

It is way past time to minimize the undue influence of big money in politics, especially big money from out-of-state donors who don't care about Oregon and its citizens. Voters spoke clearly in November, overwhelmingly approving Measure 107. Now is the time to finish the job. Campaign finance reform should empower democracy, giving more voice to regular people and limiting the ability of the wealthy to dominate the election process.

In addition, our campaign finance system must have transparency and accountability to restore public confidence. We must avoid loopholes and other ways to game the system. The small donor matching part of 2680 is great, but we need to ensure that there are no flaws in the bill that would still allow the wealthiest donors to dominate.

Special Concerns:

Localities should not be able to opt out of limits. Every community deserves fair and accountable elections. If localities could opt out, it would create a backdoor to funnel big money to other races.

Campaign spending from membership organizations should be tied to those members making the contributions. Otherwise, organizations can build a members list as a way to cover up reliance upon massive checks from megadonors.

Don't play favorites by giving caucus committees uniquely high limits. It will sap public confidence if it looks like legislators gave themselves special treatment under the law.

We shouldn't rely on designating the "purpose" of a contribution to apply limits. That encourages asking for undesignated contributions to avoid those limits. It would be better to require parties to create different committees for different purposes.