

# Big Money Politics after Citizens United: *Keeping Voters Engaged in Democracy*

Saturday, April 18th | 11:00 - 12:30pm | 145 Dwinelle

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*Bipartisan campaign-finance reform was dealt a serious blow in 2010 with the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling and subsequent decisions. Five years later, questions loom. Are all campaign contributions now protected "speech" under the Constitution? How can elections work best when "deep-pockets" secretly attempt to control the results and often drown out civil discussion? In this new environment, policymakers are exploring how to keep our democracy healthy and reengage voters who understandably have lost faith in our system. Join a groundbreaking civil rights leader, a nationally recognized constitutional law expert and political scientist, and a civic-engagement expert and politician for a provocative panel discussion addressing these important questions.*



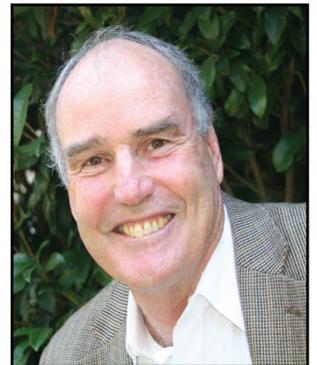
Eva Paterson



Nathaniel Persily



Pete Peterson



Dick Beahrs

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## ***Eva Paterson, Co-founder and President, Equal Justice Society***

Civil rights attorney Eva Jefferson Paterson is co-founder and President of the Equal Justice Society, a nonprofit organization transforming the nation's consciousness on race through law, social science, and the arts. She previously led the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights where she was part of a broad coalition that filed the groundbreaking anti-discrimination suit against race and gender discrimination by the San Francisco Fire Department. That lawsuit successfully desegregated the department, winning new opportunities for women and firefighters of color. Paterson is co-chair of the California Civil Rights Coalition (CCRC), which she co-founded and previously chaired for 18 years. As co-chair of CCRC she was a leading spokesperson in the campaigns against Proposition 187 (anti-immigrant) and Proposition 209 (anti-affirmative action) and numerous other statewide campaigns against the death penalty, juvenile incarceration and discrimination against lesbians and gay men. She also served as Vice President of the ACLU National Board for eight years, and chaired the boards of Equal Rights Advocates and the San Francisco Bar Association Foundation. She received her B.A. in political science from Northwestern University, where she was elected the first African American student body president, and a J.D. from U.C. Berkeley School of Law.

## ***Nathaniel Persily, James B. McClatchy Professor of Law at Stanford University***

Nathaniel Persily is the James B. McClatchy Professor of Law at Stanford Law School, with appointments also in the departments of Political Science and Communication. Prior to joining Stanford, Professor Persily taught at Columbia and University of Pennsylvania Law School, and as a visiting professor at Harvard, NYU, and Princeton. He has served as a court-appointed expert or Special Master to craft legislative districting plans for many states and most recently as the Senior Research Director for the Presidential Commission on Election Administration. In addition to dozens of articles (many of which have been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court) on the legal regulation of political parties, issues surrounding the census and redistricting process, voting rights, and campaign finance reform, Professor Persily has edited three books: *Public Opinion and Constitutional Controversy* (Oxford Press, 2008) (with Jack Citrin and Patrick Egan); *The Health Care Case* (Oxford Press 2013); and *Solutions to Polarization* (Cambridge Press, forthcoming 2015). He received a B.A. and M.A. in political science from Yale (1992); a J.D. from Stanford (1998) where he was President of the law review, and a Ph.D. in political science from U.C. Berkeley in 2002.

## ***Pete Peterson, Executive Director, Davenport Institute for Public Engagement and Civic Leadership School of Public Policy at Pepperdine University***

Pete Peterson was the first executive director of the bi-partisan organization, Common Sense California, which in 2010 joined with the Davenport Institute at Pepperdine University's School of Public Policy. In 2008, he developed the organization's annual Public Engagement Grant Program, which has provided over \$300,000 in grants to dozens of municipal governments across California. Peterson co-created and co-facilitates the training seminar, "Public Engagement: The Vital Leadership Skill in Difficult Times" – a program that has been attended by over 1,000 municipal officials. He created, and is the executive editor of the Institute's two main blogs: "inCommon", and "Gov2.0Watch". Peterson was a 2014 Republican candidate for California Secretary of State and has been a public affairs fellow at The Hoover Institution. He serves on the Leadership Councils of the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) and California Forward, and on the advisory committees of the University Network for Collaborative Governance, and the Institute for Local Government. Peterson earned a BA in history from George Washington University, and an MPP from Pepperdine University's School of Public Policy.

## ***Richard "Dick" Beahrs '68, Moderator***

Richard Beahrs was a history major and served as ASUC President during his last year at Cal. He is currently a UC Berkeley Foundation Trustee and a member of the Center's Advisory Board. Now retired, he spent 35 years as a Media Executive at Time Warner, where his positions included the Presidencies of Comedy Central and Court TV. In 2001, Dick and his wife Carolyn funded the creation of the Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program on the Berkeley campus. In the past decade, over 350 environmental leaders from over 75 countries from around the world have received intensive training in sustainable development practices through a 3 1/2 week multidisciplinary program.

***Learn more about the Center on Civility & Democratic Engagement at [gspp.berkeley.edu/ccde](http://gspp.berkeley.edu/ccde)***