

COMMON CAUSE/NY POSITIONS ON 2018 NEW YORK CITY BALLOT MEASURES

PROPOSAL 1: CAMPAIGN FINANCE - SUPPORT

New York City has one of the most successful campaign public financing programs in the country, and now New York voters have a chance to make it even stronger. Proposal 1 would amend the Charter to strengthen the existing campaign public financing program in several ways. Most importantly, Proposal 1 would lower contribution limits for all candidates running for public office, while increasing the public match for those participating in the public financing program. The public match would increase from \$6 in public financing for every \$1 in eligible donations to an 8:1 match up to the existing expenditure cap. In other words, **if an eligible donor gave \$5 to their preferred candidate's** campaign, that donation would be matched 8x with public funds, making it a \$40 contribution. The proposal would also allow candidates to raise more in matchable funds, further decreasing the need for candidates to chase checks at or near the contribution limit

Proposal 1 will allow more New York City candidates to run for public office without having to raise big money from wealthy special interests. Instead, candidates will be able to spend more time focusing on **voters' needs and raise money from small-dollar donors**. By strengthening the New York City public financing program, Proposal 1 would also widen the potential candidate pool and not be limited to those who are well connected to big donors. Simply put, Proposal 1 is about increasing the power and voice of the everyday people in New York City elections.

PROPOSAL 2: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION – NEUTRAL

PROPOSAL 3: COMMUNITY BOARDS- SUPPORT

Community Boards serve an essential function as the most local form of our city government. Appointees provide an important volunteer service and are to be commended for their willingness to serve. That said, the community boards should be reliably reflective of the communities that they represent across the city. Too frequently, in some boroughs, the public sees the community board appointment process as shrouded in mystery and heavily influenced by political favoritism. Setting some minimum and uniform standards for qualifications and appointment processes, as well as adding transparency will help dispel this (mis)perception and serve all communities well. Other aspects of this proposal are designed to insure that the majority of the members reflect the neighborhood they are supposed to represent while preserving appropriate expertise and institutional memory.