

## Action Week Update

By: Johnny Papagiannis

Events highlighting the Fair Elections Now Act took place all over the country in April, from Clean Elections trainings in Connecticut to postcard gathering in California. There were film screenings, petition gathering, guest lectures, panel discussions, lobby days, Op-Eds, letters to the editor, and much more.

In Texas, students with the Democracy Matters chapter at Southern Methodist University hosted a film screening, "Can Mr. Smith Get to Washington Anymore," with state Sen. Jeff Smith.

In Iowa, the Adair-Madison regional chapter of Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement held a silent auction to raise money for their work to pass Clean Elections.

All of these events serve a vital purpose in enacting real change in the way we campaign and ultimately govern.

Without grassroots support, the status quo, pay-to-play system will persist unchecked and the same old moneyed interests will continue to exert their same old influence, at the expense of real priorities that badly need addressing.

The spring 2008 Week of Action succeeded thanks to the hard work of the Fair Elections Now coalition and state partners across the country. Public Campaign would like to thank all of the state partners and volunteers that made this action week a success. Your participation was critical in spreading the word about Clean Elections and helping to build the support we will need to bring Fair Elections to our federal elections.

Stay tuned for the next week of action



Clean Elections supporters rally in Iowa

and, as always, check out the Fair Elections Now Act website ([www.fairelectionsnow.org](http://www.fairelectionsnow.org)) for bill updates and events taking place in your state throughout the year.

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## Positive Polling in New York

By: Johnny Papagiannis

A recent Zogby International poll of likely New York voters found overwhelming support for public financing of elections for statewide and legislative races. Overall, 74 percent of respondents said they support the Clean Elections proposal, which would provide a limited amount of public dollars for candidates who do not accept private contributions of more than \$100.

Even in difficult economic times, New Yorkers believe that the system would ultimately save taxpayer money and would increase trust in the state legislature.

"The poll found Democrats, Republicans and Independents, from upstate and downstate, all agree by large majorities that public financing of elections would save taxpayers money and make state government accountable to voters instead of big corporations," according to Pam Bennett, Director of Citizen Action of New York City.

Support for Clean Elections reaches from upstate down to New York City.

Seventy-two percent of Republicans, 73 percent of Democrats, and four out

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# All Over the Map

## Small Donors Bring Diversity to Arizona's Elections

Arizona's Clean Elections small donors are more racially, ethnically, economically, and geographically diverse than large donors giving to privately financed candidates, according to a new study from Public Campaign, "All Over the Map: Small Donors Bring Diversity to Arizona's Elections."

The analysis considers more than 67,000 contributions made to Clean Elections gubernatorial candidates and privately funded candidates, examining these by zip code alongside U.S. Census data.

Key findings include:

- Arizona's Clean Elections 2002 and 2006 gubernatorial candidates drew more of their financial support, proportionately, from Latino and American Indian neighborhoods than did privately funded candidates (Figure 1).
- Clean Elections candidates collected more of their qualifying contributions from lower income areas as well as "blue collar" neighborhoods and areas with lower home values compared to donors to privately financed campaigns (Figure 2).
- Areas with higher levels of female-led households are more widely represented among Clean Elections \$5 donors than they are by donors participating in the private system.

While most of you will be receiving a copy of the report in the mail, you can view it online at:  
<http://www.publiccampaign.org/allverthemap>.

FIGURE 1: PERCENTAGE HISPANIC POPULATION IN CONTRIBUTOR ZIP CODES

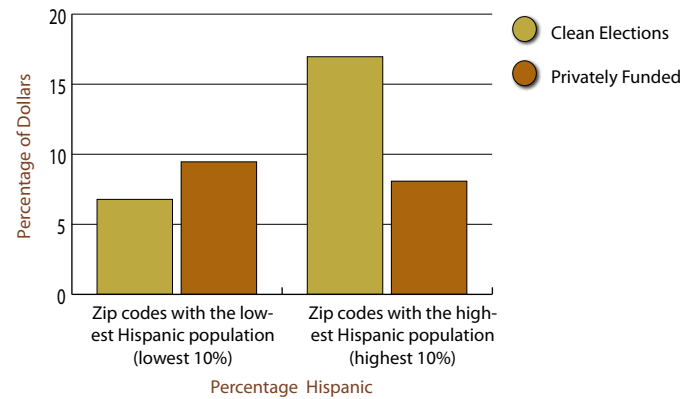
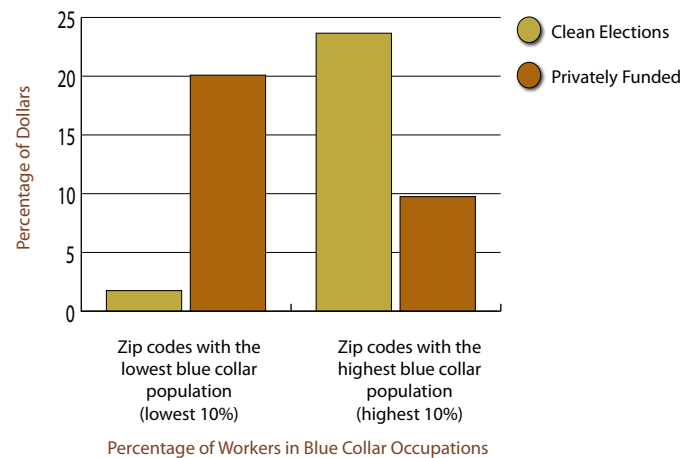


FIGURE 2: PERCENTAGE BLUE COLLAR POPULATION IN CONTRIBUTOR ZIP CODES



## Meet our New Deputy Field Director: Joe Ruffin

In March, Public Campaign snagged Joe Ruffin as the new deputy field director. Since 1988, Joe has been a consultant to over 96 campaigns in 12 states and three countries, with a winning record of 80 percent.

