

## West Virginia Public Campaign Funding Talking Points

- Public campaign funding dramatically reduces the time candidates spend raising money, which allows candidates to focus on talking with voters.
- Spending more time with voters makes elected officials better public servants because they understand what issues are important to their constituents.
- “The difference between being able to go out and spend your time talking with voters, meeting with groups, doing things like traveling to communities that have been under-represented in the past as opposed to being on the phone selling tickets to a \$250 a plate fundraiser - that’s the real, practical difference.”  
—Governor Janet Napolitano (D-AZ)
- Public campaign funding cuts out the financial arms race – dialing for dollars – that is unhealthy for our nation’s democracy because it silences the voice of the people.
- Transparency is crucial to restoring public faith in the system.
- Many voters perceive politicians to be corrupt. Public campaign funding eliminates the appearance of corruption and helps to restore public faith in elected officials.
- Public campaign funding creates an opportunity for regular people to feel like their small-dollar contributions to candidates – who they believe in – can make a difference.
- Citizens believe that their representatives should answer to the people who voted for them, rather than to those with the deepest pockets and are fed up with the idea that money can so easily buy influence in our political process.
- West Virginia legislators have been pioneers in their efforts to regulate 527s. By supporting public campaign funding, the West Virginia legislature will carry on its efforts to limit the corrupting influence of money in elections and restore public faith in government and elected officials.
- With the recent barrage of stories of scandal and corruption, now is the time to strengthen our state campaign finance laws.