



MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR THE PEOPLE

Voter-owned clean election funding

Voter-owned clean elections is a system where candidates for public office can voluntarily choose to accept public funding for their campaigns and small donations, as opposed to accepting large contributions from political action committees (PAC) and large donors. Money plays a tremendous role in who wins elections, in that the candidate with access to money is the one who often wins. Yet excellent candidates decline to run when faced with thoughts of raising huge sums of money. The reliance on large donors and PAC money means that the public office holder becomes beholden to the funder and not to the voter. Consequently decisions are made based on whether the large donor will be satisfied with the decision, not whether the decision is in the best public interest.



Because of the cost of running for election, the candidates need to spend significant amounts of time fundraising. With publicly funded elections, the amount of money that needs to be raised no longer becomes an impediment. By reducing the influence of large contributors to the election process, government will become more representative of the public at large, both in decision-making and law-making.

Several states have voter-owned cleaned elections, including Maine and Arizona. The mayor and council races in New York City also are also publicly funded.