

# CITY OF OAKLAND



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July 15, 2016

The Honorable Ben Allen  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2054  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

## **Re: SB 1107 (Allen) Political Reform Act of 1974 – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the City of Oakland, I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1107 (Allen) The Political Reform Act of 1974, which would restore much needed control to local governments and the state to enact new options for election campaign funding.

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.

It is for these reasons that the City of Oakland is proud to support SB 1107 and would like to thank you for your hard work and leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Libby Schaaf".

Mayor  
City of Oakland

CC: Senator Loni Hancock  
Assemblymember Rob Bonta  
Assemblymember Tony Thurmond