

"Super PACs" to dominate U.S. election

The 2012 U.S. election will be the first since a landmark Supreme Court ruling enabled the creation of Super PACs – committees free to solicit unlimited funds from individuals, corporations and unions. Critics say they will allow rich individuals undue influence on the election



Super PACs: Political Action Committees can use funds to campaign for candidates* or mount direct media attacks – not allowed in past – on opposition candidates

DEMOCRAT

Funds raised
(first half of 2011)

\$6.24m
came from
23 donors



8 liberal
Super PACs
\$7.61m

**Super PACs
that support
individual candidates**

REPUBLICAN

Funds raised

\$14.16m
came from
35 donors



9 conservative
Super PACs
\$17.61m



**President
Obama**
*Priorities
USA Action*

**Mitt
Romney**
*Restore
Our Future*

Rick Perry
*Make Us
Great Again*
(plus 5 others)

Ron Paul
*Revolution
PAC*

**Michele
Bachmann**
*Working
America*

**Jon
Huntsman**
*Our Destiny
PAC*

Candidate fund raising (Apr 1 - Jun 30, 2011). Under federal law individuals can donate only \$2,500 directly to candidate or \$5,000 to traditional PAC

\$45.4m

\$18.3m

–

\$4.5m

\$4.3m

\$4.1m

*Super PACs not allowed to coordinate directly with candidates or political parties

Sources: Center for Responsive Politics, FEC

Pictures: Associated Press

© GRAPHIC NEWS