

Let's have public financing of campaigns!

Money dominates our political process. Lawmaking is for sale – and that's wrong. Large sums flow in; political favors flow out – drowning the voices of ordinary citizens; allowing fat cats to set public policy in their private interest. When financiers give big bucks, they expect a huge *return-on-investment* – and they get it. Consider pharmaceutical contributions to Congress, which doubled (to both political parties) during the prescription drug debate. Drug makers got a windfall; consumers got higher prices.

The campaign money arms race has become a senseless hurdle. Fewer candidates can afford to run, limiting the choice of candidates and diversity of views – the bedrock of democracy.

We have to change the system! Elections should be about issues and voters, not who can raise the most money. When campaigns are funded publicly, lawmakers are no longer indebted to private special interest or worried about campaign donations; they're free to vote for the public interest.

Clean campaigns programs are working. Maine created a Clean Campaigns program in 1996, by voter initiative. In 2006, over eighty percent of state legislators were elected using only Clean Money. Free of special interest, they've made real progress on issues of public concern. In Arizona, nine of eleven state officials were elected last year, running Clean – including Governor Janet Napolitano. Other states and cities have programs of public financing for campaigns. Why not Washington next?

How it works: For candidates, it's optional. They qualify to run Clean by collecting signatures and \$5 donations from voters in their district. They agree to accept no private contributions nor use their own funds. Then they receive state funds sufficient to run a credible campaign. If outspent by an opponent, they receive matching "Fair Fight" funds, up to a set limit. Third-party "Swift Boat" ads also trigger matching funds – to keep the playing field level for all.

It's affordable! – less than \$4 per year, per person.

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With publicly funded campaigns...

- Lawmakers and elected officials are indebted to NO special interest.
- Qualified candidates can run regardless of their wealth or connections, and voters get wider choice among candidates.
- Lawmakers work on voters' issues, rather than romancing big donors. No more "dialing for dollars"!
- Candidates respond to voters' concerns about affordable health care and education, safe environment, proper use of government resources.

...we can reclaim government of, by, and for the people!

What you can do

- Become an advocate! Join our mailing list by visiting our website: washclean.org
- Sign the Citizens' Petition for Clean Campaigns – download from our website, for your friends!
- Send a donation to help us spread the word. Donate online, or send a contribution to:
Washington Public Campaigns ■ P.O. Box 70452 ■ Seattle, WA 98127-0452
- Contact your legislators and let them know you support public campaign financing.
- Attend a Meet-up in your area. Find out when/where: wpc@washclean.org
- Invite a speaker to your union / church / neighborhood / civic group: speakers@washclean.org
- Host a house party for neighbors and friends. We'll help you, with materials and a speaker.
- Volunteer your contacts, ideas, and energy! Visit us at washclean.org



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