



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

July 29, 2016

Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 506
Washington, DC 20004
kmeduffie@dccouncil.us

RE: DC Council Bill B21-0509 - the “Citizens Fair Election Program Amendment Act of 2015”

Dear Councilmember McDuffie,

At its regular meeting on July 20, 2016, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With seven of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution, which was introduced by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Schrefer, by a vote of (5-0-0*):

WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia are increasingly concerned that wealthy donors, corporations, and outside interests who make large campaign contributions have an outsized influence on the decisions of elected officials,

WHEREAS, our democracy works best when it lives up to the principle of one person, one vote, and when the strength of a citizen’s voice doesn’t depend on the size of their wallet,

WHEREAS, numerous studies show that small donor empowerment programs help further democratize the election process, encourage fair governance, and diversify the pool of candidates, and

WHEREAS, a bill for a small donor empowerment program is pending before the D.C. Council which addresses such concerns.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the following general principles of the proposed DC Council Bill B21-0509 - the “Citizens Fair Election Program Amendment Act of 2015”:

- To provide a system of voluntary public financing for qualifying candidates for D.C. Mayor, D.C. Council, and Attorney General,
- To provide public funds that are capped at a specified amount and encourage small donations through a matching system,
- Candidates who accept public funding must also accept limits, such as the source and amount of contributions they can accept, and



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- To impose conditions for qualifying for public financing, such as raising a minimum amount of small contributions from a minimum number of individuals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council’s Committee on the Judiciary to schedule a public hearing, and all Councilmembers to co-sponsor, support hearings and pass the Citizens Fair Election Program Amendment Act of 2015 as soon as possible.

Commissioner Patrick Kennedy (2A01@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy
Chairperson

CC: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, Ward 1
Councilmember Jack Evans, Ward 2
Councilmember Mary Cheh, Ward 3
Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6
Councilmember LaRuby May, Ward 8
Councilmember Elissa Silverman, At-Large
Councilmember David Grosso, At-Large
Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large
Zach Weinstein, Democracy Advocate, U.S. PIRG

*Commissioners Florence Harmon and Eve Zhurbinskiy recused themselves from voting on this matter.