



Helping achieve an open and accountable government

April 13, 2016

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

RE: SB 1107 (Allen) – Accountable Elections -- Support

Dear Senator Allen,

The California Clean Money Campaign is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that has been working on the problems of money in politics in California for more than 14 years, with more than 150,000 supporters across the state who care deeply about improving California's campaign finance system.

On behalf of the California Clean Money Campaign, 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.

Public financing 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 offering public campaign funds.

SB 1107 would remove the ban on voluntary public campaign financing programs. Because the ban was instituted by a 1988 ballot initiative, the bill would be referred to the ballot for voters' approval. 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 and voters to bring our campaign finance laws into the 21st century. California Clean Money Campaign strongly supports SB 1107 and we look forward to working with you to achieve its expeditious passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Trent Lange".

Trent Lange
President

California Clean Money Campaign

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