

## Publicly Financed Washington Elections (Clean Money Campaigns)

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4 **WHEREAS** the cost of elections to public office have been escalating dramatically in  
5 Washington and the nation, including record-breaking spending on the last Washington  
6 Governor's race;

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8 **WHEREAS** large contributions from corporate interests and the wealthy often create a  
9 conflict of interest and an appearance of ethical compromise for legislators in casting  
10 votes in a manner that best serves the people of their districts;

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12 **WHEREAS** this constant need for more and more money to campaign undermines our  
13 system of government;

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15 **WHEREAS** elected officials must now spend a great portion of their time soliciting  
16 contributions in order to finance their past and future campaigns;

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18 **WHEREAS** many highly qualified and motivated people who could serve in office  
19 cannot compete with the incumbents or the rich;

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21 **WHEREAS** the public is becoming increasingly disenchanted with the apparent effects  
22 of the current system on candidates for office;

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24 **WHEREAS** publicly financed elections of Clean Money campaigns are currently in  
25 place and working well in Arizona, Connecticut and Maine;

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27 **WHEREAS** the money it costs to pay for Clean Money Campaigns would be more than  
28 offset by stopping the hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayer money wasted  
29 annually on benefits to special interests; and

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31 **WHEREAS** the Clean Money system would make elected officials accountable to the  
32 people, not special interests;

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34 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central  
35 Committee favors publicly financed elections, will press for their implementation, and  
36 will work with legislators and others to achieve this objective; and

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38 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Washington State Democratic Party  
39 distribute copies of this resolution to Governor Christine Gregoire and all members of  
40 the Democratic Caucuses in the Washington State Legislature.

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43 Submitted by the Lewis County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for  
44 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/21/2008)

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46 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED  
47 A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

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49 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,  
50 2008 meeting in Spokane.