Joe has worked with candidates and projects both nationally and internationally and has been featured in several articles in leading political magazines.

Joe is an expert in developing targeting programs, voter contact and GOTV programs.

His campaign and election skills include: political and grassroots organizing and training; electoral targeting, polling development, analysis and use; message development and strategic public relations; voter identification and persuasion activities; and electoral systems establishment and

redistricting law and practice.

Public Campaign is incredibly fortunate to have somebody with Joe's experience join our team to assist in both state and federal efforts.

# On the Ground: State Briefs

By: Johnny Papagiannis

**Hawaii.** After ten years of organizing, sign waving, canvassing, community meetings, press events, and editorials, the Hawaii state legislature passed a bill to create a Clean Elections pilot program for one of the state's four county councils. All that's left is the governor's signature. Voter-Owned Hawaii must be commended for their tireless efforts to move Clean Elections forward.

**North Carolina.** The 4th Circuit Federal Appeals Court unanimously upheld the North Carolina Judicial Campaign Reform Act, affirming the ruling of the trial court that previously dismissed the constitutional challenges. While further appeals cannot be ruled out, this represents a major victory in the defense of the public funding program for judicial candidates.

## Polling (cont.)

of five independents support Clean Elections.

Statewide support for the legislation is growing and this polling will help move the legislation forward.

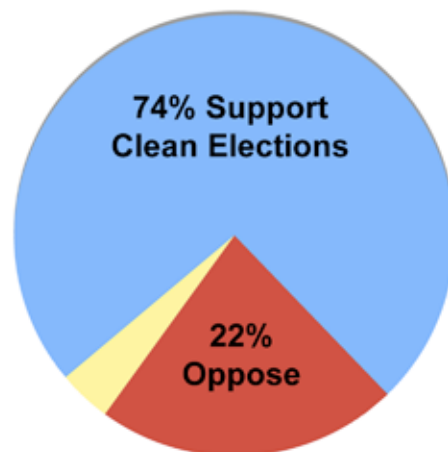
As the *New York Times* editorial board wrote May 11, 2008, "The only thing that could cost money — public financing for campaigns — would save over the long run. All those lobbyists

would have more trouble skewing state money to special interests."

The poll was commissioned by the Public Policy and Education Fund of New York, a research group affiliated with Citizen Action of New York.

To find out more, visit <http://www.citizenactionny.org>.

Support for Clean Elections in New York



## Polling the Donors

By: Adam Smith

Money talks in politics. So when swaying legislators to support Clean Elections, going to the source of their power may be the way to go.

Public Campaign Action Fund (PCAF) recently conducted two surveys of political donors in Maryland as a way to show legislators that their grassroots base and the people funding their campaigns support Clean Elections.

The results showed that those who support Clean Elections gave, on average, more than those who opposed.

The overall results mirrored statewide support for the legislation and showed senators that their donors, large and small, supported the issue and PCAF would work to organize them to become vocal proponents for Clean Elections.

The results of the survey were translated into a memo and handed to the media and every senator in Annapolis, Maryland.

In North Carolina, activists showed that using donors to gain support could be an effective tool when organizing around public financing of elections. The donor survey builds on that method and may become an invaluable tool for Clean Elections.

It's important to note that every state has different campaign finance disclosure laws. In Maryland, reports are filed and listed on an easily searchable and downloadable database. Donor data may have to be entered into a database manually.

To download the fact sheet on polling donors, visit: <http://www.publiccampaign.org/pollingdonors>.

### Here's How They Did It:

- Utilizing the state's campaign finance database, PCAF pulled a list of donors to the Maryland Democratic Party and donors to 10 target senators.
- PCAF then hired a consulting firm to match the names to phone numbers and conducted a short survey to gauge support for Clean Elections.
- Respondents were asked whether they thought there was too much money in politics, if they supported Clean Elections, and if they'd like more information.
- Those who wanted more information received a letter from PCAF after the survey providing more information on the legislation and ways they could help.

# In the News

“Cutting the cord between donors—whether they are from Saipan or Denver—and our elected officials gives regular people a chance to be heard. Only with comprehensive public financing can that be accomplished.”

– Op-Ed by David Donnelly  
Public Campaign Action Fund  
DenverPost.com, April 16, 2008.

“We think candidates should be free to vote in the interests of their district and their conscience. But when this kind of spending takes place, it makes candidates aware of the threat and possibly too worried about crossing them when they have to make a difficult vote.”

- Nick Nyhart  
Public Campaign  
Baltimore Sun, May 5, 2008

“In a recent survey...it was found that over 80% believe that the Citizens Clean Elections Act is important to the voters of Arizona. This indicates a strong support for a system that has helped to open the doors for the residents of Arizona to once again have a say in who will represent them in their state government.”

– Op-Ed by Todd Lange  
Arizona Clean Elections Commission  
HawaiiReporter.com, April 14, 2008

“The public as financier will be able to hold the candidates to account for their promises without looking to contributors’ lists for explanations as to why a certain person was appointed, why a certain policy was adopted.”

- Editorial  
Raleigh News & Observer, May 14, 2008



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