



LARRY PHILLIPS
Metropolitan King County Council
District Four

January 17, 2008

The Honorable Darlene Fairley
Chair, Government Operations & Elections Committee
Washington State Senate
P.O. Box 40432
Olympia, WA 98504-0432

Dear Senator Fairley,

Darlene

I urge you to amend SB 5278 to allow any local jurisdiction, not just cities, the option to establish local programs of public financing for campaigns. Further, I urge you to allow local elected officials the autonomy to decide how to implement such a program—there is no need for state government to mandate a citizen referendum. State government will not be impacted, financially or otherwise, by local jurisdictions' decisions about whether to implement public campaign financing.

Public campaign financing promotes a fair and democratic system for electing candidates. It ensures that a candidate with public support, and the public's interest at heart, has the opportunity to successfully run for office regardless of his or her personal wealth, and that of his or her supporters. Under our current campaign system, special interests have the opportunity to exert a disproportionately large influence in determining which candidates successfully run for office.

In the past, King County had a successful public campaign financing program; citizens in our county, and others in Washington State, deserve the option to have such a local program again. Please consider any legislation that furthers this goal.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Larry

Larry Phillips, Councilmember
Metropolitan King County Council, District Four

The Honorable Darlene Fairley
January 17, 2008
Page 2

cc: Washington State Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee
The Honorable Eric Oemig, Vice Chair
The Honorable Pam Roach
The Honorable Don Benton
The Honorable Adam Kline
The Honorable Joe McDermott
The Honorable Craig Pridemore
The Honorable Dan Swecker
Chuck Williams, Director of Government Relations, Metropolitan King County
Council
Craig Salins, Executive Coordinator, Washington Public Campaigns