

THE GUIDELINE OF WHAT TO ASK THE LEADERS

- 1) Are you (the legislator) comfortable with the election system continuing in the direction that it is going?
- 2) If not, what are the drawbacks, as you see them?
- 3) If so, why do you feel that any one that's paying for influence will use it for the greater good, rather than to further enrich themselves?
Statistically, 2-3 days per week are said to be spent on average in congressional offices soliciting for donations.
- 4) How much time is spent in your office by you, or others, on this campaign donation seeking?
- 5) Are there things that you would rather be doing?
- 6) Have you ever, or would you, ever consider running on publicly funding alone?
- 7) Have you read any of the bills currently in the house that pertain to campaign finance reform? (HR 4431,4432,4433,4434,4435,4487 by Grayson and there's an older one by Layton in the House also Senator Dick Durbin's bill in the Senate.) Are you a co-signer to any of these?
- 8) If you have read them, what is your opinion of them? If you have not read them, why is that?
We feel that these are only half measures.
- 9) What would persuade you to write a stronger bill to outlaw ANY donations from ANY source other than equally distributed public funds? (using only a tiny slice of the Pentagon's budget)
- 10) What is your position on that and why?
- 11) Do you feel that unions are a form of free speech?
Under our proposed system: union or PAC mailings could still go out, BUT they must be clearly marked that this is paid for by (the groups name) and that this is only the opinion of the group. The groups name, contact information and their mission statement also must be clearly marked. Do you see how this could be abused?
Hypothetically, one could start a neo-nazi group and say what they stand for and that they are STRONGLY endorsing you as a candidate because, in their opinion they feel that you'd work to eliminate everyone in the district that is not of the Aryan race.
- 12) Do you think that this would help you as a candidate?
- 13) Under our current system, is there any way to stop freedom of speech in that vein? (There HAVE been mailer s and robo calls in the past few elections of a similar slanderous nature. Milwaukee in 2004, for instance.) How would you stop this once the damage is done? How do you contain that?
- 14) Should we, in elections, differentiate between opinions & feelings vs. documented facts?
Many see our elections as corporate driven. They see the laws of the land as corporate driven legislation. We've had a lot of issues that have dominated the election debates in the last few years that involved morality such as: who decides on the right to end of life (Terry Schaivo), abortion and gay marriage. This election we'd like to make MONEY MORALITY the biggest issue.
- 15) How do you feel about that?
- 16) In your opinion, IS there a need for reforming elections? How would you do that? Or why wouldn't you?
- 17) What did you think of the SCOTUS ruling of January 2010?

18) Do you think that less people being interested in the elections as a good thing? Can we really trust them to make good decisions?

19) Do you think that there is a defeatist attitude out in the public that "it will never change" and "that's how it is" ?

We are not back in the days of whistle stop tours to the remote areas of the country for national candidates. (It's fine for very local candidates to travel their district, but it makes not sense the way districts are drawn anyway and THAT needs addressing as well. Back to this, subject.) We are no longer in a situation where the only way for someone to get the news is for them to hop into their horse drawn wagon and ride into town to get the latest gossip at the general store over a checkerboard game! We have the internet, TV, radio, scipe, national news wires as methods to allow candidates to reach each voter.

What we are also proposing is a less costly shortened election period of only 3 months. Because it's not dragged out for 2 or 4 years, we feel that more people would pay closer attention to the elections. Consolidated power has many citizens of our country feeling defeated before they even start. We'd like to see a more democratic field of the 10 largest parties putting their best person forward and all of them running equally funded. This would be equal mailers, newspaper reports, TV, radio, internet ads including each one. All included. Then may the candidate win that the people who live and work in this country choose by a majority vote (using the IRV system).

All ten would debate the same questions in a monthly debate over the 3 month's. Mailers would be sent out with each candidates approved message to voters on an important topic. This would be a fair, honest and straightforward way to judge between candidates.

In a democracy, we should have that opportunity.

20) How do you propose to get elections back on track?

Do any of our ideas have merit, in your opinion?

Are there any that you would like to take on, such as PUBLIC FUNDING ONLY as the law of the land and anything else be punishable to the fullest extent of the law?

Will you get back to us on this or may we follow up on this with you?

What is a fair time frame for that to happen?

Thank you for your time.

The People's Lobby