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SB 1107: Strengthen Election Accountability

Voters are increasingly concerned about the influence of money in politics. According to recent polls by the Pew Research Center and *The New York Times*:

- **84%** of Americans say that money has too much influence in political campaigns today.
- **76%** say money has a greater influence on politics and elected officials than in the past.
- **85%** believe that we need to make fundamental changes or completely rebuild the system for funding political campaigns.

SB 1107 would provide local options to strengthen election accountability

SB 1107 (Allen) would **restore local control** over campaign finance policies.

SB 1107 would permit counties, districts, general law cities, or the state to enact citizen-funded election programs, like those already in place in six charter cities. The bill would update a 28-year-old state law, which caused courts to strike down a locally-enacted county ordinance, to restore local control.

SB 1107 *would not* create a public financing program, *would not* require any government to offer public financing, and **would not raise any taxes or fees**. It would simply permit local governments or the state the option to enact their own citizen-funded election programs, tailored to their local community.

Studies of existing citizen-funded election programs have found benefits including reducing candidates' reliance on wealthy donors and special interests, increasing the diversity of candidates and donors, encouraging greater competition, reducing the pressure for candidates to fundraise, strengthening the connections between elected officials and constituents, and fostering broader electoral participation.

SB 1107 includes protections for public accountability and political fairness. The bill would ensure that any public funds may not be used to advantage any political party or to advantage challengers or incumbents. And any system would be **voluntary: SB 1107 would allow local governments to decide**.

SB 1107 is supported by organizations including the League of Women Voters of California, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – California, PICO California, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, ACLU of California, and the UFCW Western States Council. As of July 5, 2016, the bill has no organizations registered in opposition.