

Catherine Turcer is the legislative director for Ohio Citizen Action and the co-author of *The Run for the Money: An Analysis of Campaign Contribution Patterns in Ohio 1999-2000*; *The Enron Hot Potato*; *2004 Contributions to Candidates for Justice and Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court*; *Following the Money: Contributions to Ohio Gubernatorial Candidates 2005-2006* and other money and politics studies. Turcer also provides regular commentary to numerous Ohio newspapers. As a government watchdog, Turcer encourages citizens to be more vigilant and policymakers to create more open, responsible government.

Catherine Turcer has been a strong advocate for campaign finance reform for many years. She was instrumental in the passage of the Voter's Right-to-Know Act in 1999. The Voter's Right-to-Know Act put campaign contributor information on the Internet so that voters can look at this information before elections. Turcer has continued to actively lobby for the improvements in Ohio's campaign finance system. In 2005, the Ohio Legislature greatly improved disclosure, but it also quadrupled campaign contribution limits and did not limit the mobility of campaign cash in a significant way. Therefore, in 2005, Ohio Citizen Action and Catherine Turcer supported taking campaign finance reform to the ballot, and promoted the unsuccessful Reform Ohio Now initiatives.

Turcer served on Ohio's Help America Vote State Planning Commission, which advised the Ohio Secretary of State as the state selected and purchased new voting apparatus. Turcer promoted the importance of a voter verified paper audit trail to serve as an appropriate auditing system. In May 2004, Ohio became one of the first states to require a voter verified paper audit trail for computerized voting machines.

Turcer also served on Chief Justice Thomas Moyer's study committees which explored improving disclosure of judicial campaigns and public financing, including voter guides.

In June 2006, Turcer received *The Spirit of Democracy Award*, the highest civic honor given by the Ohio Secretary of State. In her spare time, Turcer enjoys volunteering at the Columbus Museum of Art. Turcer earned her B.A. in Clinical Psychology and Gerontology from Alfred University and completed graduate work at the University of Connecticut in social group work and research.

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