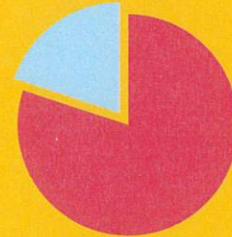


HB 418 Citizen Financing of Elections

Why

Public Financing?

To ensure public trust in the integrity and fairness of elections. **Only 12%** of Americans donated to a candidate running for public office in the last year (1).



The Research

What does it look like?

There are **27 active public financing systems** across the U.S. in states like Arizona, Florida, Maine, Michigan, Massachusetts, and West Virginia. Programs include full financing, vouchers, refunds, matched contributions, or tax credits (2).



Only 7% of low-income households donate to candidates compared with **32%** of households with \$150,000 or more income (1).

Benefits

- Public funding makes it easier to limit campaign spending (3)
- Public funding can improve trust in elections and policymakers (3)
- Higher number of donors with increased trust (1)
- Candidates spend more time with constituents and less time fundraising (3)

The Solution

- Direct the Lieutenant Governor's Office to study potential public financing programs for municipal elections
- Project the cost and impact of public funding, as well as any changes that would need to be made to the code



1. Pew Research Center - Most Americans want to limit campaign spending

2. Demos - Public Funding for Electoral Campaigns

3. Brennan Center for Justice Democracy: An Election Agenda for Candidates, Activists, and Legislators