

# Setting Standards, Changing Opinions, and Getting Results

**P**oliticians come and go, but the Mackinac Center for Public Policy is here to stay. The Mackinac Center raises the public standards for good policy and blows the whistle on the bad.

The month after the national elections is a good time for reflection and analysis. Are you satisfied with the election outcome? Did your candidates win? Did you contribute financially to campaigns? Did you do everything you could to help your candidates win? And if they were elected, are you confident that they will do what they promised to do to earn your support?

It's frustrating to be a voter, but a politician's challenge is not



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much easier. Elected officials are expected to be high-minded people of principle, knowledgeable on current issues, and full of thoughtful solutions to problems facing their constituency. Even if a politician is all these things,

there is still pressure to make big campaign promises calculated to appeal to voters. Once elected, there is more pressure to keep voters "happy" to gain re-election. Is this good representative government?

Fortunately, the problem of poor policy resulting from attempts to satisfy voter demands has a solution. The answer lies in changing public opinion. If citizens understand basic issues and economic principles such as "there is no such thing as a free lunch," they will ask candidates tough questions and support politicians who are honest enough to give tough answers and enact sound policy accordingly.

The Mackinac Center's role is to shift public opinion to an

appreciation of sound policy—free markets, limited government, personal responsibility, and respect for private property—which voters will demand at the polls, and then get from elected leaders.

Each fall we ask you to support the Mackinac Center Annual Fund with a year-end contribution. These funds help the Center shift public opinion toward sound policy that the politicians then have a strong incentive to enact. There is no more effective way to change opinion and policy toward free market solutions than investing in the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. Please give generously. **!**