

<a href="#">P-7</a>	Campaign Finance	David Rose	Article 4, XXX
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*Creates qualifications for candidates and establishes a publicly funded campaign finance fund.*

Sponsor of Proposal

*David Rose*

Brief Summary of Proposal:

*This proposal places restrictions on candidates for Pierce County elected office regarding the collection of contribution to finance their campaigns, and establishes a framework for the County to create a Public Campaign Finance Fund.*

Proposed Charter Amendment:

**Section 4.XX Campaign Finance**

- (1) Candidates for Pierce County elective office and their campaign committees may accept donations and contributions in-kind, to include money, material, and services of commercial value, only from individual persons, and from no other kind of entity, except as disbursed from the County Public Campaign Finance Fund provided for in this section. Candidates shall not accept from any single individual, or of their own personal funds, within a single election cycle, inclusive of primaries, donations or contributions with a combined value greater than twenty-one times the minimum hourly wage in the County. Candidates that receive contributions that would violate this section may be afforded a reasonable period to refuse and return such violating funds, but such period shall not extend past the date that the final campaign finance report is due. Any candidate found to have violated this section shall be removed from contention, and any elected official found to have violated this section shall be compelled to resign their office.
- (2) The County may by ordinance establish a Public Campaign Finance Fund and procedures for the collection of monies to populate such fund. The County shall not populate such fund with monies collected by taxation, except as specifically allocated or levied, and with approval of the voters of the County. The County may collect voluntary contributions to populate such fund, provided that any contributors be otherwise eligible

to donate to political campaigns and/or committees in accordance with state and federal law, that the identities of such contributors be concealed except where disclosure is required by law, and that no special recognition, favor, or privilege be afforded to contributors to the fund.

- (3) Whenever such a fund may be created, the County shall establish by ordinance the manner by which to disperse such funds, in accordance with the following guidelines:
- a. Funds may be disbursed only to candidates for County office who have successfully completed the requirements to appear on the ballot.
  - b. Funds shall be disbursed using credits. Credits shall be allocated to the voters of the County, who may issue such credits to candidates, who may redeemed such credits for funds.
  - c. Credits shall be specified for a given race, and shall be allocated only to the voters in such race, and may be issued by voters only to candidates in the race for which such credits are specified.
  - d. No candidate shall be afforded the opportunity to redeem a greater value of credits from any single voter than any other candidate for the same office in the same election cycle may redeem from any other single voter.

Rationale for Proposal:

Campaign finance is among the most pervasive threats to our democracy. In any given race, even right here in Pierce County, big political donors are able to increase the amount of money they are “legally” allowed to contribute to political campaigns by funneling donations through corporate entities, sometimes more than one. The influence of corporate money on elections erodes the voice of the people in our democracy and makes our representatives less responsive to the will of the people. We see our elected officials unduly influenced by large donors and special interests, acting in the best interest of the highest bidder, rather than the best interest of their constituents.

This measure does not mandate any administrative burden on the County at all. It does not restrict the right of people or even organizations to speak freely and publicly on political matters. It simply compels candidates for County office to be better, and removes the glaring conflict of interest that political contributions represent in our democracy. The only requirement set forth in this amendment could be enforced passively, using data already collected by the state. The amendment does not allow the use of tax dollars to fund except as approved by initiative or referendum. Unless

and until the voters approve a dedicated funding source, the only cost to the County would be to review credible allegations.

Each section diminishes the power of money in our political system, restores and equalizes the power of each individual voice in our democracy, and encourages candidates for office to engage with their constituents, and not just their donors.

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## Summary Points

- Creates a publicly financed Campaign Fund

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## Submit written testimony

By Email: [katey.hobbs@piercecountywa.gov](mailto:katey.hobbs@piercecountywa.gov)

By Web Form: <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/FormCenter/Charter-Review-41/Provide-Written-Public-Comment-893>

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## Submitted public testimony

Names in **RED** = CON

Names in **GREEN** = PRO

As of 3-27-26 = **0 CON** ~ **0 PRO**

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