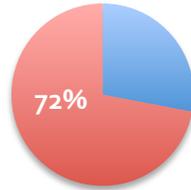




Fair Elections Illinois

Empowering citizens | Your dollar, your vote | CommonCause.org



Illinois voters overwhelmingly support reforms to "Finance campaigns using only small contributions from voters and a limited amount of public funds" (72%).

February 28-March 7, 2014 polling data from Brennan Center for Justice and Lake Research Partners

“By passing the Fair Elections Act, members of Congress can stop spending endless hours dialing for dollars and spend more time listening to working people. We can spend more time working on **solutions to the big challenges facing America.**”
- Sen. Richard Durbin on the Fair Elections Now Act

The Small Donor Match program is a public financing system that **matches small donations** (e.g. up to \$175) from voters by 6:1, amplifying their voices in elections. If candidates choose to participate, they agree to a standard cap on their campaign budgets. If they opt out, they are free to use the traditional system of campaign funding.

The New York Campaign Finance Board also puts a voter guide online and in the mail to all registered voters with candidates’ platforms. This practice could help Illinois voters, as well.

How is the small donor match and voter information program funded?

- In Minnesota, the program is funded by a voluntary \$5 check-off on state tax forms.
- In Connecticut, the program is funded by the Citizens’ Election Fund, which receives funds primarily from the proceeds of the sale of abandoned property in the State of Connecticut’s custody, as well as voluntary donations.
- Other popular funding streams include surcharges on criminal fines or contributions from the largest recipients of government contracts. NYC uses general revenue.

“Senators and representatives faced incessantly with the need to raise money to fuel their campaigns can scarcely avoid weighing every single decision against the question, ‘How will this affect my fundraising?’ rather than **‘How will this affect the national interest?’**”
- Sen. Barry Goldwater

Bring Fair Elections to Illinois.