



Peace and Freedom Party of California

Legislative Committee

Kevin Akin, Riverside; Mary Lou Finley, San Diego; Dave Kadlecck, Vice Chair, Sacramento; Tom Lacey, San Francisco;
Debra Reiger, Sacramento; John Reiger, Chair, Sacramento; Maureen Smith, Santa Cruz; Alice Stek, Los Angeles; C. T. Weber, Legislative Liaison, Sacramento.

January 31, 2024

Honorable Senators Thomas J. Umberg and Benjamin Allen
1021 O Street, Suites 6530 and 6610
Sacramento, California 95814-4900

Subject: SB 24 (Umberg and Allen) Political Reform Act of 1974: public campaign financing
Support if Amended

Dear Senators Umberg and Allen:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Peace and Freedom Party of California to support SB 24, if amended, to ensure that for determining a candidate's qualification, the state or local entity establish criteria that are in accordance with the findings in Section 1.

SB 24, Section 1, finds that: elections should be open, fair and competitive; high costs force many candidates into relying on large contributions from the wealthy; this disproportionate influence can undermine public trust; and citizen-funded elections encourage competition, and make it possible for citizens from all walks of life to run for office.

The Peace and Freedom Party is a strong advocate of equal public funding of all ballot qualified candidates. It is one of the ways that voters have been able to obtain information necessary to make informed decisions. We also think that those receiving public funding should accept voluntary spending limits to further increase competition in elections. However, we are strongly opposed to matching funds because they allow candidates who rely on contributions from wealthy donors and special interests to double those funds from public monies used for candidate campaigns. The thresholds needed to qualify for matching funds are too high and even if the thresholds were not high, the result is still unfair, non-competitive elections which stymie citizens from all social classes from running for public office. We hope that by amending SB 24 to conform with the findings of Section 1 it will prevent the use of matching funds and instead promote the use of equal public funding of all ballot qualified candidates, or a clean money type of equal public funding.

-more-

For these reasons and others, the Peace and Freedom Party would support SB 24 if amended to address our concern. For more information, please contact me, C. T. Weber at CTWeberVoters@att.net or John Reiger at reigers@earthlink.net

Sincerely,

C. T. Weber

Legislative Liaison

Peace and Freedom Party of California

John C. Reiger

Legislative Committee Chair

Peace and Freedom Party of California