

## Romney Super PAC Announces Vote Buying Campaign

In a bold new move to wrap up the Republican presidential primary, the Romney Super PAC, *Restore Our Future*, has announced its intention to buy votes from citizens in the open market. While disavowing any connection to the Super PAC or its strategy, candidate Romney noted that the idea was a splendid example of free market capitalism. “Next to their homes, which have already been bought and foreclosed, citizen’s votes are one of the most valuable commodities they have, he said. Why shouldn’t they be able to sell them.”

“Til now we’ve all been using fundamentally unreliable methods such as blanketing the airwaves with misleading attack ads, or appearing on Fox News, said a Republican strategist. “You could never be sure when you had done enough. And then again someone might check the facts. Romney’s strategy is a much better approach. If you buy the vote,” he continued, “you are certain of the result. And what the market wants is certainty.”

Members of the Republican establishment who have also disavowed any connection to the Super PAC see the new strategy as the surest way to stop the unwelcome ascent of Newt Gingrich in national polls. Robert Dole, Elliott Abrams, and many others have been vocal about the need to prevent Gingrich from getting the nomination and handing the election to Obama. “Stick that in your ear, Newt,” said one former house representative who asked to remain anonymous.

Current House Speaker John Boehner was also quick to endorse the new strategy, noting the possible economic effects in the General Election. “Everywhere that Republicans buy votes in upcoming primaries will put money in the pockets of hard-working Americans.” “That’s economic stimulus you can believe in,” he added.

On the other side of the house, however, Democrat Nancy Pelosi deplored the new strategy, seeing it as a further intrusion of money in the political process. “Money already threatens to corrupt the representatives of government; now it will corrupt the electorate itself.”

Speaker Boehner, however, discounted Pelosi’s remarks, citing this as just another example of the way Democrats want to impose regulations upon business. “Democrats haven’t met a new business idea they didn’t want to regulate, he quipped.

Outside the country the news also sparked interest, with one economist projecting a huge balance of trade surplus as foreign countries bid up the price for votes and cash flows into the US economy. “Buying votes is a much cleaner approach to gaining influence than buying dollars,” a Chinese investor noted.

Attorney General Eric Holder, however, has announced an immediate investigation of the new Super PAC strategy, and questioned its legality. Off the record, however, a member of the Federal Election Commission has said that he sees no problem with the approach. “The Supreme Court has already endorsed buying elections. I don’t see how they can oppose buying votes.”