



## Voter Owned Elections

### How Voter Owned Elections Works:

To qualify for public funding in Portland, City Council, Mayor, and Auditor candidates must gather 1,000 signatures and a matching \$5 donation. In the last election, candidates had from September 2009 until January 2010 to gather the required signatures.



### Why are Voter Owned Elections so important?

by **Common Cause Oregon**

From 1992 through 2003, 71% of dollars contributed to City Council members came from donors with business affiliations, particularly those with financial and real estate interests. Contributions from only ten of Portland's 59 zip codes comprised 56.4% of total fundraising from 1992 through 2004 elections. Eight out of ten were from the downtown and Westside hills. Portland City Council enacted VOE in 2005 to address out-of-control campaign spending in many city races. This freed VOE candidates to tackle the important issues, regardless of what financial and business elites think.

See more at <http://www.commoncause.org>

### History in Portland

by **The League of Women's Voters**

In April 2005, the Portland City Council voted to enact a voluntary public financed campaign system administered by the City Auditor's office. The League became one of the early supporters in 2004 when then Commissioner Erik Sten and Auditor Gary Blackmer first introduced the proposal for a public financed campaign finance system similar to those that had already been

successful in Arizona and Maine. Other areas of the country have since adopted similar programs. The 2006 election cycle was the first opportunity for candidates to qualify for public financing; three candidates in two Commission races qualified for public funds. One candidate using the system was elected to council.

See more at <http://lwvpx.org>

### Yes on Voter Owned Elections by Portland Green party

Since 1970, the highest spending candidate for Portland city office has won 87% of the time according to Money in Politics Research Action Project. VOE is changing that trend. The opposition is a group called First Things First who spent \$350,000 in 2006 to repeal VOE here. The group's biggest funder was Portland Business Alliance representing downtown business interests. Other funders of the repeal included Qwest, the Oregon Restaurant Association, who has been battling our minimum



wage laws, and PGE. That repeal effort was unpopular enough to not even make the ballot. In 2010, days before the Portland City Council scheduled to consider putting public campaign financing on the November ballot, the Portland Business Alliance sent a letter to Mayor Sam Adams and the rest of the council asking them to end VOE now instead of allowing a public vote. The Council declined their request. VOE will be on the November ballot. Now it's up to you.

# Vote YES on VOE In November