

Madam Mayor
City Council Members
City Hall, Santa Barbara, CA

Our democracy is built upon the premise of one person one vote, not one dollar one vote. The best way to attain this ideal is to have **publicly financed local election campaigns**.

If every candidate for a particular office had the same amount of money to spend on their campaigns, then they all would have an equal opportunity to publicize their positions on issues, and their philosophy of governance. Public financing also makes the possibility of running for office more accessible to all citizens, with less regard for wealth and connections as prerequisites.

You must recognize the importance of the quality of people sitting on the City Council, or you would not have undertaken this difficult job yourself. Thus, I appeal to you to please **support and vote for public financing to make our local elections more democratic**.

The basic elements for **publicly financed election campaigns** which I support are:

I - Each potential candidate who elects to accept public money would have to collect and submit to the City/County, a designated number of signatures from registered voters who support that candidate, along with a check for \$5 (or other small amount), made out to the City/County, as evidence of the viability of the potential candidate.

II - Candidates must submit the checks to the City/County and must agree, in a written contract, to accept no other contributions and to spend none of their own money on the campaign. In return, the City/County would give each qualifying candidate a predetermined amount to use for the specific contested office.

III – Such Candidates would be referred to as “Clean Money” candidates.

IV – Clean Money candidates would account for all expenditures and would return to the City/County any funds not used in their campaigns.

V - All Clean Money candidates would be required to participate in a minimum number of public forums to explain and discuss their positions on the issues.

VI – The City/County would provide free, equal time for each Clean Money candidate on City/County access television channels.

VII – An ethics committee of community representatives would be established and would assure that the letter and intent of the law are followed.

VIII - Candidates who do not participate in public financing would be limited to a set amount of money that each could receive from any one entity or person.

Sincerely yours,

[YOUR NAME & ADDRESS]