



CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ETHICS REFORM

Legislative Priorities 2008

League of Women Voters of New Mexico

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports legislation that assures citizens that public officials consistently act in the interest of the common good.

The League believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

The League believes that public/private financing should be voluntary, with participants agreeing to a voluntary spending limit. The Legislature must provide for a source of revenue to fund the program.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports:

- A fair, equitable and reasonable combination of public/private funding for campaigns for all New Mexico state elective offices, including the State Legislature.
- The establishment of clearly defined limits on campaign contributions and gifts to individuals in public office. These limits must be low enough to be meaningful in the context of typical budgets for campaigns and expenses.
- Effective enforcement mechanisms and requirements for campaign and gift reporting. Reports must be available to the public in a timely and easily accessible manner.
- Legislative compensation that is fair and reasonable. The League recognizes that there is a cost to government and believes that these costs should be paid by the taxpayers of New Mexico, not by special interests.
- An independent office or commission to oversee and enforce ethics rules and lobbying laws. It should be empowered to receive allegations and complaints, and to conduct confidential investigations. It should also prepare detailed standards and provide advice without prejudice to office-holders and state employees.

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