

Voter-Owned Elections in Seattle and King County (a/k/a “Clean Elections”)

Whereas both Seattle and King County had popular public campaign-financing programs that were prohibited by a little-noticed provision of Initiative 134 in 1991; and

Whereas the 2008 Washington State Legislature repealed that prohibition and restored the ability of counties, cities and other local entities to develop and fund their own voter-owned election programs; and

Whereas the amount of campaign funds necessary to run a competitive City Council or County Council campaign is averaging over \$200,000; and

Whereas that amount of fundraising is a time-consuming distraction from the job of councilmember and from communicating directly with voters;

Therefore, be it Resolved that we support the use of public funds to pay for a viable primary and general election campaign for any local candidate who demonstrates viability through sufficient qualifying signatures and small donations, if that candidate chooses to run only on public funds, free of any private financial influence, and;

Therefore, be it Resolved that we urge the Seattle City Council, the King County Council, and the Port of Seattle to promptly enact enabling ordinances to create such a plan and place it before the voters on the November 2008 ballot.

Adopted _____ by _____