

Clean Campaigns Colorado

PUBLICLY FINANCED CAMPAIGNS

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE.

THE ISSUE:

- Historical data shows that candidates with the **most money to spend win** elections in Colorado — *90% of the time!*
- The “**money chase**” **corrupts our democracy** because candidates running for state offices spend most of their time and energy raising money and not listening to the concerns of their constituents. Moreover, the moment they are elected, incumbents start planning how to raise the funds that are required to run a competitive campaign.
- **Elected representatives are often influenced by special interest money, not citizens!**
- Our current system **discourages otherwise well-qualified citizens** who have no access to large amounts of money from running for office.

THE SOLUTION:

CITIZEN-FUNDED CAMPAIGNS



We can take back our elections and blunt the “money chase” in Colorado.

It's time to **increase citizen participation and control** of our legislative process!

- Citizen-funded campaigns ensure *transparency, accountability and responsibility* in the election process.
- Voters will be *informed* in their vote!
- Elected representatives will be influenced by *citizen* interest *not* special interest.

HOW DO CITIZEN-FUNDED CAMPAIGNS WORK?

- Candidate participation is totally voluntary: if a candidate agrees to public financing, they then raise a set amount of money in small donations from citizens.
- The amount provided to Citizen-Funded candidates is the average required to win a given race in the past two elections.
- There is no fiscal impact on Colorado. A \$5-\$10 fee on individual tax returns will fund the program. This will not interfere with the state budget.

PLEASE HELP US PUT 53 ON THE BALLOT:

- ★ **VISIT:** www.cleancampaignscolorado.com for more information.
- ★ **VOLUNTEER:** Carry a petition for Democracy! 100,000 signatures are needed by July 2010. Sign up today or at our website.
- ★ **CONTRIBUTE:** *Please make checks to* Clean Campaigns Colorado • 2400 Park Lake Drive
Boulder CO 80301

www.cleancampaignscolorado.com

Are all candidates required to accept public financing? No. Participation is voluntary. However, in states that already have public financing candidate participation has increased by up to 90%! Voter confidence and voter turnout has increased as well.

How does a candidate become eligible for public financing? A candidate must first meet state ballot requirements. Next, the candidate must collect a designated number of signatures and \$5 contributions from registered voters in their district.

How are funds allocated to publicly-financed candidates? An analysis of the amounts winning candidates raised in Colorado House District races in 2006 shows a wide variance: from \$6,300 to \$268,000. The amount provided to citizen-funded candidates in Colorado would be the average required to win a given race in the past two elections.

How will the publicly-financed campaigns system be governed? A seven member commission would work best for Colorado where over one third of all registered voters are not affiliated with any political party. Our Colorado Citizen-Funded Campaigns Commission would be structured so that no more than two commissioners would be from any one party and at least two commissioners would be from the ranks of our unaffiliated voters. It is important that the commission be non-partisan, independent of the officials being funded, and reflective of the political diversity of the Colorado electorate, including unaffiliated voters.

How will funds be generated to sustain Colorado Citizen-Funded Campaigns? Colorado's TABOR Amendment significantly reduces the revenue available for new General Fund expenditures. Even with Referendum C's passage, it will be years before state revenues catch up with Colorado's needs. A \$5 to \$10 additional tax per individual tax return, per year, designated just for Colorado Citizen-Funded Campaigns, would make the program self-sustaining and would not interfere with current budget processes or procedures.

OTHER STATES THAT HAVE PUBLICLY FINANCED CAMPAIGNS:

	ARIZONA	CONNECTICUT	MAINE
CANDIDATE PARTICIPATION	25% in 2000 61% in 2008*	75% in 2008 (first year of program)	30% in 2000 90% in 2008
CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED PER OFFICE**	State Representative: 210 State Senate: 210 Governor: 4,200	State Representative: 50 State Senate: 300 Governor: 5,000	State Representative: 50 State Senate: 150 Governor: 2,500
MONEY ALLOCATED FOR GENERAL ELECTION PER OFFICE	State House: \$18,000 State Senate: \$18,000 Governor: \$681,000	State House: \$25,000 State Senate: \$85,000 Governor: \$3,000,000	State House: \$4,400 State Senate: \$20,000 Governor: \$400,000
WHERE FUNDING COMES FROM	Surcharge on penalties, fines & judgements	Unclaimed property	From state's General Fund

*In Arizona, voter turn out is the highest it has been since 1982 and 85% of the voters surveyed support the current program.

**Comparable numbers for Colorado are 150, 300, and 3,500, respectively

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VOLUNTEER, CONTRIBUTE, SIGN A PETITION, AND SPREAD THE WORD GO TO www.cleancampaignscolorado.com FOR MORE INFORMATION

