
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4018

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Gombosky, O'Brien, Blalock, Kessler, Doumit, Tokuda and Murray

Read first time 03/05/97. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The result of the Supreme Court decision in the case of
9 *Buckley v. Vallejo*, has made it impossible for local, state, or federal
10 government to limit the amount of money that can be spent on campaigns
11 for elective office; and

12 WHEREAS, The level of spending on campaigns for state and federal
13 office has dramatically increased in recent years, making the political
14 process and democratic governance increasingly responsive to the power
15 of money; and

16 WHEREAS, The public believes by overwhelming margins that
17 limitations should be imposed on the amount of money spent on campaigns
18 and feels increasingly disenfranchised by the ever-expanding level of
19 funding required for campaigns for political office; and

1 WHEREAS, The expanded level of funding for campaigns for political
2 office has resulted in increasing public concern with the undue
3 influence of large campaign contributors on the political process; and

4 WHEREAS, The influence of dramatically expanded levels of campaign
5 funding is leading to a distortion of our democracy, making it harder
6 for the voices of ordinary citizens to be heard in the political
7 process;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that a
9 constitutional amendment be drafted and introduced to limit the amount
10 of money that can be spent on campaigns.

11 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
12 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
13 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
14 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
15 State of Washington.

--- END ---