



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Cynthia Isaac Macke, Director of Sales and Marketing  
Clermont Chamber of Commerce

4355 Ferguson Drive, Suite 150

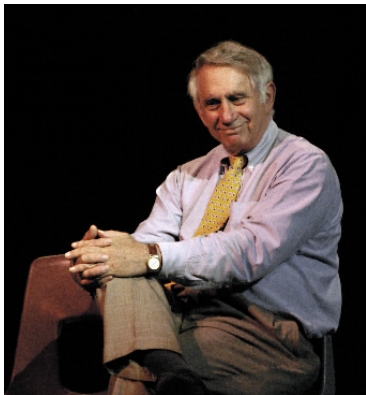
Cincinnati, Ohio 45245

Phone: 513.576.5006

Fax: 513.576.5001

[www.clermontchamber.com](http://www.clermontchamber.com)

**Clermont Chamber Luncheon features Democracy Challenged: How Big Money in Politics Influences Who Runs for Office, Who Wins, and What They Do Once Elected**



Join Americans for Campaign Reform founder and Chair of the Board John Rauh at the Clermont Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon on Friday, January 30, 11:15 – 1:00 at Receptions Conference Center East. The keynote presentation will focus on one of the seminal challenges facing American democracy today: the role of private money in determining who runs for public office, who gets elected, and the public policies that result. Mr. Rauh will examine the effects of private campaign funding on the quality of leadership and governance today, and present an alternative small donor-driven approach to federal campaign finance.

The 2008 election was one of the most expensive, and spirited, campaigns in American history. Both major-party candidates advocated fundamental change, and many Americans voted not only for change in policies but change in how business is conducted in Washington, DC. Even as the nation faces daunting political challenges on numerous fronts, the 536 national leaders responsible for meeting these challenges operate in a system that is largely defined by private campaign contributions from a small minority of Americans.

In seven states from Maine to Arizona, alternative "Fair Elections" systems of publicly funded campaigns are ushering in a new and more representative politics. Participation from citizen small donors has increased dramatically, and more candidates from diverse backgrounds and points of view are stepping forward to run for public office. Once elected, those candidates are increasingly able to pursue a popular agenda unconstrained by special interests.

With the election behind us and new forms of citizen participation taking hold, the opportunity for meaningful reform in Washington, DC in 2009 has never been greater. President-Elect Obama has publicly committed himself to fixing the longstanding system of presidential public funding and extending reform to Congress, and senior members of the U.S. House and Senate have stepped forward with bipartisan legislation in the 111th Congress.

To register for the January 30 Legislative Luncheon, contact the Clermont Chamber of Commerce at 576-5000 or visit [www.clermontchamber.com](http://www.clermontchamber.com). The cost of the luncheon is \$38 for Chamber members and \$50 for non-members.

ACR is chaired by former U.S. Senators Bill Bradley (D-NJ), Bob Kerrey (D-NE), Alan Simpson (R-WY) and Warren Rudman (R-NH). For more information on ACR contact 603-227-0626 or [www.youstreet.org](http://www.youstreet.org).

*Founded in 1969, the Clermont Chamber of Commerce promotes local and regional business through business attraction, retention & expansion, educational and networking opportunities, business consulting assistance and business advocacy for the over 1000 Clermont Chamber Members. Find us at [www.clermontchamber.com](http://www.clermontchamber.com). The President of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is Matthew D. Van Sant, and the Chairman of the Board is Chip Gerhardt of Government Strategies Group, LLC.*