



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CITY COUNCIL MOVES FORWARD WITH GREUEL, ROSENDAHL,
GARCETTI CAMPAIGN REFORM MEASURE**

Los Angeles – The Los Angeles City Council voted today to move forward with a study on the feasibility and potential costs of implementing full-public financing of political campaigns for all elected officials in the City of Los Angeles. The reform was proposed by Councilmembers Wendy Greuel, Bill Rosendahl and Eric Garcetti.

Full-public financing, also known as "clean money", has been credited with dramatically improving the level of civic discourse and decision-making, and leveling the political playing field in jurisdictions that have adopted the system.

"We need campaign finance reform to restore integrity and honesty into our election process and governance system. Our city deserves a government that is open, ethical and truly independent from the influence of special interests," said Councilmember Greuel. "By taking money out of elections, candidates will be forced to go directly to the people. That is how democracy is supposed to work."

"Removing money from local elections creates a healthy political process in which candidates are free from the stranglehold of special interests," said Councilmember Bill Rosendahl. "Campaigns should be about people and issues, not financial muscle. 'Clean money' brings more credibility to our city's leaders and returns politics and government to the people."

"Over time, we have privatized our democracy," said Councilmember Garcetti. "Full public financing can get government back to the people. Deep potholes shouldn't have to compete for our attention with deep pockets."

<more>

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NEWS

FROM THE OFFICES OF COUNCILMEMBERS
WENDY GREUEL
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To qualified candidates who demonstrate a base of support, full-public financing of campaigns would provide a set amount of public funds to use to run for office.

Candidates who opt in to the system and qualify would agree to limit their spending and reject contributions from private sources. They would receive a public grant for both the primary and general elections if they successfully raise a required number of five-dollar contributions and signatures of support from residents within the district they hope to represent. Candidates remain free to reject public funds, and may run as "non-participating" candidates who commit to the more traditional approach of raising only private sources of funds to run for office. This is a voluntary system of public finance, providing not an overhaul - but an alternative - to the more traditional system of campaigns funded by wealthy individuals and large private interests.

"This is a great day for the people of Los Angeles. On the heels of the \$250 million special election fiasco last week, our City is leading the way in California to reform the broken and money soaked system we now have," said City Controller Laura Chick.

"We're at risk of losing our government of the people, by the people, and for the people," said Ted Williams, the chair of the California Clean Money Campaign and a retired CEO of Bell Labs. "This proposal will open up the system and drive out the special interests."

"I strongly support a Clean Money system for the City of Los Angeles. It will significantly help restore the public's confidence in the political process by greatly decreasing the corrupting influence of special interest money," said Joe Vitti, President of Valley VOTE.

The city's Chief Legislative Analyst will consult with the City Clerk, City Administrative Officer, the Mayor's Office, and the California Clean Money Campaign and report their findings to the City Council in 90 days.

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