

## Campaign Finance Reform & Voting Systems

The Board reaffirms the following goals and principles for Campaign Finance Reform:

### A. Goals

Increase congressional dedication to the long-term best interests of the nation by decreasing congresspeople's obligations to campaign contributors.

Shift political power toward voters and volunteers and away from wealthy self-funded candidates and large contributors seeking political favors.

Increase public trust in the power of voting and public interest lobbying.

Improve the quality of candidates for Congress by reducing the role of money in elections.

Reduce campaign solicitation efforts of congresspeople so they can better serve constituents and their environment.

### B. Principles

The following principles state the Club's support for four fundamental means of campaign finance for congressional elections.

- Public financing for campaigns;
- Limits on campaign spending;
- Limits on "soft money" contributions to political parties; and
- No limits on the ability of nonprofit organizations to communicate with the public about policy issues.

(1) Congressional campaigns should be financed publicly. The costs should be met either from public funds or from voluntary sources, such as by an expansion of the tax check-off system for presidential campaigns.

(2) Until public funding is adopted the costs of campaigns should be reduced by providing equal amounts of other public benefits, such as postage.

(3) In any event, limits should be set on spending in congressional races, with a scale in Senate races varying according to state population. Where candidates face opposing independent expenditure campaigns, the candidates' spending limits should be increased.

(4) Safeguards should be put in place in federal elections to prevent political parties and their committees from being able to pay for their public communication activities (except get-out-the-vote and voter registration) with contributions that are not subject to the same legal restrictions on sources and amounts as the restrictions that apply to contributions to federal candidates.

(5) While nonprofit organizations should continue to be subject to restrictions that apply to explicit endorsements when campaigning is actually coordinated with candidates or political parties, their free speech rights in addressing issues should not be constrained at any time.

(6) These principles provide guidance for Club entities that are considering proposals for campaign finance reform in state and local elections. However, state and local elections involve a wide variety of local conditions, and these are not necessarily uniform policies that would apply to all of these elections.

*Adopted by the Board of Directors, Feb. 20-21, 1999*

### Voting Systems

.... The single-round, winner-take-all political process has problems. We support alternative electoral methods that better reflect the diversity of public opinion. We need to get big money out of politics by closing loopholes in current campaign finance laws, establishing effective spending limits, and adopting public financing for Senate and congressional candidates. We support the free television time proposal developed by the Alliance for Better Campaigns. ...

*Adopted by the Board of Directors, July 22, 2000*