

Nancy Pelosi pushes campaign finance reforms

By **LAUREN FRENCH** | 4/3/14 2:05 PM EDT Updated: 4/4/14 6:26 AM EDT

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Republican megadonors wouldn't flood elections with private money if federal law forced individuals to immediately disclose their gifts, not only in public records but in advertisements too, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said on Thursday.

"The Chamber of Commerce told us that if their members had to disclose, they wouldn't give to these secret PACs," Pelosi said.

Pelosi's comments come as House Democrats plan to aggressively push for campaign finance reforms after the Supreme Court decision on Wednesday to eliminate caps on the total amount of money an individual can give to candidates, party committees and PACs.

The effort has little chance of moving forward in the Republican-controlled House, but Pelosi isn't standing down. She is pursuing legislation that would require immediate disclosure of large donations and also wants to pass a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision, which also loosened campaign finance rules.

"We can organize against it and we can have a message of reform," she told reporters. "[It's a] very bad decision but totally consistent with their backward thinking undermining our democracy."

Democrats have widely panned Wednesday's court ruling. Still, Pelosi admitted that Democrats have ground to gain in the aftermath. Democrats often outraise Republicans when it comes to donations to individual candidates and political committees but are dwarfed by the private money flowing to PACs.

But she said all donations should be transparent.

"The very same people who are putting up all this money are the very same people who are opposed to raising the minimum wage [and] are the very same people who are advocating for no regulations," she said