

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, including 80% of Republicans and 90% of Democrats.
- **76%** say money has a greater influence on politics and elected officials than in the past, including 76% of Republicans and 76% of Democrats.
- **85%** believe that we need to make fundamental changes or completely rebuild the system for funding political campaigns, including 81% of Republicans and 84% of Democrats.

How can we provide local options to strengthen government accountability?

SB 1107 (Allen) would **restore local control** to develop local solutions that address voters' concerns.

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 law, which caused courts to strike down a locally-enacted county ordinance, to restore local control of this issue.

SB 1107 *would not* create a citizen-funded election program, *would not* require any government to offer public funds, and **would not raise any taxes or fees**. It would simply provide local governments or the state the option to enact their own programs, such as vouchers or public-private matching funds.

Where they currently exist, candidates of both parties have widely utilized citizen-funded election programs, and studies have found benefits including reducing the pressure for candidates to fundraise, encouraging greater competition, and fostering broader electoral participation.

SB 1107 includes protections for public accountability and political fairness. The bill would ensure that no public funds may be used to advantage any political party or to advantage incumbents or challengers. Any program would be **voluntary: SB 1107 would allow local governments to decide**.

SB 1107 is supported by organizations including California Common Cause, League of Women Voters of California, AARP California, California Forward's bipartisan Leadership Council, the American Sustainable Business Council, California Church Impact, and the Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California.

Support for SB 1107: strengthen election accountability

Organizations

AARP California
ACLU of California
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment
American Sustainable Business Council
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – California
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Brennan Center for Justice
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Church Impact
California Clean Money Campaign
California Common Cause
California Forward
California League of Conservation Voters
California National Organization for Women
California OneCare
California School Employees Association
CALPIRG
Campaign Legal Center
Consumer Attorneys of California
Courage Campaign
Franciscan Action Network
Friends of the Earth
League of Women Voters of California
Los Angeles County Federation of Labor
Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California
MapLight
Money Out Voters In
National Council of Jewish Women – California
PICO California
Represent.Us
RootsAction.org
Sierra Club California
Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
UFCW Western States Council
Voices for Progress

Local Governments and Elected Officials

Alameda County Board of Supervisors
Bay Area Rapid Transit District Board
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Richmond City Council
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Hermosa Beach Mayor Hany S. Fangary
Marin County Supervisor Damon Connolly
Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf
Torrance Councilmember Tim Goodrich