

December TK, 2010

Dear Governor-elect Cuomo,

Congratulations on your victory in November. As member organizations at the national level, we write to you to strongly encourage your leadership in proposing and passing a system of voluntary public financing for New York state early in the 2011 legislative session. With your support, New York could become a new leader in efforts to raise up the voices of everyday Americans in the political process.

With public financing, candidates would run on a base of small contributions from individuals back home and could focus on their constituents rather than corporations, trade groups and other special interests. At the federal level, we have all endorsed the Fair Elections Now Act, legislation that would create a public financing system similar to the New York City model.

As the cost of running for office continues to rise, candidates for the Assembly and Senate will be required to spend more time raising money and less time focused on their constituents.

Your leadership can change this.

Passing a public financing system in New York would send a strong signal to the rest of the country and the U.S. Congress that the American people are ready for a change in the way our political system works.

Sincerely,

Nick Nyhart  
President and CEO, Public Campaign