

Fighting Big Money, Empowering People: A Delaware Agenda

As Delawareans, we share a strong tradition of democratic government run of, by and for the people. We expect our government to serve us based on the consent of the governed, with voters, not money, driving decisions. We will not stand by and allow the corrosive influence of big money in politics and the corrupting force of partisan politics to go unchecked, drowning out the voice of the people and undermining confidence in government. We expect leadership that puts voters back at the center of our democracy.

Delaware lawmakers should commit to these five principles of democracy: 1. Everyone participates; 2. Everyone’s voice is heard; 3. Everyone knows who is trying to influence our views and our representatives; 4. Everyone plays by fair, common-sense rules; 5. Everyone is held accountable, with enforceable penalties to deter bad behavior.

If elected, will you endorse, prioritize and work aggressively to:	YES	NO
LIMIT THE INFLUENCE OF BIG MONEY in Delaware politics by opposing attempts to increase contribution limits for candidates and political parties?	X	
LIMIT THE INFLUENCE OF LOBBYISTS in Dover by banning gifts from lobbyists to elected officials?	X	
MAKE EVERYONE’S CONTRIBUTION MATTER by establishing a public financing system in Delaware that amplifies small campaign contributions while reducing the reliance on large contributions?	X	
ENSURE FULL TRANSPARENCY by requiring donors to disclose their employer and occupation, as recommended in the Veasey Report?	X	
PROTECT EVERYONE’S RIGHT TO VOTE by supporting same-day registration at the polling places, as well as no-excuse absentee voting?	X	
PREVENT GERRYMANDERING by establishing a new redistricting process that is nonpartisan, independent, and transparent?	X	
HOLD LEGISLATORS ACCOUNTABLE by strengthening the power of the Public Integrity Commission?	X	

COMMENTS:

I fully support campaign finance reform. The Supreme Court decisions in Citizens United (2010) and McCutcheon (2014) has had a detrimental impact on the electoral process. This is especially true at a local level where wealthy individuals and PACs can unduly influence an election. In 2014, I experienced the impact of Citizens United ruling when a wealthy individual funded a conservative PAC in opposition to my support for gender equality and a women’s right to choose. Her PAC expended nearly all of the funds in direct mail opposing my reelection.

Running for office is costly. Placing limits on campaign spending, self-financing campaigns and developing a system of financing that encourages small donors will engender fairness in the electoral process. In an effort to support transparency and make government more accountable, I am proud to have supported efforts in the General Assembly to strengthen Delaware's Freedom of Information Act.

I fully support same-day registration and no-excuse absentee voting. Voting is a right as well as a responsibility. We must do more to encourage voting and increase participation in the political process in our country.

30th, 2016

Signed: Printed Name: Bethany Hall-Long

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When completed, please return to fightbigmoneydelaware@gmail.com