten fruits of big money in politics would be enough to raise a typical 2.5-person household income from \$63,000 to almost \$78,000 – a 24% increase. Each item is listed with its approximate **per person** toll.

Fossil fuel interests have won direct and indirect subsidies as calculated by International Monetary Fund.²



Wealthy elites have won lower tax rate for dividends and capital gains compared to wages.³



Health insurance industry holds onto excess profits. Medicare pays out 98% of revenue in health benefits while private insurance pays 85%.⁴



\$1,966

\$1,919

\$1,161

Pharma influence has raised U.S. drug prices much higher than in other wealthy nations.⁵



Individuals and corporations make big campaign donations and hide wealth in foreign tax havens.⁶



Business influence won a lowered corporate tax rate of 21% as well as subsidies that drop actual average tax rate paid to only 11%.⁷

2018 Tax Subsidy in \$ Billions	
Company	Amount
Bank of America	\$5.6
JP Morgan Chase	\$3.7
Wells Fargo	\$3.2
Amazon	\$2.4

\$350

\$337

\$225

Sum of items in this partial list of corrupt subsidies and corporate welfare.



\$5,958 per person

It's worse than this! The \$2 trillion listed here does not include:

- Low wages and union busting
- Failure to regulate banks and guns
- Unnecessary treatment and other health care waste
- Corrupt weapons contracts
- Human suffering and \$6 trillion spent in Mideast wars
- Reductions in the inheritance tax in the past 20 years and special loopholes on capital gains for heirs

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/national/democracy-poll/> ² *Rolling Stone*, 5/8/19 and *Vox*, 5/17/19. ³ *Bankrate.com*, 3/30/15. ⁴ *politifact.com*, 9/20/17 ⁵ *Vox.com*, 11/30/16 ⁶ *Forbes*, 1/26/16 ⁷ *Washington Post*, 12/16/19