



## Austin v. Michigan Chamber of Commerce, 494 U.S. 652, 710 (1990)

Respondent, state chamber of commerce, brought an action to challenge the constitutionality of § 54(1) of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, which prohibited corporations from using corporate treasury funds for independent expenditures in support of, or in opposition to, any candidate in elections for state office. The Court held that § 54(1) was constitutional because the provision was narrowly tailored to serve the compelling state interest of eliminating from the political process the corrosive effect of political war chests amassed with the aid of the legal advantages given to corporations.

### **The Court Provided**

To create second-class speakers that can be stifled on the subject of candidate qualifications is to silence some of the most significant participants in the American public dialogue, as evidenced by the *amici* briefs filed on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Public Interest Law, the American Medical Association.