


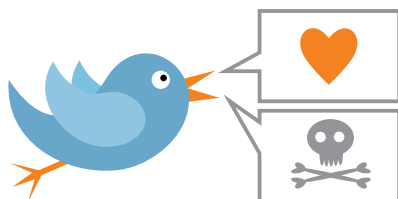
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Political parties and their financing



Political parties are the main cause of the collapse in the fundamental values ushered in by the Velvet Revolution, according to Chief Justice [Pavel Rychetský](#) of the Constitutional Court. He told HN that they are "exclusive, hermetically sealed clubs," which see their role not in cultivating political culture and democratic principles, but rather as a means to achieving personal power and influence. Two key laws now under debate (not mentioned by Rychetský) can help or hinder this situation. First, the campaign-financing law would set limits on personal and corporate donations and is aimed squarely at Andrej Babiš. Second, a new public-procurement law would raise the maximum level of extra work without a new tender and is ČSSD's preferred method of securing party finances. A compromise might be taking shape: ANO is also beginning to understand the vast opportunities presented to political parties by public procurement.

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