



CAMPAIGN PUBLIC FINANCING

AB 270 | ASSEMBLYMEMBER ALEX LEE

THIS BILL

AB 270 will provide voters the opportunity to decide on a measure during the November 2024 ballot to remove the current prohibition on public financing of campaigns in California.

Once the prohibition is removed, this will restore control to local governments and the State by giving counties, districts, general law cities, and the State the option to enact public financing of campaigns to reduce the influence of money in elections and empower voters.

BACKGROUND

Five charter cities actively have public financing that amplify the voices of everyday voters and provide candidates with an alternative fundraising system than relying on large wealthy donors. These cities include Berkeley, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco.

Currently, such programs are prohibited in California jurisdictions other than charter cities by the Political Reform Act of 1974 due to a provision enacted by [Proposition 73](#) in 1988. Prop 73 included stricter contribution and gift limits to politicians, which are popular ideas amongst voters. However, while virtually all of Prop 73's other provisions were invalidated by the courts, the prohibition on public financing still remains.

In 2016, bipartisan supermajorities of the legislature passed, and Governor Jerry Brown signed, [SB 1107](#) (Allen) that would have removed the ban on public financing of campaigns, but the courts ruled that the question must be put before the voters.

Although the language signed into law by SB 1107 is still in the Government Code, it is inoperative until approved by the voters.

PROBLEM

Voters are increasingly concerned about the problem of money in politics, with only 20% in a [recent poll](#) saying they were satisfied with the nation's campaign finance

laws. In a poll conducted by the California Clean Money Campaign, 79% of likely California voters said that big money campaign contributors have too much influence over elected officials in California, and 68% said that ordinary voters have too little influence.

More recently, voters have overwhelmingly approved public campaign financing measures in charter cities such as Berkeley, Los Angeles, and Oakland. In 2016, Berkeley's [Measure XI](#) received 65% of the vote. This measure allocated \$500,000 each year to fund a public campaign funding program for city council members and the mayor.

Public financing of campaigns would reduce the barriers of entry to run for public office – empowering everyday Californians to represent their communities and diversifying the candidate pool.

SOLUTION

Allow Californians the opportunity to remove the prohibition on public financing of campaigns.

This effort will restore control to local governments and the State by placing a measure on the 2024 ballot to fully repeal the ban on campaign public financing, while requiring that no public money earmarked for education, transportation, or public safety be eligible to fund public financing.

SUPPORT

- California Clean Money Campaign (Sponsor)
- Affordable Housing Network
- All Rise Alameda
- Building the Base Face to Face
- California Church IMPACT
- California Nurses Association
- California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG)
- Change Begins with Me
- Cloverdale Indivisible
- Consumer Watchdog
- Contra Costa Move On
- Courage California
- California StateStrong

Defending Our Future: Indivisible in CA
Democracy Policy Network
East Valley Indivisibles
El Cerrito Progressives
Endangered Habitats League
Feminists in Action
Fix Democracy First
Green Party of Santa Clara County
Hillcrest Indivisible
Human Agenda
Indi Squared
Indivisible 30/ Keep Sherman Accountable
Indivisible 36
Indivisible 41
Indivisible Auburn CA
Indivisible Beach Cities
Indivisible CA-25 Simi Valley Porter Ranch
Indivisible CA-29
Indivisible CA-3
Indivisible CA-33
Indivisible CA-37
Indivisible CA-39
Indivisible CA-43
Indivisible CA-7
Indivisible CA: StateStrong
Indivisible Claremont/ Inland Valley
Indivisible Colusa County
Indivisible East Bay
Indivisible El Dorado Hills
Indivisible Elmwood
Indivisible Euclid
Indivisible Lorin
Indivisible Los Angeles
Indivisible Manteca
Indivisible Marin
Indivisible Media City Burbank
Indivisible Mendocino
Indivisible Normal Heights
Indivisible North Oakland Resistance
Indivisible North San Diego County
Indivisible OC 46
Indivisible OC 48
Indivisible Petaluma
Indivisible Sacramento
Indivisible San Bernardino
Indivisible San Diego Central
Indivisible San José
Indivisible San Pedro
Indivisible Santa Barbara
Indivisible Santa Cruz County
Indivisible Sausalito
Indivisible Sebastopol
Indivisible SF
Indivisible SF Peninsula and CA-14

Indivisible Sonoma County
Indivisible South Bay LA
Indivisible Stanislaus
Indivisible Suffragists
Indivisible Ventura
Indivisible Windsor
Indivisible Yolo
Indivisibles of Sherman Oaks
Initiate Justice
Laborers Local 270
League of Women Voters of California
Livermore Indivisible
Low Income Self Help Center
MapLight
Mill Valley Community Action Network
Money Out Voters In
Mountain Progressives
Nothing Rhymes with Orange
Orchard City Indivisible
Orinda Progressive Action Alliance
Our Revolution Long Beach
Public Citizen
Represent.Us Silicon Valley
RISE UP
Rooted in Resistance
San Diego Indivisible Downtown
San José Peace and Justice Center
San José/ Silicon Valley NAACP
Santa Clara County Move to Amend
Santa Clara County Single Payer Health Care Coalition
SFV Indivisible
Silicon Valley Democratic Socialists of America
South Bay Progressive Alliance
Sunrise Silicon Valley
Tehama Indivisible
The Resistance Northridge Indivisible
Together We Will Contra Costa
Together We Will/ Indivisible – Los Gators
Vallejo-Benicia Indivisible
Venice Resistance
Voices for Progress
Voters Right to Know
Women's Alliance Los Angeles
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