

Please pass HB 3343 and mend HB 2680 to get big money out of politics. Campaign finance reform should empower democracy, giving more voice to regular people and limiting the ability of the wealthy to dominate the election process. But as the Oregonian series has shown, Oregon stands out in the nation for being polluted by money. In times of record economic inequality, we must act to stop undermining the possibility of democracy and political equality.

Voters spoke clearly in November, overwhelmingly approving Measure 107. Now is the time to finish the job. Our campaign finance system must have transparency and accountability to restore public confidence. We must avoid loopholes and other ways to game the system.

Loopholes need repair in HB 2680, as well, so as not to still allow the wealthiest donors to dominate. Honest Elections Oregon has identified many large loopholes in the HB 2680 limits. Contribution limits should not be compromised by allowing contributions by for-profit corporations. Local governments should not be allowed to nullify limits for local candidates. This loophole also would create a backdoor to funnel big money to other races. Do not give the Democratic and Republican caucuses in the Legislature special rights to receive and make huge contributions. Don't change the definition of contribution in order to allow unlimited contributions to political parties. Self-funded candidates should be required to disclose in their ads how much they are spending on their campaigns. We need enforcement that is independent of partisan government officials.

Thank you,