



Washington Public Campaigns

A Track Record of Accomplishments

Your support makes a difference!

Donations and help from supporters have enabled Washington Public Campaigns to sponsor forums, speaking engagements, workshops, and other events; create a website with toolkit items for organizers; broadcast emails with news and updates; and recruit and organize grassroots activists — all as a basis for legislative action and further game-changing reforms. Some highlights and results:

Public financing of campaigns for local office.

In the 2008 legislative session, we achieved enactment of the "local option" bill. This law ended a 16-year ban so that cities, counties, and other local governments in Washington have permission to create programs of public financing for political campaigns. As follow-up, WPC has helped to guide the design of a model publicly financed campaigns program for the City of Seattle, with potential for adaptation by other local governments in the state - whenever local budgets permit enactment.

Justice must NOT be for sale!

WPC has taken the lead on a legislative proposal for public financing of campaigns for the Washington State Supreme Court. In the 2009 -2010 legislative session, the bill garnered 33 co-sponsors in the state House, 9 cosponsors in the state Senate, and public hearings in both chambers. Tight state budgets precluded enactment of the judicial bill in 2010, but the issue remains very much alive.

Lawmaking in Congress should not be for sale!

WPC has organized public awareness and support for the federal **Fair Elections Now Act** (public financing of Congressional campaigns) and similar proposals to reduce the influence of well-heeled lobbyists. WPC has held briefing meetings with several federal lawmakers and, during the 2009-2010 Congress, Senator Maria Cantwell and Representatives Jim McDermott and Adam Smith from Washington State were among 24 Senators and 165 Representatives who cosponsored that legislative proposal.

People - not wealth or special interests - should control our democracy!

WPC continues to collaborate with like-minded organizations in efforts to achieve campaign and election reforms to protect the voice of citizen-voters in our democracy. We lobby for increased disclosure in campaign donations, spending and so-called "issue ads" - so voters can know who is trying to influence their vote.

Jointly with emerging national coalitions, we've begun an awareness campaign, building popular support to overturn the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. F.E.C.* (which has allowed unlimited corporate spending to influence election results). This may eventually require an amendment to the U.S. Constitution itself, to clarify that only flesh-and-blood persons - not great wealth or corporate interests - have a sovereign right to free political speech.