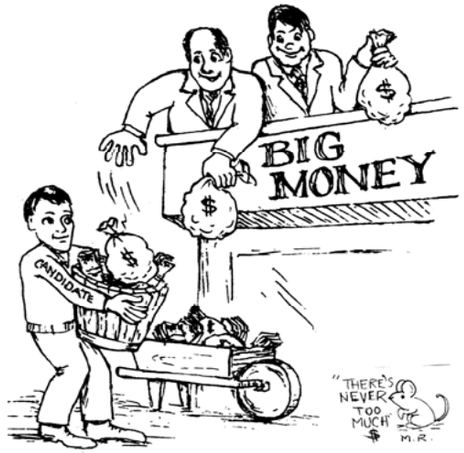
The problem

Imagine you're a candidate running for office. You need lots of money for your campaign. Who will influence you more: a voter in your district who gives you $10 or a big donor such as a drug company that can raise $10,000 for you?

And when the time comes to vote on a prescription drug bill, who do you feel indebted to? Who can contribute more to your next run for office?

Do you spend all your time dialing for dollars just to keep up with your opponent's "war chest"? Do you wish you had more time to talk with voters in your district about what <u>they</u> want, instead?



The problem is the system. The influence of big money drowns out the voices of ordinary citizens.

The vision

What if individual voters had more control over government than big money?

What if all qualified candidates could run, regardless of their wealth or connections?

What if voters had more choice of candidates to vote for?

What if candidates could spend their time talking about issues with voters, rather than romancing big donors?

What if our politicians could listen to voters' concerns about adequate health care, about their kids' education, about affordable housing, about taxes and a living wage? What if they could afford to care about family farmers and small business owners?

In Maine and Arizona, <u>they can</u>. Maine passed full public funding options for state races in 1996, and Arizona in 1998.

In the 2004 election, 77% of Maine's House and 83% of its Senate were elected using only "clean" money. These office holders were from both parties, about evenly split.

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, who won with public funding, was delighted. She said, "I could spend my time talking with voters, not with [big] contributors. We were able to…campaign in a fundamentally different way."

Once she was in office, she said, "lobbyists were not swarming around me" (for payback).

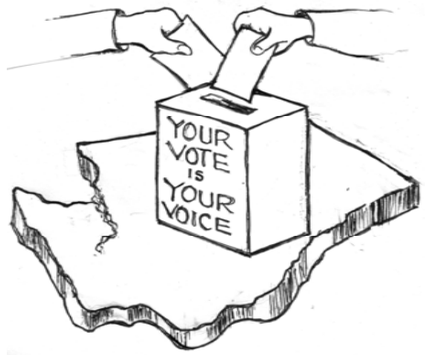
How would it work?

To qualify for public funding, a candidate would collect signatures and perhaps $5 apiece from a set number of voters in his or her district. The candidate would agree not to spend any personal money and to use only a set amount available from public funds.

A candidate who opts to run on public funds would receive a specific amount from the state, determined by the amount spent in the same race in the past.

If an opponent raised more money from private sources, the publicly-funded candidate would receive additional funds, helping to level the playing field.

The cost? $3.36 per year, per resident, would provide public financing equal to the amount spent on state-level races during 2001-2004. ***Isn't it worth it?***



Public funding means fair elections.

MPC

Thank you for your support!

Pleas tear off here and return to: Washington Public Campaigns, P.O. Box 45088, Seattle, WA 98145-0088

☐ **Add me to your mailing list -** to receive periodic updates on WPC progress, meetings, and how to help.
WPC Information Digest is sent once or twice a month, by email. We do NOT share our list with anyone!

☐ **Enclosed is a contribution,** to help with printing and lobbying expenses: ***Amount*** $_____
Contributions to WPC are not tax deductible. Suggested amount: $50, or what you can afford.

☐ **Contact me** about a WPC presentation to my: neighborhood / church / union / political / special interest / civic group
(please describe your idea on back)

☐ **I can volunteer** as ( )Neighborhood contact ( )Speaker ( )Help with fundraising, petitions, data entry, mailings….

PLEASE PRINT – so we can read it! *Name* _____

Phone (____) _____ *Address* _____

City _____ *Zip* _____ *Email* _____@_____

What's happening in Washington State?

We are writing a bill for public campaign financing for all state level offices — for passage either by the Legislature, or as an initiative by the people.

Also — we are lobbying the Legislature to lift the current ban on public financing in local election — to allow local programs like Portland, Oregon, passed in 2005.

Help us! — to spread the message and to raise money to do this!

Recent public financing breakthroughs in the cities of Portland, OR, and Albuquerque, NM, and statewide in Connecticut, encourage us to keep pushing in Washington State.

Our ultimate goal:

Public financing for candidates at all levels to ensure fair elections, restoring democracy and a government that is truly "of, by and for the people"

Washington Public Campaigns
PO Box 45088
Seattle, WA 98145-0088
206-463-2812
www.washclean.org

What YOU can do:

Join our mailing list by visiting our Website: ***www.washclean.org***

Send a donation to help us grow. Donate online or send checks to:

Washington Public Campaigns
PO Box 45088
Seattle, WA 98145-0088
(Donations are not tax-deductible.)*

Contact your state legislators. Let them know your concerns and tell them you support public campaign financing. Ask them what they intend to do about it.

Let us know if your group would like us to send a speaker or set up a literature table at your event.

Host a house party. We'll help you, and we'll provide materials and a speaker.

Attend our monthly board meetings – find out when and where by emailing us at: ***wpc@washclean.org***

Volunteer your contacts, ideas, and energy: be a speaker yourself, raise funds, help with mailings, make phone calls, staff a table at an event, or collect signatures on an initiative or petition.

A form for volunteering is on our website.

**There is a way for you to make tax deductible donations, but these funds are not usable for political action, only education. Send a check to our 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor:*

Institute for Washington's Future,
419 Occidental Ave S., #206, Seattle, WA 98104
Make sure you write "WPC" on the memo line of the check.

Let's Put *POWER* Back in the Hands of the *PEOPLE!*

Washington Public Campaigns
www.washclean.org