

July [REDACTED], 2016

The Honorable Ben Allen  
State Capitol, Room 2054  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 1107 – accountable elections – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Allen,

On behalf of [REDACTED], I am writing with a letter of support for Senate Bill 1107, which would restore control to local governments and the state to enact new options for election campaign funding. Thank you for your leadership on this bill.

In response to voters' rising concern about money in politics, we believe that governments should act to strengthen the public's trust. SB 1107 would restore a crucial election accountability option to local governments by removing the ban on public campaign funds.

Citizen-funded election programs can amplify the voices of everyday Californians who donate small amounts, encourage more diverse participation, and give candidates an alternative to relying on large contributions. Although six charter cities offer limited public funds to match small campaign donations, current state law bans counties, districts, general law cities, and the state from enacted citizen-funded election programs.

SB 1107 would remove the ban on voluntary citizen-funded election programs. SB 1107 would not enact public financing, but would simply remove the ban and permit local governments or the state, if they so choose, to create public financing programs.

Voters in 1988 could have not envisioned the multi-million dollar SuperPACs that exist in 2016. It is time for the Legislature to bring our campaign finance laws into the 21st century. [REDACTED] strongly supports SB 1107 and we urge its expeditious passage.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]