Corporate Political Funding Challenged in U.S.

What is the issue?

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- Corporate funding of elections and campaigns has been dominating U.S. politics for the better part of past 100 years.
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- But as a response to the ill effects of corporate clout over public policy, a new wave of community funded politics is emerging.
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- In this context, the victory of “Alexandria Ocasio” in the democratic primaries (House of Representatives) is seen as the 1st major success.
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What is the significant development within the Democratic Party?

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- A quiet movement against corporate funding in politics appears to be under way within the U.S. Democratic Party and is said to be gaining strength.
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- Recently, the victory of “Alexandria Ocasio” in the primaries to secure a democratic ticket to the House of Representatives seen as a direct indication.
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- Strikingly, Ms. Ocasio is said to have spent a mere $200,000 compared to his $3.4 million war chest of her experienced opponent Mr. Crowley.
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- Importantly, Ms. Ocasio is said to have declined corporate donations throughout her campaign and was very pronounced in her socialist agenda.
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- Her progressive credentials also enabled her to strongly capitalise on the present hard-tactics employed by Mr. Trump against hapless immigrants.
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- Considering the strategic significance, this win will likely reverberate through the Democratic Party, and possibly put the Republicans on notice as well.

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How does the future look?

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- The emerging trend was first piloted on a large scale by Bernie Sanders during his unsuccessful 2016 presidential primaries.
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- While many politicians are already on board, the victory of Ms. Ocasio indeed marks a major milestone for socialist agenda within the U.S. polity.
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- But merely drawing superficial conclusions based on the sporadic wins registered might not imply the movement as such is gaining momentum.
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- Notably, the few wins registered by the movement have mostly been from multi-ethnic constituencies that have traditionally backed progressive politics.
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Source: The Hindu

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