

Ultimately, the responsibility of being informed about the sources of funding for political parties and candidates lies with the voters and only by doing so will they ensure that their interests are better represented.

What can citizens committed to democracy do?

Transparency is the cornerstone of civic involvement to monitor the effects of money in politics. Citizens must demand greater transparency from political parties and candidates in their funding practices and greater commitment from electoral oversight bodies in performing their duties. In other words, citizens must demand transparency and use their votes to punish those who fail to ensure it.

In countries with an Access to Information Law or a law governing political parties and campaign financing requiring the public disclosure of information, citizens have a legal right to know about

completely absent or limited to an estimated budget submitted by parties and/or candidates, thereby denying the public the ability to take this information into account when casting their votes.

- **Private donations remain hidden:**

US President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn. For more information about the organisation and its projects, please visit: www.cartercenter.org.