

OPINION

Citizens United was a triumph for free speech

No speech is as protected under the First Amendment as political speech and no political speech is as important as speech advocating whom to vote for, or against, for president.

By **Floyd Abrams**, Updated January 16, 2020, 5:09 a.m.



Former Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote, in the Citizens United decision, that "political speech must prevail against laws that would suppress it." He was right. NYT

The Citizens United case after 10 years? Let's recall first what that case was about and why a number of First Amendment aficionados such as myself have been drawn to

support what has become one of the most maligned Supreme Court cases in American history.

In 2008, Citizens United was a conservative organization with a yearly budget of about \$12 million. A small portion of that money was contributed by for-profit corporations. Citizens United prepared a film harshly denouncing Hillary Clinton at a time when she seemed to be the most likely Democratic nominee for president. (Barack Obama was later nominated and elected.)

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