Christie's proposal will most certainly draw fierce opposition. Public interest groups will decry it as the antithesis of open government and an invitation to the wealthy to seize control of the electoral process while silencing the voice of the average small donor voter.

That the entire system is awash in cash is undeniable. It is equally beyond dispute that, given court rulings in particular, significant and far-reaching changes are unlikely. Money in copious quantities will continue to flow and methods will be devised to assure that the flow will be directed by those with a vested interest.

Christie's suggestion they all be identified and voters be allowed to reach their own conclusions on the propriety of it all will be well worth it if it produces a serious-minded debate about campaign finance.

Carl Golden is a senior contributing analyst with the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.