

The problem

Imagine you're a candidate running for office. You need lots of money for your campaign. Who will influence you more: a voter in your district who gives you \$10, or a powerful special interest that can raise \$10,000 for you?

And when the time comes to vote on a bill that would benefit that special interest, would you give it your unquestioning support, expecting support for your next re-election campaign?

Do you have to spend all your time dialing for dollars just to keep up with your opponent's "war chest"? Do you wish you had more time to talk with voters about what *they* want, instead?



The problem is the system.
The influence of big money
drowns out the voices of
ordinary citizens.

The vision

What if individual voters had more control over their government?

What if all qualified candidates could run, regardless of their wealth or connections?

What if voters had more choices among candidates?

What if candidates could spend their time talking about issues with voters, rather than romancing big donors?

What if candidates could listen to voters' concerns about adequate health care, their kids' education, affordable housing, wages, and taxes? What if candidates could afford to care about family farmers and small business owners?

In some other places, they can. Maine passed public funding for state races in 1996, Arizona in 1998, and Connecticut in 2005.

In 2006, 83% of Maine's state legislators were elected using only "clean" money, about evenly split from both major parties, and up from 33%. A similar increase happened in Arizona.

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, who won with public funding, was delighted. "I could spend my time talking with voters, not with [big] contributors. We were able to...campaign in a fundamentally different way."

Once she was in office, she said, "lobbyists were not swarming around me [for payback]."

How would it work?

To qualify for public funding, a candidate would collect signatures and perhaps \$5 apiece from a set number of voters in his or her district.

A candidate who thus qualifies and who opts to run on public funds would receive a specific amount from the state, based on amounts spent in similar races in the past.

This candidate would refuse all contributions from other sources and special interests, and would spend no personal money on his/her campaign.

If an opponent were to raise more money from private sources, the publicly-funded candidate would then receive more funds, leveling the playing field.

Voters would be notified **which** candidates are using public money.

The cost? Less than \$4 per year, per state resident, would provide public funding equal to the amount spent on state-level races in recent elections.

Isn't it worth it?



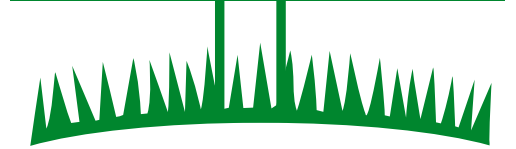
Public funding means fair elections.

Washington Public Campaigns lobbies for political change, so donations are **not** generally tax deductible. However, checks earmarked for education can be written to our 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor, Institute for Washington's Future. Make sure you write "WPC" on the memo line of the check. Still mail to WPC, PO Box 45088, Seattle, WA 98145-0088
You can help us to spread the message and to raise money to do this.



Tell us your ideas:

Thank you for your support!



Of, by
and for
the
people

washclean.org

What you can do

Join our mailing list by visiting our website: washclean.org.

Send a donation to help us grow. Donate online or send checks to:

Washington Public Campaigns
PO Box 45088 Seattle, WA 98145-0088
(Donations are not tax-deductible.)

Contact your legislators.

Let them know of your concerns and tell them you support public campaign financing. Ask what they intend to do about it.

Invite a WPC speaker, or become a speaker yourself!

Contact speakers@washclean.org if your group would like us to send a speaker, or if you want to become one.

Host a house party.

We'll help you, and we'll provide materials and a speaker.

Attend our monthly board meetings.

Find out when and where by emailing us: wpc@washclean.org

Volunteer your contacts, ideas, and energy.

Be a speaker yourself, raise funds, help with mailings, make phone calls, staff a table at an event, or collect signatures on an initiative or petition. A form for volunteering is on our website.

Visit our website frequently.

You'll find news of our latest achievements and projects at washclean.org

What's happening in Washington State?

We're creating public awareness.

We know it will take organized grass-roots pressure to achieve Clean Campaigns—and that begins with telling our neighbors, co-workers and friends about the program, how well it works in other states.

We arrange workshops to train advocates, speakers to spread the word, high-profile public forums, and local petition drives to demonstrate public support.

We're organizing local chapters.

WPC is organizing local chapters and meet-ups, led by a statewide committee, to encourage and support citizen action.

We're supporting legislative action.

We will continue to push Clean Campaigns bills in the state legislature, while preparing for the possibility of a citizens initiative.

In the U.S. Congress

The Fair Elections Now Act (S. 936) has been introduced with bi-partisan support. We encourage local support and favorable action.

Three out of four voters support a voluntary system of publicly financed campaigns, according to a 2006 poll by a bipartisan polling firm.

Washington Public Campaigns

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- Add me to your mailing list—to receive periodic updates on WPC progress, meetings, and how to help.
- WPC Information Digest is sent once or twice a month, by email. We do NOT share our list with anyone!
- Enclosed is a contribution, to help with printing and lobbying expenses: Amount \$ _____
- Contributions to WPC are not tax deductible (see reverse for exception). Suggested: \$50, or what you can afford.
- Contact me about a WPC presentation to my political, community, civic, or affinity group.
(Please describe your idea on back.)
- I can volunteer as () Neighborhood contact () Speaker () Phone caller () Helper with fundraising, petitions, data entry, mailings.

PLEASE PRINT – so we can read it! NAME _____

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