

Sample Resolution in support of a
Small Donor Empowerment Program in the District of Columbia

Whereas, our democracy works best when it lives up to the principle of one person, one vote, and when the strength of a citizen's voice doesn't depend on the size of their wallet;

Whereas, residents of the District of Columbia are increasingly concerned that wealthy donors, corporations, and outside interests who make large campaign contributions have an outsized influence on the decisions of elected officials;

Whereas, numerous studies show that small donor empowerment programs help further democratize the election process, encourage fair governance and diversify the pool of candidates;

Whereas, a bill for a small donor empowerment program is pending before the D.C. Council which addresses such concerns;

Therefore, it is hereby resolved by [name of organization] that:

1. We support the following general principles of the proposed Fair Elections Act (B22-0192):
 - a. To provide a system of voluntary public financing for qualifying candidates for D.C. Mayor, D.C. Council, and Attorney General;
 - b. To provide public funds that are capped at a specified amount and encourage small donations through a matching system;
 - c. Candidates who accept public funding must also accept limits such as the source and amount of contributions they can accept;
 - d. To impose conditions for qualifying for public financing, such as raising a minimum amount of small contributions from a minimum number of individuals.

2. We urge the Council to support, pass and fund the Fair Elections Act as soon as possible, and urge the Mayor to sign and fully fund it in all future budgets.