

Comparative Study of Financings of Congressional Campaigns in the USA and the ROC

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Abstract

This article examines the regulations pertaining to the setting of upper limits on congressional campaign revenues and expenses in the USA and the ROC. In 1976, the US Supreme Court ruled such a limit setting as unconstitutional. In 1990, donations made by individuals accounted for 53% of total congressional campaign revenues in the USA. The substantial individual contributions reflect the active involvement of the average citizen in political campaigns, which is unique to the USA. In the ROC, the law requires all political campaigns, without exception, to file financial reports to the authority. The congressional campaigns, like all other political campaigns, generally submit financial accounts as required; however, the truthfulness of these accounts are often called into question. It is feared that campaign expenditures, often including sums of money for vote-buying, are on the increase. The political implications of congressional campaign financing in the ROC are discussed and a reform of the electoral system is recommended.