

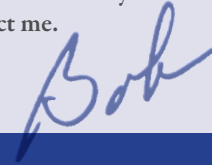
CLEAN ELECTIONS

After the scandals that led to a governor's resignation, an old idea got new life. Let's replace the campaign funding system of lobbyists and special interests with one of, by and for the public. So, with my support, we did, creating the Clean Election Fund that I and most other candidates voluntarily participated in last fall.

It's working. As we chat with each other about issues and pending legislation, it's now all about the merits of the proposal, about how it helps people like you, and not about who the lobbyist is. This change has made voters like yourself not merely the first concern of a public official, but the only one. That's a change for the better we can all enjoy.

I've gotten questions about this reform, so this report will answer the most frequently asked ones. If you have any questions or concerns about this or any other state issue, don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,



State Representative

www.housedems.ct.gov/Godfrey

BOB GODFREY

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Clean Elections **PROTECTING THE PUBLIC**

WHAT IS THE CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND?

It is a **voluntary** program for candidates running for state office like state senator and state representative. Candidates must raise money in small amounts (\$5 to \$100) from individuals, many of whom must live in the candidate's towns.

Special interests groups, lobbyists, labor unions and big business are not allowed to contribute to candidates who participate in the program.

After candidates raise a certain amount of money in small amounts, they qualify for a publicly financed election grant.

WHY DO WE NEED A CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND?

Just a few years ago Connecticut was called Corrupticut, and considered a "pay-to-play" state. In the wake of scandal that injured the public's trust in state government, and ended with the Governor in jail, the legislature created this program and landmark legislation was passed in 2005.

HOW DO WE PAY FOR THE CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND?

It is funded by revenue from unclaimed property in Connecticut.

It is not funded with your tax dollars.

Connecticut receives \$60 million to \$90 million from dormant bank accounts, unclaimed life insurance policies and unclaimed stock every year. \$16 million is deposited into the Citizens Election Fund and the rest, from \$50 million to \$75 million, is deposited into the General Fund. The amount of money deposited into the Citizens' Election Fund is roughly 0.1 percent of the total budget.

CLEAN ELECTION: A SUCCESS

- *75% of all candidates for the General Assembly participated*
- *81% of our legislature is serving as Citizens' Election officials freed from the influence of special interests & lobbyists*

The Citizens' Election Program is a win-win for candidates and voters. Candidates do not have to go to special interest groups for money and they get to spend more time with you, the voters.

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