

CALIFORNIA *Fair* ELECTIONS ACT

Allow Public Funding of Campaigns So Elections Are Won, Not Bought
On the November 3, 2026 Ballot!

The California Fair Elections Act will provide voters the opportunity to remove the current prohibition on public financing of campaigns in California while establishing basic requirements that public financing systems and candidates using public funding must follow to protect taxpayers and maximize the benefit to voters.

Why California Needs the California Fair Elections Act

- **The amount of money in politics is outrageous and is corrupting the system. 150 billionaires spent over \$2 billion in the last election in mostly secret money, including over \$270 million from Elon Musk alone.** This massive fundraising buys access for special interests, but shuts out the rest of us. We need to change the way we finance election campaigns so politicians can focus on the job we sent them to accomplish.
- **Five California charter cities have public funding of campaigns** that amplify the voices of everyday voters so they can compete with Big Money: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and Long Beach.
- **But public campaign funding was banned except in charter cities by a deceptive 1988 proposition.** General law cities, counties, districts, and the state don't have the same right to pass public funding that charter cities have.

The California Fair Elections Act will:

- **Repeal the current ban on public funding of campaigns** so any city, county, district, and the state itself can pass public funding systems as long as they meet specific requirements.
- Require that **public funding candidates abide by expenditure limits.**
- Require that **candidates must meet strict criteria to qualify** such as requiring candidates receive small dollar contributions or vouchers from a specified number of adult residents.
- **Prohibit the use of public funds to pay for legal defense or fines.**
- **Prohibit candidates receiving public funds from repaying personal loans** with public funds, or repaying personal loans with private donations after the campaign ends.
- **Prohibit public funding from discriminating** based on party or against challengers in favor of incumbents.
- Bans public campaign funds from coming from money earmarked for education, transportation, or public safety.

California Fair Elections Act Sponsors

- Put on ballot by SB 42 (Umberg-Allen-Cervantes-Lee). Sponsored by **California Clean Money Campaign, California Common Cause, and League of Women Voters of California.**

**“If the public doesn't finance political candidates,
special interests will happily step in.”**

George Skelton story on original *California Fair Elections Act*, Los Angeles Times, 4/3/2023

Sign the Petition to Endorse and Urge Elected Officials to Help it Pass!

www.CAFairElections.org



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