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SENATOR, 34TH SENATE DISTRICT

SB 24: Local Control of Campaign Financing



SUMMARY

SB 24 will restore control to local governments and the state by giving counties, districts, general law cities, and the state the same option that charter cities currently have to enact public financing of campaigns to reduce the influence of money in elections and empower voters. If passed, this measure will be placed on the November 2024 ballot for voter approval.

BACKGROUND

Five charter cities have voluntary systems for public financing of campaign that amplify the voices of everyday voters and provide candidates with an alternative to relying on large donors.

Unfortunately, such programs are prohibited in California jurisdictions other than charter cities by the Political Reform Act of 1974 under a provision enacted by Proposition 73 in 1988 that had virtually all of its other provisions invalidated by the courts.

Bipartisan supermajorities of the legislature passed, and Governor Jerry Brown signed, SB 1107 (Allen) in 2016 that would have removed the ban and given local governments and the state the option to enact public campaign financing policies, 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.

NEED FOR THE BILL

Voters are increasingly concerned about the problem of money in politics, with only 20% in a recent poll saying

¹ Gallup Poll of 1,017 U.S. residents, 2019.
<https://news.gallup.com/poll/246272/americans-satisfaction-policy-areas-trends.aspx>

they were satisfied with the nation's campaign finance laws¹. 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 influence².

Public campaign financing measures to address such concerns are extremely popular and have been approved overwhelmingly by voters in charter cities. 75% of voters voted for Los Angeles' Measure H in 2011, 65% voted for Berkeley's Measure X1 in 2016, and 74% voted for Oakland's Measure W in 2022. But voters and elected officials in counties, districts, general law cities, and the state currently cannot be given the same opportunity.

SOLUTION

SB 24 will address these issues and restore control to local governments and the state by placing a measure on the November 2024 ballot to repeal the ban on campaign public financing while adding the requirement that no public moneys be used that are earmarked for education, transportation, or public safety.

SB 24 would not create public financing of campaigns or require any government to offer public financing. It would simply remove the ban and allow local governments or the state the option to enact laws that create programs for public financing of campaigns, while requiring basic protections for fairness, accountability, and where the money can come from.

SUPPORT

California Clean Money Campaign (sponsor)
League of Women Voters of California
California Nurses Association
Affordable Housing Network

² California Clean Money Campaign poll of 856 likely California voters, 2019.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice
California Church Impact
California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG)
City of Beverly Hills
Consumer Watchdog
Courage California
Endangered Habitats League
Maplight
Money Out Voters In
Public Citizen
Indivisible CA: Statestrong
All Rise Alameda
Building the Base Face to Face
Change Begins With ME
Cloverdale Indivisible
Contra Costa MoveOn
Defending Our Future: Indivisible in CA 52nd District
Democracy Policy Network
East Valley Indivisibles
El Cerrito Progressives
Feminists in Action Los Angeles (Indivisible CA 34
Womens)
Fix Democracy First
Green Party of Santa Clara County
Hillcrest Indivisible
Human Agenda
Indi Squared
Initiate Justice
Laborers Local 270
Livermore Indivisible
Los Angeles County Democratic Party
Low Income Self Help Center
Mill Valley Community Action Network
Mountain Progressives
Northern California Recycling Association
Nothing Rhymes with Orange
Orchard City Indivisible
Orinda Progressive Action Alliance
Our Revolution Long Beach
Represent.Us Silicon Valley
RiseUp
Rooted in Resistance
San Diego Indivisible Downtown
San Jose Peace and Justice Center
San Jose / Silicon Valley NAACP
Santa Clara County Move to Amend
SFV Indivisible
Sunrise Silicon Valley
South Bay Progressive Alliance
Tehama Indivisible
The Resistance Northridge
Together We Will Contra Costa
TWW/Indivisible - Los Gatos
Vallejo-Benicia Indivisible
Venice Resistance

Voices for Progress
Voters Right to Know
Women's Alliance Los Angeles
Yalla Indivisible
350 Silicon Valley
Indivisible 30/Keep Sherman Accountable
Indivisible 36
Indivisible 41
Indivisible Auburn CA
Indivisible Beach Cities
Indivisible CA-3
Indivisible CA-7
Indivisible CA-25 Simi Valley-Porter Ranch
Indivisible CA-29
Indivisible CA-33
Indivisible CA-37
Indivisible CA-39
Indivisible CA-43
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 Jose
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
Indivisible: San Diego Central
Indivisibles of Sherman Oaks

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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