

TALKING POINTS

The majority of people in Illinois want to reform elections (71%). Here are the **bulleted arguments** against Clean Elections and the **REALITY** talking points to counter them.

Also see the Clean Elections information especially the brochure at our website: www.ballot-integrity.org/CEC.htm

- **"One issue" voters do not want their money to be used for a candidate that opposes their issue**
REALITY: Publicly financed elections are *voluntarily* funded by the taxpayer with a \$3 check off on their state income tax, (\$6 jointly) so if a taxpayer does not want to contribute to the fund, they do not have to.
- **Taxes—a Clean Elections fund will take away money from schools**
REALITY: We pay a corruption tax in Illinois due to overcharges from contractors in sweetheart deals. If we could instead use that "lost" taxpayer money, we would be able to fund an additional 8,342 teachers in Illinois. The majority of school funding (60%) comes from property taxes at the local level rather than from state income tax.
- **Taxes—the state doesn't have the money**
REALITY: We pay a \$300 million corruption "tax" in the state according to Professor Dick Simpson, so publicly financed elections would actually save the state money.
- **Taxes—it would increase the deficit in the state**
REALITY: In other states like in Arizona and Maine, Clean Elections money has actually been a net surplus, with those states using the funds for other programs in the state. And again, the Clean Elections fund is **VOLUNTARY**.
- **The referendum will become a bill that the Democrats will pass. Michael Madigan will pass a bill to help the Democrats.**
REALITY: In the states that use the Clean Elections fund, Arizona and Maine in particular, the majority of candidates from the Republican, Democratic and Green parties have used publicly financed elections. More diverse candidates, minority party candidates, independent candidates have all benefitted from Clean Elections.
- **Campaign finance reform (McCain-Feingold) has failed.**
REALITY: McCain Feingold was a step in the right direction to reduce large donations from wealthy individuals. Unfortunately, the Citizens United V FEC ruling by the Supreme Court, gives more rights to corporations rather than human beings, since individuals have restrictions on their spending whereas now corporations do not. Do you think a corporation should have more free speech than a human being?
- **Citizens United V FEC Supreme Court decision gives corporations unlimited money to candidates. Wouldn't a Clean Elections candidate be at a disadvantage?**
REALITY: Clean Elections candidates can get matching funds (with the exception of AZ as of 06-08-10), to level the playing field of especially corporate backed or wealthy, self-funded candidates.
- **Clean Elections reduces voter turnout.**
REALITY: Voter turnout has **actually increased** in Maine and Arizona since voters are more invested in the electoral process.
- **Unions contribute too much money to candidates.**
REALITY: Unions are outspent by corporations 16 to 1.
- **I don't want to change the system.**
REALITY: This person is ideologically in the minority and will **NOT** change his or her mind no matter how long one argues the point.

Many good candidates just do not have the money to run: Abraham Lincoln's attempt to finance his own 1858 Senate run **bankrupted him**, even though he had arranged a number of **\$500** expense accounts from wealthy donors. However, he was able to regain enough money in his law practice to purchase an Illinois newspaper to support him in the presidential election of 1860, for which he gained the financial support of businessmen in Philadelphia and New York City.

Keep multiple copies of the petitions and pens on a clipboard with you in your car. You never know when you can get a signature. Someone said they have even gotten a signature when they saw a candidate's bumper sticker on the car in front of them when waiting at a stop light!

Good Places to Get Signatures:

- Your family, friends, and your neighborhood
- Summer events in the city or village
- Look online to see events in the city or village for more info
- Parades, **especially 4th of July**—bring lots of clipboards and pens so multiple people can sign at the same time
- Email or call others who may want to get signatures and send them the information
- Farmer's markets
- Train stations
- Network with other organizations
- At the store—grocery, clothing, etc.
- At carry-out restaurants, especially ethnic ones