



NORTH CAROLINA VOTERS FOR CLEAN ELECTIONS

A government “of, by and for the people” is the most basic promise of American democracy, but over the past 30 years the skyrocketing cost of running for office has made it far too easy for special interests with big money to manipulate election outcomes and influence public policies. When a political system is twisted to serve those who can pay the most, the ripple effect is profound. It hurts democracy on every level, with the people of North Carolina ultimately paying the price when public policies, fees, inferior services and lost tax revenues end up taking money out of our pockets.

The high cost of elections stops many qualified people from running for office and traps many who do run in an almost endless chase for campaign money. This money chase has a devastating effect on the public’s perception of elections. It gives wealthy donors too much influence, burdens taxpayers with the high cost of special interest favors, and makes citizens cynical about the value of their vote.

Voter-Owned Elections

Elected leaders should work together to take big money influence out of politics and encourage citizens from varying backgrounds to engage in all aspects of democracy. Our leaders need to require immediate disclosure of all contributions and create new streams of clean, public money to fund campaigns so that our government represents a diverse range of voters, not just the top 1%. Voter-Owned Elections provide a way for citizens without access to big donor networks to become elected officials. This proven alternative to our current big money system also reduces special interest influence on elections and policies.

Improve Disclosure Laws

All donors should be made public and corporations and unions should have to create separate campaign accounts and report every dime they spend in a timely manner. “Stand by Your Ad” laws should be enacted to require CEOs to appear in the campaign ads they fund or to require that ads display the names of the largest donors.

Redistricting Reform

We support an impartial, nonpartisan system for drawing legislative and congressional districts, allowing voters to choose their legislators instead of a system where legislators choose their voters.

Democracy for All Amendment

We support national reforms like the Democracy for All Amendment, which attempted to end the big money dominance of our elections and allow for Congress and the states to set overall limits on campaign spending, including prohibitions on corporate and union spending in the political process (as existed prior to the Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC*).



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Questions to Ask Candidates

- Are you concerned about the rising cost of elections?
- Would you support public financing of elections, otherwise known as “Voter-Owned Elections,” a system where candidates refuse special interest funds, adhere to spending limits, and prove their grassroots support by obtaining a large number of small contributions from N.C. voters?
- Will you support increased disclosure of political spending?
- If elected, will you actively work to establish an impartial, nonpartisan system for drawing legislative and congressional districts?
- In the 2012 Massachusetts Senate race and elsewhere, opposing candidates are making a “People’s Pledge,” stating that they do not want unlimited outside spending engaged in their race. Would you be interested in agreeing to something like a “People’s Pledge” with your opponent to dissuade unlimited outside spending from engaging in your race?

U.S. Senate Candidate Positions

THOM TILLIS (*Republican*)

As Speaker, Thom Tillis presided over the repeal of judicial public financing, a popular program addressing the inherent conflict of judges and judicial candidates raising large amounts of money from special interests who may appear in their courts.ⁱ

Tillis has consistently voted against clean election reforms, most notably voting against the Citizens United response bill, which provided more transparency about independent expenditures made by corporations and unions and required reporting for electioneering communications.ⁱⁱ

KAY HAGAN (*Democrat*)

As a U.S. Senator, she recently voted for the Democracy for All Amendment, which, if passed, would have restored the ability of Congress and state legislatures to regulate the raising and spending of money in elections. It would have overturned U.S. Supreme Court decisions *Buckley v. Valeo*, *Citizens United v. FEC* and *McCutcheon v. FEC*.ⁱⁱⁱ

During Kay Hagan’s time in the North Carolina General Assembly, she supported clean election reforms. She voted for judicial public financing in 2002,^{iv} Council of State public financing in 2007 and several disclosure laws.^v

Want to know where your legislative candidates stand on campaign finance reform issues? Check out our candidate surveys at www.ncvce.org

ⁱ <http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2013/Bills/House/HTML/H589v9.html>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookup/BillLookup.pl?Session=2009&BillID=HB+748&submitButton=Go>

ⁱⁱⁱ http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=113&session=2&vote=00261

^{iv} <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookup/BillLookup.pl?Session=2001&BillID=S1054>

^v <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookup/BillLookup.pl?Session=2007&BillID=HB+1517&submitButton=Go>