

RPC 2019-009      In Support of 2019 Campaign Finance Reform Laws  
in the Oregon Legislature

- (A) WHEREAS, Oregon is one of a small minority of states that allow unlimited donations to political candidates, and is one of only five with no contribution limits of any kind;
- (B) WHEREAS, Oregon has the highest per capita corporate contributions to political candidates of all the states;
- (C) WHEREAS, The Oregon Supreme Court has ruled in previous years that limiting campaign contributions will require an amendment to the Oregon Constitution;
- (D) WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution 13 would refer to the voters a constitutional amendment to allow campaign contribution limits;
- (E) WHEREAS, House Bill 3004 and Senate Bill 1014 would implement a small-donor matching program (a particular type of publicly-financed election program);
- (F) WHEREAS, House Bill 2716 would mandate that all campaign advertisements and literature clearly state who paid for them and House Bill 2983 would mandate that certain organizations spending more than \$50,000 must disclose the identities of major donors;
- (G) WHEREAS, a series of recent reports by The Oregonian entitled "Polluted by Money: How corporate cash corrupted one of the greenest states in America" have raised additional public concern over the influence of unlimited money in Oregon politics;
- (H) WHEREAS, Trust in our democracy depends on the people of Oregon being certain that their elected officials are not unduly influenced by corporate contributions or by a few wealthy mega-donors; and
- (I) WHEREAS, Democratic Governor Kate Brown highlighted campaign finance reform as a key priority in her successful 2018 re-election campaign;

THEREFORE, We the Washington County Democratic Central Committee (WCDCC) of Oregon, Resolve as follows:

1. We declare the substantial regulation of money in politics to be of paramount importance to the Democratic Party;
2. We urge state legislators to support House Joint Resolution 13 to advance a state constitutional amendment expressly permitting campaign contribution limits;

3. We urge state legislators to support House Bill 3004 and Senate Bill 1014 to implement a small-donor matching program; and
4. We urge state legislators to support House Bill 2716 and House Bill 2983 to enhance disclosure requirements for campaign organizations.

*Resolution submitted by Patrick Maguire, R&PC Member – April 25, 2019*

*Approved and approved for emergency status by R&PC – May 7, 2019*