



January 2007

What they say about Clean Elections

“By signing this bill into law today, perhaps we can ignite another revolution. We can revolutionize our system of elections and how they are financed.”

-- **Governor Jodi Rell (R-CT)**. *Gov. Rell achieved the highest approval rating for any governor, 77 percent, after championing and signing Connecticut’s new Clean Money bill.*

“The difference between being able to go out and spend your time talking with voters, meeting with groups, doing things like traveling to communities that have been under-represented in the past as opposed to being on the phone selling tickets to a \$250 a plate fundraiser – that’s the real, practical difference.”

-- **Gov. Janet Napolitano (D-AZ)**, *who has twice run successfully for governor under a “clean” system.*

“For years, special interests and big money have had a negative effect on our local, state and national elections. Clean Elections changes that. In 1998, Arizonans voted for the Clean Elections Act and restored voter confidence in the electoral process. Clean Elections works well to overcome the influence of special interests. It gives Arizonans the power to create good government.”

-- **US Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)**

“The Clean Elections system (in Arizona) has improved and enhanced our relationship with the voters...I think the public has reached a new covenant with its elected officials...The question shouldn’t be how can you afford to do this, but how you can afford not to.”

-- **Corporations Commission Chair Marc Spitzer (R-AZ)**, *former Senate majority leader*

“It was refreshing not to have to raise money, or in some cases spend my own.... I feel a certain independence from certain special interest groups. It was nice to be able to say, ‘Thanks for the thought, but I’m running clean’.”

-- **State Senator Peter Mills (R-AZ)**

“It freed me up from the chase of the dollars and allowed me to concentrate on walking the district, meeting folks.”

-- **State Representative Stephen Tully (R-AZ)**

“I had person after person when I knocked on their doors that said well it doesn’t really matter how I feel, because the people with the money that have people in Augusta pushing for legislation, they’re the ones that you answer to anyway. It put me in a good position to be able to say that’s why I ran as a Clean Elections candidate...”

-- **State Senator Ed Youngblood (R-ME)**

“The time has come for our Congress to seriously consider public financing of federal elections. With public financing, the power will be with voters, not special interests. When the cost of

financing a campaign is not an intimidating obstacle, more of our most able leaders will run for office. Once elected, they will spend their time and energy attending to the nation's business instead of wasting their time on nonstop fundraising. And when Americans have greater confidence in our democracy, more will participate and more will vote.”

-- **Former US Sen. Warren Rudman (R-NH)**, *honorary chairman of Americans for Campaign Reform*

"Incumbents find it eternally necessary to raise big bucks for their next election nearly every single day. It was not only demeaning but it took a large chunk of time that could have been devoted to doing the public's The time is now to go to voluntary public funding.”

-- **Former US Sen. Alan Simpson (R-WY)**, *honorary chairman of Americans for Campaign Reform*

“Over the years I've examined dozens of ideas and proposals to weaken the grip of big money and special interests in our electoral and legislative processes. I've come to the conclusion that the only way we'll ever see their power substantially diminished, and the common good and national interest fully represented in Washington, is through the complete public financing of all elections.

“Lobbying, campaigns, and elections are all about money. And in this case, we have to meet power with power. Only one group of people has more money than corporate America and special interests: taxpayers. I love the idea of our elected officials being beholden to public money and the public interest rather than to corporate America and special interests.”

-- **CNN's Lou Dobbs**, *from his book, The War on the Middle Class: How the Government, Big Business, and Special Interest Groups Are Waging War on the American Dream and How to Fight Back (2006)*

“Yes, I have to say, in my opinion, Common Cause is taking on this issue at a critical time when the public interest does need to be served. The entire country has to look at the idea of clean elections, public financing, because it is the only money available that would be a countervailing influence in a political system that is now absolutely dominated by corporate America.”

-- **Lou Dobbs**, *speaking on the CNN program “Lou Dobbs Tonight,” Wednesday, November 1, 2006*